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 Norville leads Zephyrs with strong play in goal
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Klesmit comes home to play for Wisconsin

Former Neenah star transfers from Wofford to join Badgers

By Tim Froberg
 NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Max Klesmit has clearly proven he can play big-time basketball.

Big Ten basketball is his next challenge. Klesmit has found a new basketball home, and it's close to his hometown of Neenah.



Klesmit

The former Rockets' all-state standout has announced he will transfer from Wofford University to Wisconsin. Klesmit, a 6-foot-3 guard, entered the transfer portal a month ago after two strong seasons at Wofford, a Division I school in Spartanburg, S.C., that competes in the Southern Conference.

Klesmit will be a true junior next year but will have three seasons of eligibility if he chooses his COVID year – an extra season granted to NCAA athletes due to the pandemic. He has the skills and experience to

SEE **Coming home** ON PAGE 11

Traffic safety gets extra police focus

New officer position keys on growing city

By Carol Patrizi
 NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Neenah will join Appleton to become the only communities in the Fox Valley to have a designated traffic safety officer.

Beginning Monday, Tony Edwards will assume the newly created role. Edwards has been with the department for just over two years and previously worked for the Menasha Police Department.

Neenah Police Chief Aaron Olson said the two cities worked together on a job description.

Olson said it's not unusual for larger cities to have a traffic safety officer. He thinks the position is growing in popularity in smaller communities as well. Olson says levy limits prevent them from hiring a new officer for this post so promoting from within helps them get around that.

Because the number one complaint in the city surrounds traffic problems, Olson believes there's a definite need. According to Olson, the city has fewer officers than 30 years ago but calls are up 190 percent. He says policing

has changed over those years and officers have a lot of extra duties.

It takes time to download body camera images. Report writing is also different. Olson said a call that may have required a paragraph some years ago now requires pages.

"Officers just don't have the time to monitor speeders," Olson said. To compensate, he asks officers to fill out their paperwork while sitting in their squad car in a public parking lot or near a school. It's a way to keep visible, though he thinks sometimes people see officers sitting in a car and don't think they're doing anything.

SEE **Traffic help** ON PAGE 11



Edwards



Photo by Bethanie Gengler

Future Neenah staff accountant Julie Last demonstrates how to ride a scooter last week in downtown Neenah.

Electric scooters hit the streets

City helps to facilitate trending transit option

By Bethanie Gengler
 NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Bird e-scooters have landed in downtown Neenah, giving area residents and visitors a new way to get around town.

Electric scooters have been gaining popularity across the country and are already rolling in nearby Appleton. Menasha is expected to begin seeing Bird scooters later this month.

Last month the Neenah Common Council unanimously approved an agreement with Bird Rides Inc. to bring the scooters to the area in a pilot program set to expire Dec. 31. The city does not incur any costs for bringing in the scooters and have the option of renewing the program.

The council also approved a separate ordinance dictating how the scooters can operate on recreational trails.

Community Development office manager Samantha Jefferson told the council that she contacted four Wisconsin communities that had the scooters and all four are continuing with the Bird program this year. She said Bird scooter riders in Sheboygan logged the most miles in Wisconsin last year.

A fleet of about 25 scooters were placed in Neenah on April 25. Depending on popularity and usage, additional scooters could be added, bringing the total to 75. Once Menasha's fleet is available, the two cities will formally announce them, Jefferson said, adding that the first couple of weeks are being used to deal with any issues that may arise.

Founded by Appleton North High School graduate Travis VanderZanden, Bird is managed by a smartphone app that allows users

to find and ride the scooters.

Jefferson said the council was told the cost to ride them would be \$1 to start, 39 cents per minute and a 10-cent fee that goes to the city, plus tax. The Bird app indicates the cost in Neenah is \$1 to start and 42 cents per minute plus a 10-cent city fee and tax. A 15-minute ride will cost users just under \$8.

Jefferson said she is working with the company to determine the reason for the fee increase and whether it will be permanent.

There are no designated start and stop points for riding the electric vehicles. When users are done riding, the app directs them to designated parking areas. Neenah has several designated nesting areas on sidewalks. Users that return the scooters to the nesting area receive a credit for their next ride.

