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## Cyberattack response deemed quick

### District seeks to add literacy, math staffing

By Dan Roherty  
NEENAH NEWS

A Wisconsin National Guard security response team reviewed the school district's efforts to deal with the Jan. 10 cyberattack on the school's computer system and found an overall strong response that helped limit damages and downtime for school operations.

Director of instructional technology Matt Anderson told the Board of Education at its Tuesday meeting that the National Guard team reviews cyberattacks on public infrastructure and the responses made. The team is led by operations director Lt. Col. Sarah Frater, who is also on the advisory board for the University of Wisconsin master's degree cybersecurity program.

"She has been involved in multiple incidents similar to ours, so she brings a wealth of experience in being on site at

other incidents that come up," Anderson said.

Frater and the team reported they were pleased to see the district had documents and a written plan to deal with the initial response to the attack. Buildings were unplugged from each other and connections to the internet halted when the virus was detected.

"We knew that there was a virus in our system, and we wanted to stop its spread

SEE **School budget** ON PAGE 11

## INSIDE



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Conflict Resolution team finds better solutions

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Ice fishermen make their way off Little Lake Butte des Morts near Lake Street in Neenah last Friday.

Neenah News

## Waters getting quality attention

### DNR looks to add 92 to state's impaired listing

By Amber Brockman  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources is proposing to add 92 new water bodies to the state's Impaired Waters List for 2022, according to the Wisconsin DNR website.

Every two years, the Clean Water Act requires states to publish a list of all waters that are considered impaired.

Water bodies are considered impaired if they do not meet water quality standards and may not support fishing, swimming, recreating or public health and welfare, according to the 2022 Water Quality Lists.

"Impaired waters show signs of stress such as harmful algal blooms, low water clarity and degraded habitat," said Korin Doering, Winnebago waterways program

director at Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

There are 18 water bodies in Winnebago County listed as impaired, including Lake Winnebago, Lake Butte des Morts, Lake Winneconne, Neenah Slough, Neenah Channel and the Lower Fox River, according to Winnebago County water quality biologist David Bolha.



Doering

The county has a combination of urban, residential and agricultural land uses, Bolha said, each of which has the potential to and does contribute to local water bodies. "Some of the more common water quality pollutants in Winnebago County are nutrients, such as phosphorus which feeds algae blooms in lakes and rivers, sediment runoff from city stormwater and agriculture, and E. coli bacteria which can be an indicator

of unsafe swimming conditions," he said. "Manipulating waterbodies in a manner which changes its natural condition, such as artificially straightening streams, altering water levels from their natural patterns or degrading shoreline habitats can also impact water quality."

Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, are responsible for harmful algae blooms, which can produce toxins that cause adverse health effects for humans and animals, Doering said.

"While not all blue-green algae produce harmful toxins, those that do can cause rashes, diarrhea and respiratory problems," Doering said. "Some common toxins produced by cyanobacteria found in Wisconsin waters include microcystin and anatoxin."

The water quality in our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes is a reflection of how the

SEE **Cleaning lakes** ON PAGE 5

## LWV sets forum for mayor hopefuls

Neenah residents are invited to attend a forum with candidates for mayor at Neenah City Hall beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Candidates Jane Lang and Brian Borchardt will answer questions from the audience. Questions must be directed to both candidates and may be edited. Those unable to attend may submit a question for the candidates to [wclwvinfo@gmail.com](mailto:wclwvinfo@gmail.com).

Masks are recommended. The forum will be recorded and available online about a week later. Find the link on the city's website, on YouTube or at [lwvwinnebago.org](http://lwvwinnebago.org). The forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County and the city of Neenah.

Find voter information at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). The spring election is April 5.

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# Glass exhibit reflects high school talent

## Bergstrom-Mahler display will run to late March

By Amber Brockman  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Glass art created by young local artists is on display through March 27 in the annual Fox Valley Area High School Exhibition at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass.

Throughout the school year, students from 10 area schools have been creating glass art in the classroom, at home or through the museum's Glass Experience Days in preparation for the exhibition.

Glass Experience Days introduce students to multiple forms of glass art in a working glass studio featuring fusing kilns, flameworking and glass blowing equipment.

"Each year we are privileged to work with young artists across the Fox Valley Region," Taylor Moeller-Roy, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum's Glass Studio manager, said in a press release. "We see their creativity, talent and skills in the artwork they've worked diligently to create."

The students created their work utilizing fusing, mosaic and flameworking glass art techniques.

"Glass art techniques are not always easy, but these students did an amazing job," said Jim Weidert, senior marketing and public relations manager for the museum.

Student works represented purely decorative designs, pop culture and impactful themes such as the Black Lives Matter movement and climate issues.

A lot of thought and creativity were put



Photo from Bergstrom-Mahler Museum

The glass art work of high school students from the region is on display at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass.

into all pieces that the students created.

