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Promotions or expansion at your business?

Community or school program to highlight?

Neenah News

Local news for you

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Fire truck maker Pierce in hiring mode

Latest facility expansions bring job opportunities

Neenah News

Pierce Manufacturing's hiring efforts have been in full swing since expansion plans were announced at its Town of Neenah facility and Fox Crossing assembly plant in November to keep pace with fire truck demand.

An added 150,000 square feet of production and testing space at two of its three area facilities will make room for a larger workforce to fill new roles and replace a steady rate of retirements.

Pierce, a subsidiary of Oshkosh Corp., hosted a hiring event May 19 to fill openings for welders, painters, electricians, as-

SEE **Pierce hiring** ON PAGE 7



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Miron Construction led tour groups at the new high school construction site last week.

Coming together

Project preview offers look around new high school

By Bethanie Gengler
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The community had a chance to preview the new Neenah High School last week during the second "Milestone Moment" during construction.

An official groundbreaking was held last June at the 220-acre site on County II in Fox Crossing. The project is expected to be complete by next summer.

The budget for the new state-of-the-art high school was originally \$157 million but rising costs and inflation have increased the estimate by about \$14 million.

The two-story school will have 460,000 square feet of occupiable space, making it the second largest high school in the state after Verona High School. Athletic fields and supporting infrastructure will all be on one campus.

Miron Construction employees walked the public through a tour of the construction site during last week's event that included stops at "learning zones" as a chance for staffers to provide information about their modern approach to the building process.

Digital construction specialist Jay Mathis said the high school was designed

using 3-D modeling technology to "build the building in a digital environment," which significantly speeds up the process. The Neenah High School building process included more than 1,000 construction drawings. The drawings are then posted online using file sharing software which gives workers access to the most up to date information about the construction site.

"It is a very large, very expansive and in a lot of ways a very complicated project too so we're able to stay very nimble with technology like this and get our drawings and get our information out into the field," Mathis said.

The high school will include a 26,000-square-foot practice gym with four basketball courts, a competition gym with a 3,100-person capacity, two academic wings, auditorium spaces, technology education spaces, shop spaces, a wrestling room, a courtyard and performing arts center.

The entire project will take 12,000 yards of concrete, which averages out to more than 1,260 truckloads.

Construction on the school is the largest masonry project that Miron has ever done. The building will include 256,581 concrete masonry units, 227,000 utility bricks and 1,515 cubic yards of grout. The

SEE **New high school** ON PAGE 3

Veterans keep their honor alive

Service groups stay busy beyond the holiday events

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

Spring is a busy time for the veterans groups organizing events ahead of Memorial Day, but their work doesn't stop with the procession and annual recognition.

Plans are set for ceremonies that start early May 30 and feature a Menasha-to-Neenah procession that allows service organizations, veterans and communities to honor those who have died in the nation's wars.

Roy Rogers, who serves on two regional veterans councils with other dedicated members representing service groups, has helped organize the early Menasha waterfront ceremony for about 40 years but spends the rest of the year working with other council members who help individual veterans with basic needs.

The U.S. Marine combat veteran and other volunteers with military ties help the Winnebago County Veterans Service Office and affiliated groups identify the needs of struggling comrades while organizing year-round recognition and fundraising events.

"I stepped on a land mine in Vietnam in 1966, and I figured the Lord had a reason for me not to die or to lose my leg," Rogers said in an interview. "So I figured I can help as many people as I can because I'm still here."

The Menasha resident was named the Fox Valley Veterans Council's Veteran of the Year as a vital member of Winnebago County's veterans community. He has also served six years on the Winnebago County Veterans Service Commission and is involved in Vietnam Veterans of America

SEE **Memorial Day** ON PAGE 12



Photo from Bob Borszich

Military service groups will lead the Memorial Day procession and events in Neenah and Menasha.

Neenah News

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

General information/customer service: Steph King
steph@neenahnewsnow.com
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Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027
editor@oshkoshherald.com

Corrections

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

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Housing, trail projects move forward

Bridgewood area will undergo transformation in the next year

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

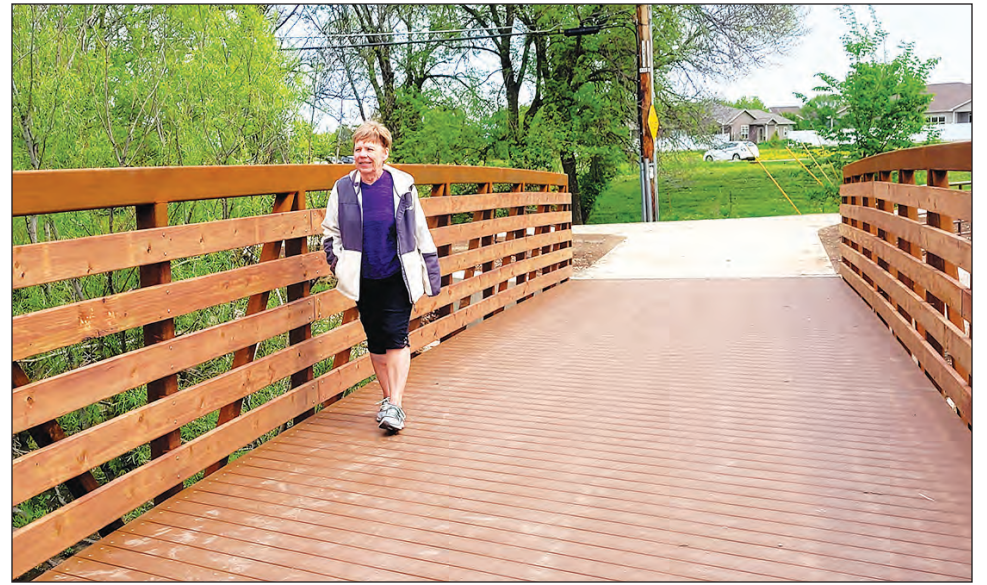
Two projects along Jewelers Park Drive and Harrison Street are moving forward at a swift pace after the Neenah Common Council last week green-lighted additional measures on a multifamily housing project at the former Bridgewood Golf Course.