The scooters are maintained by a design-

SEE **Electric scooters** ON PAGE 12

Neenah News

Local news for you

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

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Corrections

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

About the newspaper

Published every Friday and mailed to subscribers through the U.S. Postal Service and available online at www.neenahnewsnow.com.

Neenah News content serves the Neenah Joint School District geographical footprint. Cover price: \$2.00

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

Abuse recovery support offered to residents

Workforce Board gets labor grant assistance

Oshkosh Herald

Winnebago County residents and their families who have been impacted by substance abuse will be eligible for workforce training, support and other benefits through a U.S. Department of Labor grant to the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB).

The multicounty grant, totaling \$1.1 million, allows the regional agency to work with individuals affected by substance abuse of any kind to get them on the right path to gainful employment and other support services.

"This grant covers not only the costs of substance abuse treatment for the individual seeking recovery, but also ensures the family members of those impacted by alcoholism or drug abuse can find the support and mental health treatment they need," said Anthony Snyder, chief executive of the FVWDB.

"Our first goal is to get someone the treatment they need to enter sobriety and then we want to focus on those around the addicted person who need help.

"Once treatment has proven successful, we will look to get all of these individuals into some kind of job training program to fill one of the many open roles across our region."

According to the state Department of Health Services (DHS), about 7.66 percent – one in 13 people – in Wisconsin have a substance abuse disorder. That doesn't include the spouses, parents, children and others affected by addiction.

The Support to Communities Grant is available to anyone residing in Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Waupaca and Waushara counties. After a brief enrollment and evaluation, individuals are eligible to have treatment costs covered, if needed. The grant can cover tuition and books for training or retraining, mileage to and from the

classroom as well as child care costs for those with small children.

Other support services, pending eligibility, include rent reimbursement and internet costs for those taking at-home classes. The board may also be able to assist with the reinstatement of a lost driver's license or the cost of a bus pass.

"Everyone will come to us with different circumstances and our plan is to meet them where they are and attempt to assist with their greatest needs for as long as the grant dollars are available," Snyder said.

The grant also can cover tuition costs for those pursuing a career in substance abuse counseling or other related roles. For details go to foxvalleyjobcenters.com or call/text the FVWDB at 920-594-3655.

There is no deadline to respond, but the board will accept enrollees until the grant money is fully expended.

Those interested in taking classes this summer should be aware of a June 6 start date for most local colleges.



Neenah News

Poppy season

Neenah Mayor Jane Lang has a poppy pinned on her lapel Monday by American Legion Auxiliary president Char Kiesling after Lang signed the annual Poppy Proclamation. The paper flowers, made by veterans as part of their therapeutic rehabilitation at Milwaukee's Veterans Administration Medical Center, will be sold through Memorial Day at business locations in the city. Proceeds mostly support local programs.

Lyme disease, tick awareness urged as summer months approach

The state Department of Natural Resources and Department of Health Services (DHS) remind the public to Fight the Bite by protecting themselves from tick bites that may lead to Lyme disease or other illnesses.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread by deer ticks, which can be as small as a poppy seed.

Deer ticks are common in Wisconsin and live in wooded areas and brushy or grassy areas adjacent to woods. Because of their small size, deer tick bites can often go unnoticed.

Now that warmer temperatures have arrived, ticks are out again.

The chance of contracting Lyme disease

and other illnesses spread by ticks can be limited by following tips to avoid bites:

- Cover the body by wearing long sleeves and pants, and tuck shirts into pants and pants into socks.
- Walk in the center of trails where grass and vegetation are mowed.
- Wear light-colored clothing so ticks are easier to spot and remove quickly.
- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent when outdoors. Clothes can be treated in advance with permethrin.
- Throw clothes in the dryer for 10 minutes on high heat after being outside.
- Check for ticks, especially behind the knees, under armpits, around the hairline and ears, and at the waist.

To remove a tick, use tweezers and grasp it as close to the skin as possible while gently pulling it up and out in one motion.

Make note of when the tick was removed. That can be helpful for a doctor to know.