"Every piece of artwork shines and displays the students' individuality," Moeller-Roy said. "We are happy to present their work in a way that gives it the attention it deserves."

The exhibit has a history of more than 20 years as an all-media high school show, but the last decade has been focused on glass making and glass art exclusively.

"The Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition is a beloved tradition at the museum and in the community," Museum Executive Director Amy Moorefield said. "Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass strives to expose the community to the versatility of glass while encouraging the creativity of talented young artists in the area with this annual exhibit."

The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass is a world-class, accredited glass art museum with member support from across the U.S. and other countries.

Wisconsin also plays an important part in the history as a major art movement in the world, called the Studio Glass Movement.

In addition, 2022 is designated by the United Nations as The International Year of Glass, in which the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass expects to be playing a significant role.

With this exhibition, students in the Fox Valley have the opportunity to be exposed, learn about and participate at a high level in this worldwide art form.

This year's participants included eight to 10 students from Neenah High School with support from two of their art teachers, Emma Santiago and Amy Rieder.

Other teachers and schools involved in producing the exhibition include Melissa Sirstin from St. Mary Catholic 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.

"We are so very grateful to all the student artists and teachers for their creativity, dedication and assistance in making our exhibition exciting and successful," said Kourtney Kositzke, education and community program manager for the museum.

Exhibit sponsors include Lilian Noble Memorial Fund, Jack Richeson & Co., The Art Haus, The Hang Up Gallery and Oshkosh Fine Arts Association.

Admission to this exhibition and the museum is always free. The museum is open every day except Monday.

More information is at [bmmglass.com](http://bmmglass.com).

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# Rotarian service meets beer and wine sampling

It began with a question: What can we do to raise money for our nonprofit partners while having fun and building awareness?

The people asking that question went out for a drink to come up with ideas, and then it dawned on them that we Wisconsinites sure do enjoy being social over a good glass of wine or beer. Fast forward 15 years, and the Neenah Rotary fundraiser **Uncorked & Uncapped** has raised more than \$250,000 with 100% of profits going to supporting organizations such as YouthGo, Neenah-Menasha YMCA, the Brigade's Christmas Giving program and so



much more. "There's a lot to get excited about this year," says Pam Seidl, co-chair for the event and member of the Rotary Club of Neenah. "Uncorked & Uncapped is an 'everyone event' – you don't need to know much about wine or craft beer to come and enjoy the evening. We'll be featuring dozens of beers from Fox Valley area breweries. Our longstanding partnership with the Fox Valley Technical School Culinary Arts program features students preparing and

serving gourmet cuisine throughout the evening."

"The biggest event enhancement this year is the addition of live music by legendary Steve March-Tormé, accompanied by the Murphy Brothers," adds Seidl.

In addition to unlimited sampling of all wines, beers and food, guests can participate in a raffle for myriad special prizes. If you're not the type who ever gets lucky with raffles, though, rest assured the wall-of-wine guarantees everyone is a winner. Every wrapped bottle is a mystery until the end of the night, but each is valued from \$15 to \$150. The cherry on top is the knowledge that all proceeds make a difference in our community.

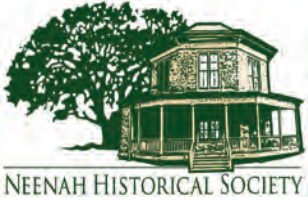
Kelly Hicks, executive director for Youth Go and member of the Rotary Club of Neenah, had this to say about the event:

"Uncorked and Uncapped is so much more meaningful than folks might realize. People just think that they're paying for a ticket for a fun night on the town, but they're really giving to support opportunities like our STRIVE programs at Neenah High School or the annual Youth Go service trip to Kentucky. I am so grateful to our event sponsors and all of the guests who come out to enjoy this fundraiser."

*Uncorked & Uncapped will take place from 7 to 10:30 p.m. April 1 at the Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel. Tickets are available online at [uncorked.ecwid.com](http://uncorked.ecwid.com) or in person at Dave Mader's State Farm Insurance Agency in Neenah.*



Photo from Neenah Historical Society



## Early city view

Neenah, shown in this undated aerial view, was incorporated as a city on March 13, 1873, after being incorporated as a village in 1856.

## United Way Fox Cities celebrates successful community campaign

Fox Cities, Wisconsin: United Way Fox Cities' supporters gathered virtually Thursday to celebrate a successful community campaign that raised more than \$8.5 million. Community support allows United Way to improve the lives of one in three people in the Fox Cities.

"The incredible generosity of local companies and individuals means families are sheltered from homelessness and abuse, people find hope through counseling services, children receive the care they need to thrive to their fullest potential, and so much more," said Peter Gianopoulos, president and CEO of United Way Fox Cities.