Earlier this month the council approved a \$22 million development on the 46-acre site, where the golf course closed in 2019, that will include a 60-unit apartment complex along Harrison Street and an additional 206 units in 26 buildings.

Site work is expected to begin this summer with some of the units set to be ready for tenants by fall 2023. The project will be completed in phases and construction on additional units will continue over the course of five or six years.

The council at its May 18 meeting approved a two-lot certified survey map, creation of an outlot and the reconfiguration of existing lots. The council also accepted a public access easement adjacent to the northern pond at the property and a public trail easement along former hole nine of the golf course. The housing development's trail will bisect the golf course space along its southern boundary to the Harrison Street trail, creating a figure-eight loop.

The council also was updated on the status of the nearby Jewelers Park Drive Trail. The Jewelers Park Drive Trail runs



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Resident Marcy Siebers walks across one of the new bridges installed as part of the Jewelers Park Drive Trail.

between Cecil Street and Harrison Street, connecting with the Bridgewood and Harrison trails. Construction on the trail began in late 2021. Neenah Public Works director Gerry Kaiser said the trail is expected to be completed by Monday.

"The contractor is currently working on landscaping along the trail," he said. "Barring any weather that slows down topsoil placement and seeding, we are on track to have it done by Memorial Day."

The \$1.5 million trail is partially funded by Jewelers Mutual Group, who contributed \$72,500 to design the trail and \$500,000 for construction. Jewelers Mutual Group is coordinating a ribbon cutting event for the trail at 11 a.m. June 15.

Local resident Marcy Siebers tried out the Jewelers trail for the first time last weekend. She said she normally walks on the Trestle Trail but lately it has been congested with people.

"I can't get over how quiet this is," she said.

Jewelers Mutual Group director of enterprise communications Tyler Krowiorz said the Jewelers Park Drive Trail will allow safe access to residential and commercial areas of the city.

"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," he said.

Federal trial in 2015 standoff death delayed

A federal civil rights lawsuit related to a 2015 standoff at Eagle Nation Cycles in Neenah that led to the shooting death of a club member by police has been postponed until next year.

Five people who were held hostage by Brian Flatoff, who was sentenced to 100

years in prison for his actions on Dec. 5, 2015, are seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages claiming they were treated as though they were criminals instead of crime victims by law enforcement officials who arrived on the scene.

The case was to be heard last Friday but the trial date was instead delayed until June 12, 2023.

Flatoff took people hostage at the store after an argument over his motorcycle. During the standoff, police officers shot

and killed Michael Funk.

The officers were not charged, and a federal lawsuit by Funk's estate was dismissed.

Ethan Moderson, Ryan Moderson, Michael Peterson, Stephen Erato, and George Fuerte filed suit against the city, Sgt. Angela Eichmann, Lt. Shaun O'Bre, Lt. Tyron Thompson, Officer Jonathan Kuffel, Officer Marly Heiting and others.

The city has denied the claims and asked for the lawsuit to be dismissed.

Life jacket use promoted for all boaters

This is National Safe Boating Week and the state Department of Natural Resources is reminding boaters that wearing a life jacket could save a life.

Most people who drown in boating accidents know how to swim but become incapacitated in the water such as being

injured or unconscious, exhausted or weighed down by clothing.

So far this year, four people in Wisconsin have died in boating incidents, and another 25 people died in 2021.

Operator inexperience, inattention, recklessness and speeding are the four leading causes of tragic watercraft crashes, and the leading cause of death is drowning.

Nationally, 80% of all boating related fatalities are the direct result of drowning. Something as simple as wearing your life jacket can significantly mitigate that risk and prevent a fun summer outing from becoming a tragedy.

Statistics show boaters who wear life jackets and take boater safety courses are most likely to stay safe on Wisconsin waters.

New life jackets are much more comfortable, lightweight and stylish than the bulky orange style most boaters know.

There are innovative options, such as inflatable life jackets, allowing mobility and flexibility for activities like boating, fishing, paddling or hunting and are much cooler in the warmer weather.

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Summer Fun Run season draws near starting line

By Amber Brockman
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah Summer Fun Run program will be hosting its 27th year of free running events for children ages 14 and under.

The runs are set for June 5 and 19 and July 10 and 24 on the south end of Memorial Park off Apple Blossom Drive.

The location offers use of the Scherck Shelter, a playground, picnic table patio and large lawn, all of which allows parents to have their children in sight.

"We encourage parents to register their children on our neenahfunrun.com website and to check our Facebook page if a run is canceled due to dangerous weather conditions — we do run in a light rain," said Lee Hillstrom, a 20-year volunteer with Neenah Summer Fun Runs.

On-site registration begins at 6 p.m., with the 6-and-under girls age group being the first at 7 p.m.

"With the youngest ages running first, they see and hear the support from those lining the course leading to the finish line where they receive a blue ribbon," Hillstrom said.

Other age groups receive ribbons for each run in which they participate.

"While there is a time clock at the finish line and runners' places in the older age groups are recorded for ribbon awards, the goal of our runs will always be the self-esteem runners gain from the improvements in their run times from one run to another," Hillstrom said.

After their effort, participants can enjoy a frozen DQ treat, Great Harvest cookie and slice of Marco's pizza as a reward and encouragement to return for additional runs.

"If they complete two runs, they receive



Submitted photo

The Neenah Summer Fun Run program will once again be hosting free runnings events for children ages 14 and under.

a Fun Run T-shirt, and for doing all four runs they are awarded a custom Neenah Summer Fun Run medal," Hillstrom said.

With more than 700 runners in the past, the success of the program is due to the number of volunteers and sponsors who make it run smoothly and at no cost to the runners, he said.

"From our board members to other adults who volunteer to help during our short summer, along with members of the

Neenah High School girls cross-country team, we need them all to help with registration, food, the finish line and awards," Hillstrom said. "Many of those girls volunteering started enjoying running at an early age by running in the fun runs."

The idea of a run series started in 1995 when five high school coaches and two of their former students met, with the result being the first of now 27 years of Neenah Summer Fun Runs, according to Hillstrom.

"Their goal was to start a series of fun runs that would promote running as a healthy lifestyle option that could be enjoyed by all skill levels and ages," he said.