Campaign co-chairs were Kim Underhill and Becky Tuchscherer. The online event was sponsored by Kimberly-Clark

Corp. and Miller Electric Mfg. with a link available at [UnitedWayFoxCities.org](http://UnitedWayFoxCities.org).

The car sweepstakes winner was Jeremy Keller, an assistant store manager at Scheels. He was presented a 2021 Subaru Crosstrek in partnership with Bergstrom Automotive.

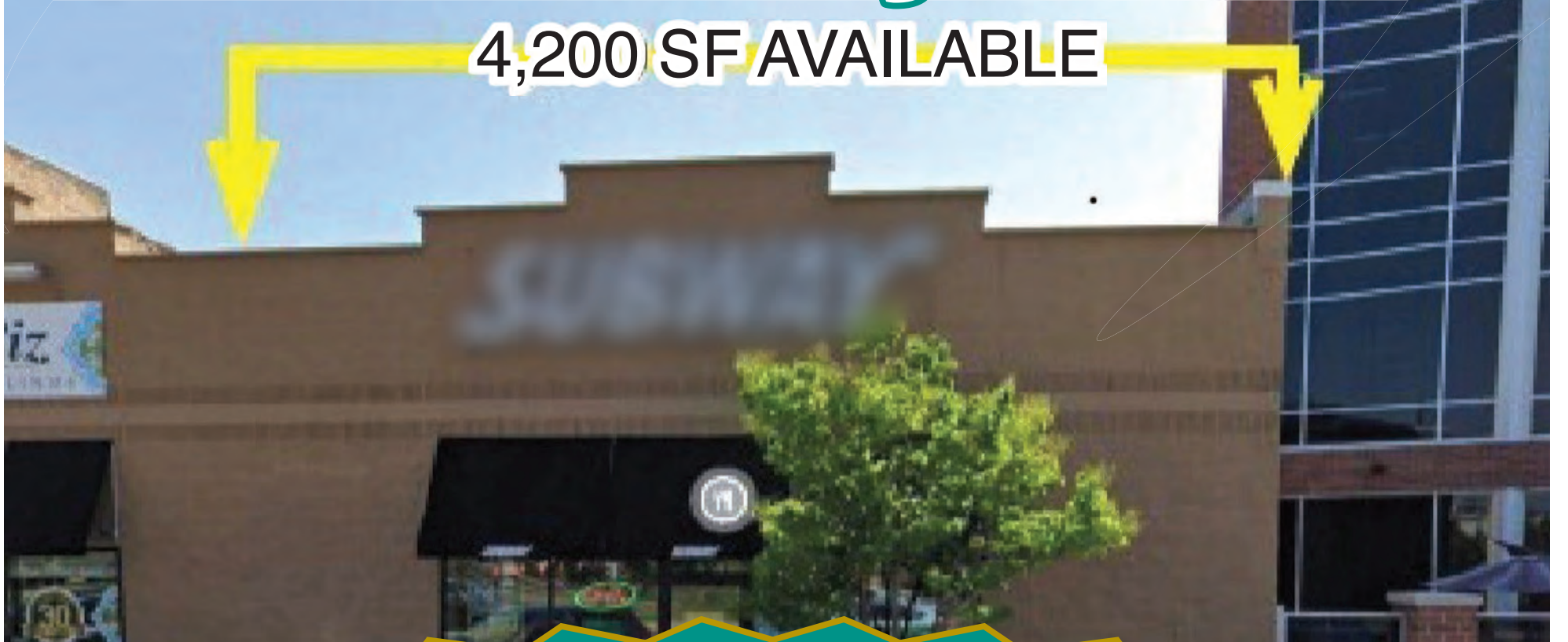
Top Performance Awards went to:

- Small Company (up to 150 employees) – Mosaic Family Health
- Medium Company (151-499 employees) – GLK Foods
- Large Company (500+ employees) – Miller Electric Mfg.

The Excellence in Partnership Award went to Miller Electric. Sustained Excellence Award went to Miron Construction Company.

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# Western shoreline of Butte des Morts preserves beauty

By Rob Zimmer  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Over the past several years, the western shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts in Neenah and Fox Crossing has been slowly transformed into a sprawling wilderness oasis.

Organizations such as Wild Ones Native Plants and Landscapers, as well as the Fox Crossing Parks Department and the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, have been preserving habitat all along the shore, recognizing the need to protect this vital and rich natural habitat.

At the Rydell Conservancy, just north of Fritse Park, much work has been done over the past several years to remove invasive species, such as buckthorn and garlic mustard and to create a trail system along the winding sloughs and backwaters of Little Lake Butte des Morts.

Connie Meyer, who has lived along the shore near Rydell Conservancy for more than 30 years, said that volunteering to help remove invasive species from Rydell Conservancy has been a rewarding venture.