Run distances depends on age — 6 and under run 400 or 800 meters, ages 7-9 run 800 meters, and ages 10-14 run 1,600 meters.

"As the numbers of runners increased, we split the age groups into separate girls and boys runs," Hillstrom said. "Six-year-olds were also given the choice of running in the 6-and-under age group or the new 6-to-9 group."

The first runs were on the streets adjacent to Bill Miller Park with 44 runners showing up that first Sunday evening, Hillstrom said.

"The popularity of the runs quickly had us making the move to the north end of Memorial Park in Neenah, which provided an off-street course for the runners," he said. "We have sponsors remaining from that first run and we have never increased the \$500 sponsorship fee, with more sponsors added as our expenses increase."

All donated money goes through the Neenah Park and Recreation Department and Department of Finance, with all expenses paid from that account.

"Our sponsors vary from Fox Cities medical groups, major corporations and from small businesses to individuals," Hillstrom said.

While it is under the umbrella of the park department, the program is an all-volunteer group making this youth running series possible.

Those interested in volunteering for a couple of hours or interested in being a sponsor, call Tom Jensen at 920-725-3852 or go to neenahfunrun.com.



Neenah News photo

Area residents had the chance to tour the new Neenah High School construction site last week.

New high school

FROM PAGE 1

outbuildings will include 33,480 concrete masonry units, 59,000 bricks and 99 yards of grout.

Director of masonry Todd Higgins said to improve safety and efficiency the masonry team is using a MULE (material

unit lift enhancer), which lifts most of the weight of the heavy concrete blocks for them.

"It's pretty neat to see something we had on paper a year ago that is coming into place pretty spot on," Higgins said.

The Neenah High School construction project is on schedule and staff is expected to be able to start using the building in July of next year.



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It's in the cards: Bergstrom ultimate baseball card collector

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Dick Bergstrom still remembers the rush of excitement he felt as a kid when he opened a fresh pack of baseball cards.

The sticks of bubble gum may have disappeared, but Bergstrom's enthusiasm for his lifelong hobby hasn't waned.

Bergstrom, co-owner of Bergstrom Automotive in Neenah, knows a lot about cars and the auto finance world. He's also a bit of an authority on baseball cards.

Bergstrom is a baseball card aficionado and an avid collector. He has both quantity and quality in his extensive collection of cards – dating back to the 1950s.

Looking for a Hank Aaron card? Bergstrom has several of Hammerin' Hank, including his 1954 rookie card. How about a Jackie Robinson? He has it. Satchel Paige? Ditto. Mickey Mantle? Check. Willie Mays, Billy Martin, Yogi Berra, Robin Yount, Reggie Jackson, Barry Bonds, Cal Ripken Jr.? For sure.

All are in mint condition.

"I've always loved baseball, it's always been my favorite sport," Bergstrom said. "Looking at these cards brings back some great memories. It brings me back to when I was a Cub Scout and got to meet Hank Aaron one day at County Stadium.

"I look at a Joe Adcock card and remember listening to the Braves' game the day he hit four home runs and a double in a single game. I look at an Eddie Mathews card and remember how tough and hard-nosed he was at third base. He'd take a line drive off the chin or chops, knock the ball down and still make the play."

Bergstrom has 30,000-plus baseball cards in his incredible collection, including every card manufactured by Topps

since 1970 – the year the Seattle Pilots moved to Milwaukee. He has purchased the entire year's printed edition sets of Topps cards for the past 52 years. Other valuable cards such as the Robinson card and the Paige were given to him by friends.

Bergstrom's office in downtown Neenah looks like a baseball card museum. Lining the walls are several picture frames filled with the cards. He has framed cards of every Milwaukee Braves' team from 1953-1965, including the World Series champion of 1957. The cards are framed from both sides, which allow viewers to check out the player's MLB stats on the back.

Bergstrom even has a rare Topps bloop-type card of his all-time favorite player, Aaron, a right-handed hitter, batting left-handed.

"That was just Hank messing around," Bergstrom said. "But because he did that, that card has additional value. I probably value my Braves collection the most, but I'm a loyal, dedicated Brewers fan and really enjoy my Brewers cards, too: the Gorman Thomas cards, the Paul Molitors, the Jimmy Gantners."

Along with the framed cards, Bergstrom's office is filled with autographed hats – he has one signed by Aaron – and baseballs, including a collection of every MLB player who has slugged more than 300 home runs (as of 2012).

The walls are also decorated with baseball-related pictures, including the grand opening of Miller Park (now American Family Field) and another of him throwing out the first pitch at a 1994 Brewers game at County Stadium.

"I was so nervous that I had to warm up



Photos by Tim Froberg

Dick Bergstrom shows part of his extensive baseball card collection recently in his Neenah office.

in the parking with my wife, who's a good ballplayer, too," Bergstrom said with a laugh. "I don't know if I threw a strike, but I got it all the way there."

Bergstrom began collecting baseball cards at age 6. He grew up in Neenah and would run down to nearby Meartz's Grocery at Lauden Boulevard and Congress Street to buy cards whenever he got a dime or two.

"You could get a pack of 10 cards with gum for 10 cents, or three packs for a quarter," Bergstrom said. "My first job was as a scoreboard boy for the Neenah Park and Rec Department when I was 10. There would be six games a night and after four nights, I'd have over four bucks. I spent most of it on baseball cards.

"My buddies and I would meet right on the front steps of Meartz's and we'd trade cards."

Bergstrom continued to collect while playing Little League and Babe Ruth baseball as a youth in Neenah. He played varsity baseball at Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien before attending Marquette University, where he graduated with a degree in finance.

"I had a great collection of cards I collected from ages 6 to 15, then I developed other interests and stopped collecting for a little while," he said. "I had shoe boxes full of baseball cards in my families' attic, but then my parents moved in 1968 when I was 18. My mom threw out all my cards because she thought they were just junk in the attic. So, I started over collecting cards when I was 22."

Bergstrom collects simply for fun and doesn't deal them.

"I don't sell them," he said. "I don't think I'd ever want to part with them, although maybe some day my kids will donate them to a good charity. I think they could do a lot of good. I'm not doing this as an investment. It has become a nice investment by itself, but that was never the intent.