“The Rydell Conservancy has been transformed from an overgrown jungle to a peaceful place for any and everyone who visits. Not too long ago, the water could not be seen from the road,” Meyer said. “With the removal of the invasive buckthorn, the beauty of Rydell is shining through. As a volunteer for the Fox Crossing parks department, the effort put forth continues to make this area a showcase.”

This area has become a haven for migrating songbirds in spring, especially warblers, tanagers, thrushes and orioles. It is also a popular viewing spot for bald eagles over winter as these birds congregate



Photo by Rob Zimmer

A juvenile bald eagle perches in a shoreline tree along the west shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts. Large numbers of waterfowl overwinter along open water on the west shore.

here in large numbers along open water for most of the winter season.

Meyer said she is thankful for the foresight of previous landowners who worked to ensure protection of this valuable resource.

“The abundance of wildlife in my backyard is amazing. Due to the foresight from previous landowners, the area from

Rydell Conservancy to Stroeb Island will remain a wildlife haven,” she said. “When this area was deeded to the Town of Menasha, (now Fox Crossing) there was a stipulation that this area should not be developed. Fox, deer, raccoons, rabbits, geese, ducks, eagles, pelicans and various other birds and animals are able to call this area home.”

Farther north, the Wild Center serves as the national headquarters for the Wild Ones organization, dedicated to promoting and using native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees in landscaping nationwide. The Wild Center serves as a series of demonstration gardens and plots showing just how native plants can be used in different settings. Here in Wisconsin, several chapters of the Wild Ones organization serve the area.

The Wild Center welcomes visitors to explore the trails that wind through the various habitat preserve here. A self-paced nature hike allows visitors to explore the many habitats found here and learn about the many uses of native plants and the habitats they are found in through colorful, informative interpretive signs. A restored oak savanna, which is a native prairie with scattered oak trees, is the highlight, in full colorful bloom all through spring, summer and fall. Certified as a Monarch Waystation, the prairie is full of these incredible butterflies during the summer, as well as the fall migration period.

Additionally, trails lead through the lowland floodplain forest and along the edge of the large marsh here on the northwest shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts. Visitors may see bald eagles, which nest adjacent to the property, as well as American white pelicans, great blue herons, great egrets, green herons, a wide variety of songbirds, whitetail deer, river otter and more.

Adjacent to the Wild Center property is the Guckenberg-Sturm Preserve, one of the many nature preserves protected by the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust. This

SEE **Shoreline beauty** ON PAGE 5

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Photo by Rob Zimmer

The west shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts is a good place for relaxing activities.

## Shoreline beauty

FROM PAGE 4

large preserve encompasses the large backwater marsh located on the northern shore. Wooded trails wind through the property, as well as an elevated, floating overlook deck and platform that leads out over the open water, with signage explaining the special habitat and wildlife found here.

The Guckenberg-Sturm Preserve property, sometimes called the Stroebe Island Marsh, was purchased by the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust in 2005.

This excellent preserve features many different habitats. Wetland birdlife, frogs, toads, turtles, as well as many mammals, are abundant. The preserve is especially important as it encompasses the area

where small creeks, such as Mud Creek, flow into the Fox River at Little Lake Butte des Morts.

According to the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, "The importance of this wetland along the Fox River cannot be overstated. In a 2005 Clean Water Testing Report, it was concluded that this marsh is a healthy, highly functioning filter for the Fox Valley's soil and water cycle." Because the Fox River Valley is one of Wisconsin's most urbanized and industrialized areas, it is important that this wetland maintain its health."

Preserving the valuable habitat along the entire western shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts is rewarding to observe over the past several years, ensuring that the wildlife, plants and birds found here will always have a home.

## Cleaning lakes

FROM PAGE 1

land is managed, Doering said, and the impairments indicate there's work to do.

"Poor water quality impacts the economy, poses risks to health and reduces enjoyment of the water resources in our region," Doering said. "The impairments will become our legacy if we do not fix the problem and change how we use our land."

Water bodies on the list require a restoration plan that must be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"The majority of the time, this requires the development of a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the pollutants causing the impairment," Bolha said. "Basically, a TMDL is a breakdown of the sources of the pollutant or pollutants as well as the amount each source must be reduced to support the public uses for that waterbody."

The Lower Fox River TMDL was developed and approved in 2012, Bolha said, and significant progress has been made in the Lower Fox basin to reduce the phosphorus and sediment loading sources.

"In addition to the TMDL implementation, the recently completed Fox River PCB Cleanup Project has removed PCBs from the sediments of the Fox River and the Bay of Green Bay, contributing to the delisting of the Fox River for the pollutant PCB," Bolha said.

In 2020, the Upper Fox-Wolf River Basin TMDL was approved.

"The overall goal of the UFW TMDL is to reduce phosphorus and sediment sources to improve water quality within the basin including Lake Winnebago and its Pool Lakes," Bolha said. "Implementa-

tion of the TMDL is ongoing."

In addition, Bolha said the Lake Winnebago Waterways Lake Management Plan was recently approved, detailing the restoration management strategies needed to improve water quality and public use of the lakes.

"If we reduce the amount of phosphorus and sediment reaching our impaired waters, we can expect to see reduced density and frequency of nuisance green algae blooms resulting in lower health risks to humans and animals, greater water clarity, better recreational opportunities and increased fish, duck and other aquatic life habitat for future generations," Bolha said.

Recreational angling in the Winnebago Pool Lakes brings roughly \$297 million to the area, Bolha said, and more than 200,000 people rely on Lake Winnebago for drinking water.

"Being in, on and around the water is a way of life for people in the Fox Valley and from far and wide," Bolha said.

Collaboration of many partners including, but not limited to, the Wisconsin DNR, county land and water agencies, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, USGS and many others, including the public, are working together to implement these management plans, Bolha said.

"Everyone needs to do their part to help the waters of Winnebago County," Bolha said. "That can be as simple as not putting as much fertilizer on your lawn or salt on your driveway, contacting elected officials about the need to improve water quality, or perhaps the most important, supporting those folks that work hard every day to implement the management plans."

For more information, visit [renewourwaters.org](http://renewourwaters.org), [fwwa.org](http://fwwa.org) or [dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater).

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# Ice conditions

By Jim Nobbe

PAYNE'S POINT HOOK & SPEAR FISHING CLUB

As of today, we are seeing a minimum of 18" of ice on the lake, most areas have 20" to 24" of ice. The cracks are working daily now with the sun getting higher in the sky and the lack of snow.

There are no new major working cracks that I am aware of. PPHSFC now has one truck bridge and one ATV bridge on the main north-south crack at 1.4 miles out from our landing. We now only have one truck bridge on the east-west crack by blackbird island area.

We removed the ATV bridge because of how big the crack is and lack of use. Otter Street Fishing Club has bridges out on the main crack also. The overall condition of the lake ice is good considering the lack of snow and the temperature swings. Be careful around reefs also.

The sun is starting to deteriorate the ice on the shallow reefs. I suspect that by mid to late next week the landings will be pretty beat up and travel on the lake will be only possible with atvs or snowmobiles.

Remember all permanent ice shacks need to be removed from the lakes by the first Sunday in March. PPHSFC will keep our bridges out until then for sure, and after that up until conditions deteriorate and our landing is no longer safe to use. Remember the ice is never 100% safe.



Neenah Joint School District photo

## Making a mark

Representatives from the Kids in Need Foundation and Jewelers Mutual Group visited Taft Elementary School recently and provided 48 boxes of school supplies to assist students and staff for the remainder of this school year and into next year. The event drew representatives from the Dixon Ticonderoga Co. and former Green Bay Packer and radio analyst Larry McCarren (center standing).

## Sturgeon season runs its course on Winnebago

Neenah News

The 2022 sturgeon spearing season ran its full course without any of the caps being met on Lake Winnebago.

A total of 1,518 fish were harvested this season, including 1,169 on Lake Winnebago, marking the second-highest harvest since 2015. The harvest fell short of last year's total of 1,832.

According to the Wisconsin DNR website, the breakdown of sturgeon speared this season on Lake Winnebago were 158 juvenile females, 539 adult females and 472 males. Only the adult females got more than halfway to the cap, which was 787. Both juvenile females reached 49 percent of their cap.

One of the factors that lowered the har-

vest was the water clarity on Lake Winnebago.

The DNR listed the average water clarity at 10.7 feet, which is below what is considered the ideal mark of 12 feet. But even though the clarity wasn't ideal, it still ranked higher than many of the past seasons as the DNR reported the season average water clarity ranged from 6 to 9 feet from 2015-2021.

Although the Lake Winnebago season lasted the full 16 days, the upriver lakes harvest lasted only four. The adult female cap was triggered on the third day of the season resulting in the shortest upriver lakes season since 2018.

Despite the short season, the upriver lakes saw the second most harvested fish (349) since 2007 when the current lottery system was implemented.

A total of 88 sturgeon topped the 100-pound mark upon registration. That total marked the second-highest percentage of fish over 100 pounds (5.7 percent) since 2018.

Adam Derksen of Rosendale registered the heaviest fish of the season with a

160-pounder harvested on Feb. 13. Thomas Luedtke of New London (153.3) and Richard Ahrens of Shiocton (150) also had fish weighing at least 150 pounds.

During the season, the DNR announced Margaret Stadig and Angelo Cozzola as the new Lake Winnebago System fisheries biologists. Both Stadig and Cozzola started their new roles on Feb. 14.