"It's fun to talk about. In my business, we meet a lot of people. It's a good icebreaker. You're shooting the breeze about something that most people like: baseball."

Those conversations aren't limited to clients. Bergstrom loves to talk about the game and his collectables with his 9-year-old grandson, Gibson.

"That's kind of re-energized an already energetic collector," Bergstrom said. "My son, Luke, and Gibson are card collectors, too. Their main focus, though, is basketball cards. I'm strictly a baseball card guy."

He certainly is, and Bergstrom enjoys sharing his incredible collection with other baseball enthusiasts. Anyone who would like to see his framed office collection is invited to make an appointment at 920-725-4444.

"I've collected so many cards I'm kind of running out of room here," he said. "But I love baseball and love talking about it."



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Holt announces state Assembly run

Former Neenah Board of Education member Stefanie A. Holt announced her campaign to run for the state Assembly in the 55th District, a seat currently held by first-term Republican Rachael Cabral-Guevara.



Holt

for all citizens of our district and ensure your needs are met at the state level," Holt said in her announcement. Holt said she will prioritize health care expansion, improved infrastructure and minimizing the effects of climate change, and is an advocate for LGBTQA+ and women's rights. Holt resides in Neenah with her husband, and worked for three years at Thrivent before starting her own business.



Bergstrom Automotive

This rendering shows the exterior of the new Lincoln dealership being built in Neenah.

Lincoln dealership facility being built

Bergstrom Automotive began construction earlier this month on a Lincoln dealership next to Festival Foods in Neenah. "We believe the time is right to make this investment in northeastern Wisconsin to be the premier dealer for Ford's luxury brand," said Tim M. Bergstrom, chief executive and president. "With the

current success of Lincoln and as it continues to launch beautiful and technically advanced SUVs, we decided to build this state-of-the-art facility." The 6,000-square-foot dealership will feature a glass facade showroom and electric vehicle displays, adding to its Neenah campus just north of the Winneconne Avenue off Interstate 41.

ESTHER's lead organizer stepping down

Bill Van Lopik will be stepping down as lead organizer for ESTHER at the end of June after six years of service to the organization dedicated to identifying and acting on issues of injustice. "ESTHER will miss this gentle man's presence with his effective style of leader-

ship," group president Gary Crevier stated in the announcement. "It is a leadership that flows from his lifelong awareness of, sensitivity to and passion for marginalized people living under systemic injustices." The search for the group's next lead organizer is underway.

Calendar of events

- May 30**
Memorial Day events starting at 8 a.m.
Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day Parade, 9 a.m., downtown
Washington Park Splash Pad opens, 10 a.m.
- June 1**
Youth Go Summer Open House, 3 p.m., 213 Nicolet Blvd.
- June 2**
Pattie Shack Music Series with Stewart Ellyson, 6 p.m., Ground Round

- June 4**
Neenah Pool opening day
Art Activity Day at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, 10 a.m.
- June 5**
Neenah Summer Fun Run Series at Memorial Park, 7 p.m., George Scherck Shelter
Love, Light & Harmony, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee
- June 7**
An Evening of Stargazing Concert, Neenah Community Band, 7 p.m., Riverside Park
- June 10**
Friday Family Fun, 6 p.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee
- June 11**
Farmers market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

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Photos by Rob Zimmer

Lake flies dominate the skies and gather together on all types of trees at this time of year in the region from Appleton to Fond du Lac along the west shores of Lake Winnebago.

Swarming lake flies serve needs of fish and birds

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

It's that time of year again. The annual Lake Winnebago lake fly hatch began with a bang last week as the swarming insects began to emerge and take to the skies.

Lake flies, a form of winged midge that appear in breathtaking numbers each year in May, create an amazing natural spectacle each year when the simultaneous hatch begins. Usually right around Mother's Day, the hatch was slightly delayed this year after a few weeks of lower-than-normal

temperatures, but quickly ramped up. All along the shore, largely dependent on wind direction, lake flies swarm in mass clouds of incredible size, each individual winged insect singing for love.

Chad Walters, fishing along the banks near the Neenah Public Library, understands people's attitudes toward lake flies but appreciates the role they play in the ecosystem, not only right here along the lake, but for a long distance away.

"Birds and fish eat the lake flies, both as adults and as larvae in the water," he said,

"which makes them the perfect source of food."

Indeed, fish like our beloved lake sturgeon would not be as plentiful and cherished here were it not for the untold number of lake fly larvae that live in the sand and mud bottom of the lake. For most of their lives, lake flies live as squiggling larva beneath the surface, emerging to transform into winged adults each year in spring.

The adults have but one purpose, to mate and continue the species. Female lake flies die once they have laid their eggs

onto the surface of the water. Male lake flies can mate many times in their short life span as winged adults. Most lake flies live just a few days in the adult stage, though they may live up to two weeks.

These insects are a precious source of food for migrating birds, as well as those already nesting. Purple martins, orioles, scarlet tanagers, warblers and many other birds feed upon the tasty midges, as many more feed them to young in the nest.

Lake fly season is on! Enjoy this unique natural wonder at its peak.

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Submitted photos

Badger Girls delegates

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 33 announced its Badger Girls State delegates for 2022. Shown in above photo are (from left) Neenah High School students Sophia Rundquist and Rachel Frank, Unit 33 president and ALABGS chair Char Kiesling, Leah Forget and Sage Kirklewski. Erika Stencil (left photo) is a delegate chosen from St. Mary Central High School. Neenah delegates will be among more than 600 young ladies from the state for the week of June 13 at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Badger Girl State has been sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary since 1941.



Advocap names service award winners

Regional community action agency Advocap has announced its annual Community Service Award recipients, given to organizations and businesses who positively impact the counties they serve and help Advocap to fulfill its mission.

The 2021 awards went to Jake's Network of Hope for providing basic hygiene items to older adults in Winnebago County when they were isolated and unable to get the products themselves; Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership, for providing technical assistance, guidance and support to small businesses; and Berlin Food Pantry, for their work distributing more than 2,000 pounds of groceries each week to families in need.