"These are two very important positions that are critical to fish management for the entire Winnebago System, especially our walleye, panfish, and sturgeon species," said Justine Hasz, DNR Fisheries Management bureau director. "I'm so excited to have them both on board and can't wait to see the great things they'll bring to the program and the fishery."

Stadig will focus primarily on managing the lake sturgeon population. A native of Michigan, Stadig has extensive experience working with large, primitive fish species.

Cozzola will focus on managing the highly sought-after walleye, as well as northern pike, muskellunge and other popular game fish on the Winnebago system. Cozzola was a DNR fisheries technician based in Oshkosh.

Before joining the DNR's fisheries management program, he completed graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he investigated the effects of herbicides on native Wisconsin fish species.

"I am very excited to take on my new role managing game fish on the Lake Winnebago system. The system is incredibly diverse in species composition and habitat types that make it a really interesting place to work," Cozzola said.

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## Public library calendar

Go to [neenahlibrary.org](http://neenahlibrary.org) or call 920-886-6315 for details or registration information.

### Today

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

### Monday

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

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

### Tuesday

Tech Talk Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.

The Next Chapter, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

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.

Wild Child Adventure Storytime, 10 a.m.

### March 13

Sunday Concert Series: Christo's Novelty Combo, 2 p.m.

### March 14

Short Story Night (Zoom), 7 p.m.

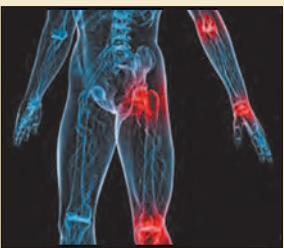
### March 17

Neenah's Immigration Stories: William Owen and the Welsh of Wisconsin, 7 p.m.

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

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

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# Calendar of events

### 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, 165 N. Park Ave.

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

### Friday, March 11

Stand-up Comedy: Mike Merryfield

and Rob Brackenridge, 5 p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood

"The Addams Family" musical comedy, 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School Pine Travelers and Spare Change Trio, 9 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

### Saturday, March 12

Glass Art Class - Curves in Glass, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

"The Addams Family" musical comedy, 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School Trivia Night, 6 p.m. dinner, St. Margaret Mary Parish, 439 Washington Ave.

### Sunday, March 13

"The Addams Family" musical comedy, 2 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

### Saturday, March 19

"Death of a Gangster" dinner theater, Best Western Premier Bridgewood

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# Prep sports roundup

## WRESTLING

### Herm earn second place in first state meet trip

The Neenah wrestling team was well represented at the WIAA Division 1 State Tournament this past weekend at the Kohl Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jacob Herm finished second, earning the silver medal in the 106-pound bracket as he went 3-1 on the weekend.

Herm opened up Thursday with a pin in just 27 seconds before winning a tight 6-5 decision, sending him to the semifinals. There, he pinned Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln's Landyn Freeman in 1:32 to advance to the title match.

He came up short against Menomonie's Brayten Casey, losing by sudden victory, 9-7.

Also competing at state was Austin Lewis (145), Nick Novak (152) and Bryce Fochs (285). Lewis lost his first round on a 12-1 major decision while Novak went 0-2. Novak lost by tech. fall in the opener and then was pinned in 4:23 in the consolation round one.

Fochs finished 2-2 on the weekend, winning his first match on a 14-11 decision before falling in the quarterfinals, 3-1. He bounced back with a pin in 3:32 but lost his last match after he was pinned in 1:21.

## BOYS HOCKEY

### Rockets fall one game shy of state tournament

The Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha boys hockey team fell a game short of the



Photo by Craig Hoffman

Freshman Jacob Herm stands on the awards stand with his silver medal after taking second in the Division 1 106-pound weight class at the WIAA State Wrestling Meet.

WIAA Division 1 State Tournament as the second-seeded Rockets lost to top-seeded Notre Dame on Friday, 7-2.

Notre Dame scored four goals in the first period as Neenah could only get one more goal in the second. Neenah got its goals from Gabe Randel and Aidan Paschke. Chase Collins assisted on Paschke's goal in the second period.

Jaeden Hannus recorded eight saves for the Rockets while Caleb Moore had 15.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Neenah advances to sectional round

The fourth-seeded Neenah girls basketball team advanced to the WIAA Division 1 sectional after picking up two wins last week – a 64-58 win over No. 13 Stevens Point and 64-47 victory over No. 5 Wausau West.

The Rockets faced No. 1 Hortonville last night but results weren't available before deadline. The winner of that game will face No. 2 Appleton East or No. 3 Superior tomorrow for a chance to go to state.

The Rockets (21-5) allowed SPASH to storm back on Friday night after leading by 11 points at halftime. Stats were not available for either game.