Advocap Volunteer Service Awards were presented to Richard Osborn for providing 150 rides to older adults in Winnebago County and also spending more than 100 hours delivering groceries; Tyrone Wisdom for his commitment to individuals in need through Ebony Vision and St. Vincent De Paul and his work to enhance the African American culture in the Fond du Lac area; and Judy Quick, for her devotion to improving food security by serving at the Green Lake County Food Pantry.

Advocap's Rosalie Tryon Barber Self Sufficiency Award was given to Olivia Morgan, who finished school and is working as a pediatric intensive care nurse at Children's Hospital.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Postwar procession

The Memorial Day procession has been part of the Neenah and Menasha community remembrance activities for many years. This photo, part of the Neenah Police photo collection, shows the parade in 1945 from the corner of Commercial Street and Wisconsin Avenue just weeks after the end of World War II.



Professor's podcast keys on Depies case

UW Oshkosh Today

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh associate anthropology professor Jordan Karsten said the new season of his podcast series focuses on Laurie Depies, who vanished from a northeast Wisconsin parking lot almost 30 years ago.



Depies

Karsten said the first episode of "Season 2 of Cold Case: Frozen Tundra" details Depies' disappearance and provides background on the case. The first episode aired earlier this month has ranked in the top 150 of Apple podcasts and attracted more

than 3,000 unique listeners.

Depies was 20 years old when she disappeared on Aug. 19, 1992. She worked a shift at the Fox River Mall, then drove to her boyfriend's apartment in the Town of Menasha, now the village of Fox Crossing. Depies' friends heard her car pull into the parking lot but she was never seen. The only clue left behind was a cup on top of her locked car.

"We've been contacted by many people hoping to share information on the case and we are passing leads on to investigators," Karsten said, adding that they are working with local and state authorities.

Cold Case: Frozen Tundra is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Stitcher, and at frozentundrapodcast.com.



Pierce hiring

FROM PAGE 1

semblers, material coordinators and other positions.

Stephen Kohler, Pierce's director of human resources, said the job fair was successful but a wide range of roles are yet to be filled.

"We have made quite a few offers to close the gap that we need. There are a few areas that we continue to have needs in, (including) highly technical jobs," he said.

Kohler noted that fire truck manufacturing requires a full set of skills that range from electricians to plumbers to build the modern full-service emergency vehicle.

"Our (fire truck) apparatus is getting more complicated because they have more roles that they're doing than just put out fires," he said. "If you call 911 it's probably a fire truck that's going to get there first so they have to carry the EMS equipment. They will probably beat the ambulance there so firefighters just have to carry more equipment - the trucks get

more specialized."

Pierce's workforce of more than 3,000 has an average 12 years' experience, with a quarter of them having worked 20 or more years for the company.

Work is progressing on the 90,000-square-foot expansion visible off Interstate 41 on American Drive in Fox Crossing and an additional 60,000 square feet of production space being leased at its Town of Neenah location.

The expanded areas for production and testing are expected to be operational sometime this fall.

"90,000 square feet - you hear the number but until you see it's like, whoa, that's a big building," Kohler said.

Anyone with a mechanical aptitude and willingness to learn is encouraged to apply. New team members undergo initial training before transitioning to their roles. Each team member can access \$10,000 per year for continuing education.

Applicants who were not able to attend the job fair can visit piercemfg.com/pierce/careers.



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"We walked in the door and it felt like home."

- Parent of NLS Student



NEENAHLUTHERAN.NET

Zephyrs' Roloff emerges as top scorer in breakout season



Submitted photo

Megan Roloff is making the most of her senior season for St. Mary Catholic as she leads the Zephyrs' goal-scoring efforts.

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A senior season is a final shot for prep athletes to step up and become game-changers.

Megan Roloff is capitalizing on her last-chance opportunity.

Roloff, a midfielder/forward for St. Mary Catholic, is putting the finishing touches on a breakout senior year. Fourteen games into the girls' soccer season, Roloff had generated a team-high 14 goals and garnered seven assists for an impressive 35 points.

"As a senior, Megan has fine-tuned not her scoring, but her finishing," said St. Mary Catholic coach Gary Kruger. "She commits to every ball in her range and has great speed. Even if she isn't beating defenders, her drive and will to win often puts her in scoring position."

Roloff has built on a solid junior season in which she generated 22 points on nine goals and four assists.

"I actually started out as a defender before being switched to mid-field and forward," Roloff said. "Last year, I played with two seniors, Haley Jensen and Ava Staehler. I learned a lot from just watching them and got a feel for what it was like to play up front with three forwards. You learn things like when to make that pass and when to try and beat your defender."

Kruger knew early in Roloff's soccer career that he had a player with a highly competitive spirit.

"I saw in Megan an intangible desire to win as a freshman," said Kruger. "Watching her between her freshman and sophomore



Roloff

Senior Spotlight

year, she blew by a defender and raced to a goal. I said, 'We're about to see a lot more of that.' And it's been true."

Scoring a goal is never dull for Roloff, but she gets even more exhilarated when helping others find the back of the net.

"Whenever you can score, it's always an amazing feeling," she said. "But one of my favorite things is getting assists. When you can help someone else experience that feeling, it's really nice."

Roloff was hampered during the 2021 season by a badly sprained ankle which sidelined her nearly three weeks.

"I've definitely grown a lot as a player this spring," she said. "It's definitely been a much better season for me this year and I'm excited to see where the rest of the year goes."

Roloff was part of the Zephyrs' 2019 state-qualifying team that went 18-5-1 overall. St. Mary Catholic was eliminated in a shootout against Oostburg in a state semifinal.

"It was a great experience being part of that team," Roloff said. "I got to play with my older sister, Kate. She was a defender and I was an outside midfielder, so it was kind of a cool dynamic."

"Going to state that year was probably one of the best experiences I've had in soccer. It was amazing to get that far and it had been awhile since our school had been to state. I will say, though, that loss was very hard. It was such a close game."

Roloff has been more than just a soccer standout at the school. She was also a starting libero in volleyball.

"I've been playing soccer since I was very little and volleyball was always something a little different, a nice change of pace," Roloff said. "I really liked playing libero and being able to pass off to the hitters for the big spikes. In volleyball and all sports, really, you make such great bonds with your teammates."