### Zephyrs throttle Oconto to advance to sectionals

The top-ranked St. Mary Catholic girls basketball team picked up two wins last week in the WIAA Division 4 regional tournament, beating No. 9 Algoma 44-40 and then No. 4 Oconto, 64-50 to capture the regional title.

The Zephyrs faced No. 3 Bonduel on Thursday night for a chance to go to the sectional final, but that game ended too late for print deadline. The winner of that game would face top-seeded Westfield or No. 2 Auburndale tomorrow at Appleton East for a chance to go to state.

In the win over Algoma, the Zephyrs led 41-7 at halftime and got 17 and 16 points from Jaydin Vosters and Chloe Vogel.

Against Oconto, St. Mary raced out to a 37-25 halftime lead. No individual stats were available for the Zephyrs.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Rockets finish regular season 23-1

The top-ranked Neenah boys team finished the regular season 23-1 and 17-1 in the Fox Valley Association after beating Kaukauna 78-67 last Thursday.

Kaukauna led by two at the break but Neenah went on to outscore the Ghosts 46-33 in the second half.

Chevalier Emery Jr. scored 29 points and had five assists and four steals while Carter Thomas had 22 points – going 5-of-5 from deep. Emery was 10-of-16 from the field and 4-of-8 from 3-point land.

The Rockets earned the top-seed in the WIAA Division 1 tournament and will host either No. 16 Appleton West or No. 17 Oshkosh West at 4 p.m. tonight.

### Zephyrs close season with win over Hilbert

The St. Mary Catholic boys basketball team closed its regular season out with a 89-68 win over Hilbert last Thursday, finishing with a 15-9 record.

The Zephyrs earned the No. 3 seed in the WIAA Division 4 tournament and will face either No. 6 Crivitz or No. 11 Candon tonight.

In the win over Hilbert, St. Mary got 23 points from Cole Uhlenbrauck – who went 8-of-12 shooting with six of those made from 3-point land.

Daniel Griffith added 14 points and five assists while Michael Fairweather added 11 points and two steals.

Compiled by Alex Wolf  
News contributor

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March 29	Treatment
April 5	Recovery & Housing
April 12	Peer Support

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Submitted photo

The fifth-grade team huddles with some of Neenah High varsity girls showing their support during the invitational tournament.

## Fifth-graders take state tourney title

Neenah's fifth-grade girls basketball team took the title at the Wisconsin State Invitational Championship held Feb. 19-20 in the large division bracket held at Neenah High School.

Led by coach Alisia Myers, the team went 6-0, starting Saturday by defeating Stevens Point, 42-18; Franklin, 31-7; and Kimberly, 35-15, in pool play. On Sunday they took on Hortonville with a close 25-20 win, then defeated Appleton East 40-33

in the semifinals before advancing to the championship game against Muskego.

Neenah topped Muskego 27-22 to become the first girls team from the city to bring home the fifth-grade championship.

The team includes Marin Stier, Sage Leiton, Brooklyn Myers, Kinley Kulibert, Samantha Zilm, Evelyn VandenBranden, Emily Guden, Izzy Stevens, Olivia Rasmussen, Hattie Wunderlich, Sena Messner, Abby Stevens and Kendall Frier.



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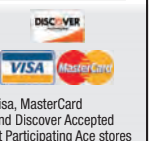
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# Stars edge Bay Area team to advance to state

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Hockey continues to be a growing sport in Wisconsin, especially on the girls' side of things. The Fox Cities Stars have started to become quite a nice dynasty in northeast Wisconsin with several recent state appearances and championships. Looking for another trip to state, the Stars took on the top-seeded Bay Area Ice Bears and came away with a 7-6 win to advance.

Entering the game with an 18-3-1 record, the Stars have made quick work of their opponents in the postseason, but Friday marked a different challenge as Bay Area was the top seed in the sectional and a familiar opponent.

These teams finished 1 and 2 in the Eastern Shores conference, but it was Bay Area that handed the Stars their lone conference losses. Fox Cities came to play and held off the Ice Bears in what was an offensive onslaught of a game.

"That is a very good Bay Area team on the other side," head coach Jeff Fox said. "This was the third or fourth time we faced them this season and we were not able to come up with a win until today. This was a game where he had to ride the highs and lows and prove who wanted it more."

The win gives the Stars their third state appearance in the last four years after winning back-to-back state titles in 2019 and 2020.

The WIAA State Tournament begins Thursday at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. The championship match is set for 12:10 p.m. Saturday.

The top-seeded Stars faced the Onalaska Hilltoppers Thursday afternoon in the semifinals with the winner taking on either Central Wisconsin Storm or the Madison Metro Lynx who face each other in the second game. Results weren't available before print deadline.

"This is a very special group of girls," Fox said. "When this program started, we



Photo by Carrie Smith

The Fox Cities Stars girls hockey team celebrates their win over the Bay Area Ice Bears that sent them to the state tournament this weekend.

had to take our lumps to get where we are today. Now, we have some of the best talent in the area and it is all coming together for us at the right time."