Roloff will attend Marquette University in the fall where she plans to major in exercise science with hopes of becoming a physical therapist. She is an exceptional student, carrying a 3.95 grade-point-average.

"I really like the idea of helping people recover from an injury, whether they're an athlete or just someone coming off surgery" she said. "And I really like being able to work one-on-one with people. I've always had an interest in anatomy and science classes."

Until then, Roloff will do all she can to help the Zephyrs' make a return trip to Uihlein Soccer Park, home of the WIAA state tournament.

"We want to make it as far as we can possibly get and just leave everything out on the field," she said. "For seniors like myself, this is probably our last year of playing super-competitive soccer. So, we're going to try and make it a big one for our school and our team."



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Prep sports roundup

TRACK AND FIELD

Neenah boys capture D1 regional title

A strong showing in the relay events, including a pair of victories, helped propel the Neenah boys track and field team to a WIAA Division 1 regional title on Monday.

The Rockets scored 126 points to finish three points ahead of Oshkosh North and nine points ahead of Oshkosh West to claim the crown.

Neenah finished in the top three in all four relay events, including placing first in the 800-meter relay and the 1,600-meter relay. The Rockets were also second in the 3,200-meter relay and third in the 4400-meter relay.

Aaron Merkley was the lone Neenah boy to advance to Thursday's sectional meet in two individual events after placing third in the 300-meter hurdles and fourth in the 110-meter hurdles.

Isiah Lassiter in the 800 meters, Jack Dorner in the 3,200 meters and Michael Price in the discus registered the top individual finishes for the Rockets by placing second in their respective events. Jack Monson in the 400 meters, Carson Timm in the 1,600 meter and Trevor McGinnis in the pole vault each placed third and Alex Thayer in the 800 meters took fourth.

Lydia Delene led the Neenah girls by placing second in the discus and third in the shot put. Lauren Tears in the 1,600 meters and Mazie Olkowski in the 3,200 meters each posted second-place finishes at the meet, while Lilly Granditzke in the 200 meters and Hadley Hackinson in the



Photo by Scott Kruger

Neenah's Jase Jenkins reaches the finish line as the Rockets collected the win in the 800-meter relay at the WIAA Division 1 regional track and field meet on Monday. The Neenah boys claimed the regional team title.

1,600 meters.

Neenah also advanced three relays to sectionals, placing second in the 3,200-meter relay and fourth in both the 400-meter relay and 800-meter relay.

Neenah placed fourth among the eight teams at the meet.

Thursday's sectional meet will be held in West Bend.

Zephyrs shine at D3 regional competition

The St. Mary Catholic girls took second, while the boys were third as hosts of a WIAA Division 3 regional track meet on Monday.

The girls finished two points behind Manawa, 124-122, for the top spot in the team standings, while Weyauwega-Fremont was a close third with 118 points. On the boys side, Manawa also won the title with 124 points followed by Iola-Scandinavia with 117 points and St. Mary Catholic with 110 points.

The girls performance was highlighted by a 1-2 finish in the triple jump from Anna Vanden Acker and Gabby Ruback, respectively. The duo also finished third and fourth, respectively, in the long jump.

Margherita Gennaro picked up a win for the Zephyrs in placing first in the pole vault, while Jaydin Vosters was second in the 300-meter hurdles and third in the

100-meter hurdles.

Other top-four individual finishers for St. Mary Catholic girls were Nolie Anderson, third in the discus; Grace Dominoski, fourth in the 100 meters; Kate Nackers, fourth in the 200 meters and Sylvia Walentowski, fourth in the 800 meters.

The Zephyrs also placed second in the 400-meter relay and fourth in the 3,200-meter relay.

The boys had three athletes place in the top three in two events, including Alexander Groppe who produced the Zephyrs lone win with his victory in the 800 meters. He was also third in the pole vault.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 11



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Rockets rally late to edge Spartans in regional showdown

Harwood has strong game at plate, in circle for Neenah

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Neenah took advantage of an Oshkosh North error in the bottom of the sixth inning to score two runs, breaking a 1-1 tie, and held on for a 3-1 win against the Spartans in a WIAA Division 1 regional softball game Tuesday evening.

The seventh-seeded Rockets were slated to play No. 2 Slinger in a regional final Thursday, with the winner moving on to sectionals.

“The girls fought hard tonight for



Photo courtesy of Neenah softball

Bella Coulman listens to head coach Steven Gross while standing on third base during Tuesday’s regional win over Oshkosh North.

a great team win,” head coach Steven Gross said. “(Morgan) Harwood threw a great game and our defense was great behind her. Overall, a great game for us.”

Harwood scattered five hits and struck out eight in the circle for Neenah, matching her counterpart for Oshkosh North Ashley Borowitz. Borowitz had shut out Neenah twice during the regular season as the Spartans took both meetings.

But the Rockets quickly put that scoreless streak against them to rest, scoring a run in the first inning.

Bella Coulman opened the inning with a single to center field before stealing second base. Quinn Marnocha then delivered a clutch two-out double to right-center field, easily scoring Coulman for a 1-0 lead.

“We started off with a nice hit to open that inning before Marnocha brought Coulman in,” Gross said. “That was the type of start we needed.”

But that was not the biggest inning for Neenah.

After the Spartans had tied the game in the top of the fifth, the Rockets used a two-out rally to regain the lead.

Harwood, who finished with two of the Rockets’ four hits in the game, helped her own cause by crushing a two-out double off the left-field fence to get Neenah going, while the Spartans then intentionally walked Marnocha to put runners at first and second.

Piper Alberg then drilled a groundball that the North infield was unable to handle, allowing Harwood to dash home with the tiebreaking run. A second error on the same play allowed Marnocha to score as well.



Photo courtesy of Neenah softball

Madie Jagoditsh connects on a bunt attempt during Tuesday’s WIAA Division 1 regional contest against Oshkosh North. The Rockets won 3-1.

“When I walked into the batter’s box, I thought only of the dugout behind me and how much it meant to everyone,” Alberg said. “Contact is the main goal in that situation and Borowitz is very difficult to make contact against. I made sure that I did what I needed to do to make contact and was able to put the ball in play leading to the winning runs.”

Gross was impressed with the approach at the plate his team took in the rally.

“We were able to keep the pressure on and took advantage of some of their mistakes in the sixth,” he said. “Piper’s hustle to induce that error was huge

for us and it helped lead to the winning runs. Our energy during that inning and all game long was phenomenal.”

Harwood ran into a little trouble in the top of the seventh allowing a pair of singles but settled down to get the final out to close out the win.

“Our team has done nothing but put our hearts into this game from the time we were kids all the way through the high school program,” Alberg said on her team’s effort. “Today’s effort was led by the urge to never give up and keep fighting. We always fight no matter what that scoreboard shows.”

Late rally lifts Zephyrs to win over Warhawks

WEYAUWEGA – St. Mary Catholic rallied for three runs in the top of the seventh to pull out a 4-3 win over Weyauwega-Fremont in a WIAA Division 4 regional softball game on Tuesday.

The Warhawks had scored twice in the bottom of the sixth to take a 3-1 lead but Teagan Miller opened the seventh with a walk for the Zephyrs before a single from Emily Vogel. Narveah Saringer then drew a walk to load the bases with nobody out.

A Weyauwega-Fremont error allowed the first run to score, while a wild pitch brought home the tying run. Jaylyn Akey then drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI-groundout.

The Warhawks got their lead-off runner on in the bottom of the seventh, but a slick double play on a popped-up bunt attempt – Chloe Vogel made a running catch and then fired to first – stemmed the tide. Weyauwega-Fremont would get a runner to second with two outs but Saringer induced a pop-up to Maria Benz behind first base for the final out.

Vogel drove in the Zephyrs’ first run with an RBI-single in the sixth inning. Emily Vogel tallied St. Mary Catholic’s only other hit in the game.

Saringer scattered six hits and a walk in earning the win in the circle, while striking out four.

With the win, St. Mary Catholic was scheduled to face top-seeded and state powerhouse Mishicot in a regional final on Thursday.

The **GRAND** OSHKOSH

The Jewel Box of the Fox Valley

Photo Credit: Thompson Photo Imagery

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 9

Cam Connolly added second-place finishes in shot put and discus, while Benjamin Schoeni was second in both the 1,600 meters and 3,200 meters. Other sectional qualifiers for the Zephyrs were: Ashton Post, second in the pole vault; Nathan Seiske, third in the 800 meters; Kaden Miller, fourth in the 1,600; Ian Albino, fourth in the 3,200; and Charlie Nackers, fourth in the high jump.

St. Mary Catholic finished second in the 400-meter relay and fourth in the 3,200-meter relay.

GOLF

Kramer earns medalist honors to lead Rockets

Payton Kramer fired a 73 in cold, rainy conditions at Lake Breeze Golf Course on Wednesday afternoon to earn medalist honors at the WIAA Division 1 regional golf tournament.

Kramer's round was five shots better than Sheboygan North's Mason Schmittke and six better than teammate John Callahan, who overcame a rough front nine to shoot a 79 on the day.

Neenah's remaining scoring golfers were Sam Coulthar with an 89 and Eli Oitzinger with a 90.

As a team, Neenah advanced to next week's sectional tournament to be held at Washington County Golf Course by finishing second overall. The Rockets finished with a score of 331, to edge Fond du Lac by one shot for the runner-up spot. Sheboygan North won the team title with a 325.

Zephyrs take third at regionals to advance

St. Mary Catholic overcame wet conditions at Quit Qui Oc Golf Course to finish third in its WIAA Division 3 regional meet on Tuesday and advance to next week's sectional.

The Zephyrs finished with a score of 363, trailing only Roncalli (331) and host Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah (348). Howards Grove was a distant fourth with a score of 385.

Spencer Lynch led St. Mary Catholic with a 75, to finish fifth overall. Cole Uhlenbrauck and Danny Griffin each carded 92s and Evan Bengel added a 96.

Rockets finish third at FVA Meet

Payton Kramer shot a 74 and John Callahan added a 79 as Neenah finished third at the FVA Meet held last week at Chaska Golf Course in Greenville.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 328, trailing only Appleton North (298) and Kimberly (322).

Carson Schultz and Elijah Oitzinger rounded out the Neenah scoring golfers with 87 and 88, respectively.

Lynch earns medalist honors at Big East meet

St. Mary Catholic's Spencer Lynch turned in a round of 75 to earn medalist honors at the Big East Conference Golf Meet held last Thursday at Quit Qui Oc Golf Course.

Lynch finished one shot ahead of Kohler's Reece Breitenbach and the two were the only golfers to shoot in the 70s.

Evan Bengel as the next Zephyr golfer with a 95, followed by Dane Anderson with 100 and Cole Uhlenbrauck with a 106.

St. Mary Catholic finished seventh among the 10 teams with a 376.

TENNIS

Neenah rolls at D1 sub-sectional meet

The Neenah tennis team put on a near-perfect performance at the sub-sectional on Tuesday.

All seven Rocket flights advanced to sectionals and went a combined 12-0, while dropping a combined six games in the seven matches. Every flight won at least one match by a 6-0, 6-0 margin.

Advancing in singles for Neenah were Solomon Durnsmin (No. 1), David Murphy (No. 2), Carl Hein (No. 3) and Ben Kotchen (No. 4). The doubles teams to advance were Nolan Kubiak and Khaled Saleh (No. 1), Henry Werner and Satchel Moss (No. 2) and Leyton Daharsh and Jaxon King (No. 3).

St. Mary Catholic sends seven flights to sectionals

All seven of the St. Mary Catholic tennis team's flights advanced to sectionals out of Monday's Division 2 sub-sectional.

No. 1 singles player Wesey Auth and the No. 1 doubles team of Grant Bergstrom and Felipe Gaztelu both advanced without playing a match as they received byes.

The other five flights each had byes in the first round and then won in straight sets to advance, including a 6-0, 6-0 win by Gonzalo Carrasco at No. 2 singles over Fox Valley Lutheran's Joshua Van Rossum.

Also advancing were singles players Juan Sebastian (No. 3) and Javier Ravina (No. 4) and the doubles teams of Michael Fairweather and Ethan Campbell (No. 2) and John Osland and Harry Bergstrom (No. 3).