Seven goals were scored in the first 17 minutes of action and Makayla Spejcher opened up the scoring for the Ice Bears with an even-strength goal. Maleiyah Streck tied things up not too long after. After 10 minutes of no goals, four goals were

scored in the final five minutes.

Grace Rentmeester put Fox Cities up 2-1 before Emily Bill tied things up at 2-2. Stacey Cloute and Spejcher made it 4-2 with back-to-back goals.

Fox Cities was able to end the first period in style with Zilisch coming through with her first goal with under a minute to go, pulling the Stars within 4-3 after one period.

"We had a lot of nice goals in the opening period," Fox said. "We had a couple of power play opportunities that we were able to cash in on, which was huge for us. Once the goals started to come it felt like we could do no wrong."

The Stars were on attack mode from the beginning and it continued in the second as Zilisch added to that by scoring just 12 seconds into the second period to tie things up 4-4.

The Stars defense stepped up to limit the number of shots Sciborski would see. Five minutes after the Zilisch's goal, it was time for Bay Area to capitalize on a powerplay opportunity with Kristina Kruse scoring for Bay Area to retake the lead.

Zilisch was in the middle of the action once again with just over seven minutes to go as she teamed up with Rentmeester to find Lily Schmeier who took care of the rest to tie things up 5-5. Rentmeester then gave the Stars the lead with an unassisted goal. With time winding down in the second period, Schmeier came through with her second goal of the period, capping off a four-goal period.

The Ice Bears tightened up defensively, shutting the Stars out over the final 17 minutes and limiting them to just three shots against Jenna Christopherson.

Despite facing 23 shots in the final period and 46 total shots, Sciborski rose to the challenge, turning away 22 of those 23 shots in the final period. She had 40 saves in the game. The lone goal allowed in that final period came with just over five minutes to go as Kruse picked up her second goal.

"Sciborski responded extremely well for us down the stretch especially after allowing some early goals," he said. "I know she wanted some of those goals back, but she locked down and played tough for us when we needed her the most. I also give the defense a ton of credit as we had to work through some difficult situations."

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# School budget

FROM PAGE 1

immediately – and that’s exactly what we did,” Anderson said. “And by doing that we actually saved multiple of our endpoints, or computers, from being infected.”

The district has insurance coverage related to cyberattacks, a policy that Anderson said was approved by the insurer after finding the district had a qualifying process in place.

Anderson said the staffing response

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to the incident didn’t account for proper shift changes and some backups to cover extended hours needed to recover the system. A core group of five workers took on much of the response work.

Some documentation was done during the recovery effort but Anderson said the Guard team noted that more detailed notes on the effort would have been preferred. But the district’s overall preparedness was commended.

“Thanks to all of our entire tech team who helped to make what could have been 14 days out a mere two,” district Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer said.

The board also was briefed on a preliminary budget model used to plan for the 2022-23 school year.

In the current budget framework the district is basing the tax levy on the same amount as this year, which was 4.44% lower than 2021-22. District officials also emphasized the state is offering no aid increases for Wisconsin schools next year.

The 2022-23 budget framework has \$2.4 million in technology spending, \$25,000 less than the previous year; \$838,275 for curriculum, instruction and assessment, which is \$30,000 below last year’s; and a

capital improvement budget that’s identical to the previous year’s \$7.8 million.

“As budget development continues throughout the spring and summer months, revenues and expenditures will become more certain and the administration is confident that the district will have a budget that is aligned with the revenue limit in October,” board members were told.

In a staffing report related to the 2022-23 budget, literacy and math instructors would be added at the elementary and secondary school levels using federal relief funding as part of a recommendation to increase staffing of certified instructors by 6.5 equivalent positions.

An elementary school social worker would also be added using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds with a separately funded English learner teacher in the proposal that the Board of Education is expected to vote on at its March 15 meeting.

Positions to be added include two literacy and two math interventionists at the elementary level, a literacy and a math interventionist at the secondary level,

an English learner teacher, elementary school social worker and a 0.54 FTE position based on student registration needs.

A fourth-grade teaching position at Spring Road School would be removed to reflect an enrollment decline there along with a computer science position at the middle school level.

The estimated cost to add the positions is \$382,400. ESSER funding will be available to school districts for the next two years, after which those positions would be eliminated and impacted staff would be able to seek open positions.

The board also unanimously approved a district request for early authorization on bids, contracts and start dates for major maintenance projects this summer, including a sanitary sewer connection at Clayton Elementary, window replacement at Lakeview Elementary, window replacement at Spring Road Elementary and kitchen wall repair at Tullar, each estimated at \$95,000, along with foundation repair at Lakeview at \$100,000 and \$480,000 in districtwide pavement improvements.

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