Rockets continue string of conference titles

Neenah took first place at six of the seven flights to claim its 22nd straight Fox Valley Association boys tennis title. The Rockets now have won 44 conference crowns in the 51-year history of the event.

Solomon Dunsirn won at No. 1 singles, with David Murphy winning at No. 2 singles and Ben Kotchen claiming the No. 4 singles title. Carl Hein finished second at No. 3 singles.

In doubles, the pairings of Nolan Kubiak and Khaled Saleh, Henry Werner and Satchel Moss and Leyton Daharsh and Jaxon King were the champions at the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 flights, respectively.

BASEBALL

MacKenzie shuts down Lourdes/Valley team

Fisher MacKenzie struck out nine in five scoreless innings to lead the Zephyrs to a 5-1 nonconference win over Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian.

MacKenzie, who allowed just three hits, and Caden Akey combined for 13 strikeouts in the game.

St. Mary Catholic opened the scoring in the fourth on a two-out, two-run single by Matt Betchner. The Zephyrs took advantage of two Knights' errors to plate two runs in the fifth before tacking on an insurance run in the seventh.

St. Mary Catholic also lost a 4-3 contest to Winneconne and beat Kohler 9-5 on Tuesday on Saturday afternoon, but details of the games were not available.

Rockets post win at Fox Cities Stadium

Gradin Taschner went 3-for-3 and drove in five runs as Neenah knocked off Menasha, 12-6, at Fox Cities Stadium on Saturday.

Max Medrano also picked up three hits, while Eli Schmidt finished with two hits

and two RBIs.

Rockets scored three runs in each of the first two innings to take the lead and scored at least two runs in every inning but the fourth.

Elliot Swanson got the win as four Neenah pitchers combined for nine strikeouts in the victory.

Rockets double up Ghosts in FVA tilt

A four-run third innings put Neenah in the lead to stay as the Rockets knocked off Kaukauna, 6-3, in a Fox Valley Association contest on Tuesday.

Ethan Van Dyke finished 3-for-4 and drove in a pair of runs, while Eli Schmidt, Brady Corso and Will Sorenson each chipped in two hits. Schmidt also drove in two runs and Gradin Taschner scored twice.

Beckett Davidson struck out seven in 3 1/3 innings to get the win on the mound.

SOFTBALL

Rockets win two at Oakfield tourney

The Neenah softball team posted a pair of easy wins at the Oakfield Tournament over the weekend, collecting wins over Marshall (12-0) and Wautoma (7-1).

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No statistics were available from the games.

Zephyrs erase early deficit to top Knights

Rhiannon Reichenberger finished with two hits and two RBIs and the Zephyrs rallied after falling behind 3-0 in the top of the first inning to claim a 5-3 win.

St. Mary Catholic scored a run in the first and took the lead with a three-run second inning and stayed in front the rest of the way.

Navaeh Saringer chipped in two hits, while also collecting the win in the circle, scattering five hits and striking out five.

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Memorial Day

FROM PAGE 1

Chapter 351, VFW Post 2126, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

This Memorial Day weekend he said his participation will be limited while recovering from recent leg surgery but still plans – with the help of his wife – to at least take part in the procession.

“If I can get into a car on Memorial Day I will be in the parade as a representative of the Military Order of the Purple Heart,” he said.

Neenah American Legion Post 33, Menasha American Legion Post 152 and Menasha VFW Post 2126 are organizing this year’s procession and ceremonies. Dave Dix, VFW post commander, said the celebration also involves input and effort from the cities and other veteran and nonveteran service groups.

The county’s Veterans Service Office hosts monthly meetings where many voices are heard to help organize these holiday events and add awareness to day-to-day needs of struggling veterans who could use help to pay for things like gas, food or energy bills, as well as helping families with funeral costs.

County Veterans Service Director Jeffery Bucholtz said last month’s move of their offices from the county administration building to the Human Services facility in Oshkosh also will better coordinate economic support agencies that are now neighbors, including the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

“We’re already starting to see the benefits,” Bucholtz said. “Aging and Disability – if they identify somebody that’s a veteran or who might be able to benefit from our service – they literally just walk across the hall with that person and say, ‘This is what we’ve discussed so far.’”



Photo from Bob Borszich

A ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah will honor all the deceased veterans during the annual Memorial Day events on Monday.

Memorial Day events

The annual Memorial Day ceremonies are organized by Neenah American Legion Post 33, Menasha American Legion Post 152, Menasha VFW Post 2126 and the cities of Neenah and Menasha.

The event starts at 8 a.m. Monday at the waterfront on Mill Street in Menasha. Tribute will be made to veterans lost at sea by placing a wreath and flowers in the water.

Music will be performed by the Menasha High School marching band and there will be a rifle salute by the Neenah-Menasha Veterans Honor Guard. The event will close with taps sounded by the marching band.

The Neenah-Menasha Rotary will pass out American flags to those along the procession route before its 9 a.m. start at Second and Milwaukee streets. It proceeds down Milwaukee to Main Street and continues to Tayco Street and then to Commercial Street in Neenah and to Main Street, where it ends at the Ascension clinic at Main and Doty.

After the parade ends at about 10:45 a.m., ceremonies move to Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah for the military honors for all the deceased veterans. The event includes a guest speaker, student speakers from St. Mary Catholic High School, along with the Menasha High band.

Wreaths will be placed at the military monument in the cemetery followed by a rifle salute from the Neenah-Menasha Honor Guard. Taps will be sounded by the Neenah High School band.

After the ceremony, the public is invited to the annual brat fry/bake sale at Lucky Dog’s on Green Bay Road put on by American Legion Post 33.

“When you get everybody together that offers the same types of services – the human piece – it’s easy.”

The county’s Veterans Services office in Neenah is at 211 N. Commercial St. with 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekday hours.

Another way regional veterans services are gaining efficiency is with the Fox Valley Veterans Council’s expansion into southern Winnebago County to complete

existing services in a larger region. Rogers, serving on both commissions, welcomes that added effort.

“It really helps veterans so that they’re not homeless,” he said.

Rogers appreciates the recognition Memorial Day brings to veterans that he and others didn’t get when returning from Vietnam. “We’re honoring the people on Memorial Day who are not here anymore.”

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