Save the tick in a plastic bag or take a photo before disposing of it in case symptoms develop.

The easiest way to dispose of a tick is by putting it in alcohol or flushing it.

Lyme disease symptoms typically develop between three to 30 days after being bitten by a tick, including fever, chills, fatigue, muscle aches, joint pain and nausea. Some also develop an expanding rash, often in the shape of a bulls-eye.



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Photo from city of Neenah

Honorable tree

Neenah marked the 150th anniversary of national Arbor Day with a tree planting honoring former city Mayor Dean Kaufert. Helping plant the maple tree at Washington Park last Friday were Common Council President Todd Stevenson (from left), Renee and Dean Kaufert, and city park employee Clint Williams. The state Department of Natural Resources reported that 9.3 million trees were planted statewide in 2021 with the DNR supplying more than half of the seedlings. A governor's executive order pledges to plant 75 million new trees in rural and urban areas and conserve 125,000 acres of forest in Wisconsin by 2030.

Vaccination Toolkit offered by county

The Vaccination Toolkit, a new customized media campaign from the Winnebago County Health Department, provides access to printable posters, social media posts, videos and other forms of media based on the message, I am the Change.

Local businesses and organizations are

encouraged by health officials to spread the message on COVID-19 vaccinations, which they said continues to be the most effective way to keep businesses thriving and communities safe.

Visit wcvaccine.org/toolkit for details and to take part in the campaign.

Future Neenah unveils Log Your Loops initiative to encourage use of lake trail

Future Neenah is launching the fourth year of its Log Your Loops initiative to get people out and enjoy the Loop the Little Lake Trestle Trail through the summer.

The trail includes two trestle bridges that connect the Lower Little Lake Butte des Morts loop of 5 kilometers traveling through parts of Neenah, Menasha and Fox Crossing.



From Memorial Day (May 30) through Labor Day (Sept. 5), trestle loop users can log their distances as they bike, run, walk or skate. If they log

50 loops in these 99 days, they will receive a T-shirt marking the achievement. This year bandanas will be available for pets who also complete the loop.

"Log Your Loops has gotten more popular every year; in 2021 we had almost 1,200 people sign up," Future Neenah executive director Sarah Wylie said. "People love this challenge as it keeps them motivated for that race they are training for or for that last five pounds they want to lose."



We love hearing all the stories and we are expecting another big year."

Registration is required for the free program. For more information, visit neenah.org or call 920-722-1920.

Volunteer needs

SOAR Fox Cities: Seeking camp counselors ages 16 and older to assist with developmental disabilities. Counselors help campers dress appropriately for the weather, cut their food and follow the camp schedule at Camp Onaway from June 7-11. For more information or to apply visit soarfoxcities.com/volunteer or contact LeeAnn at 920-731-9831 x112.

St. Vincent de Paul: Seeking friendly cashier volunteers, at least age 18, with some experience, to volunteer in four-hour shifts. Staff members are available for backup. Training is provided. After 30 days, volunteers receive a 50 percent discount on everything in the store priced \$15 or less. Contact Toni at volunteercoordinator@svd-preneh.com or 920-727-1766, ext. 3.

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Pack of abandoned pug puppies placed in new homes

By Bethanie Gengler
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

It was a surprising sight for police officers in Neenah when they discovered a plastic tote containing a pack of pug puppies in the driveway of a residential property near a sidewalk on the evening of April 24.

The Neenah Police Department posted on social media that they found seven young pugs in the tote. A weekly incident report indicates the pugs were found just before 11 p.m. on Henry Street. The dogs were transported to the Neenah Animal Shelter (NAS).

Officials put out a request for information to find out who may have been responsible for leaving the pugs in such a precarious situation and the owner of the puppies was later identified. The person responsible for abandoning the pugs could face a municipal violation or criminal charges.

No other information is available as the investigation is ongoing.

For people in Neenah and the towns of



Neenah police photo

Seven pug puppies were found in a plastic tote April 24 and are now finding new homes as abandonment charges are pending for the owner.

Vinland, Oshkosh and Winneconne, NAS charges \$30 per pet to surrender dogs or cats, according to its website. Outside those municipalities NAS charges a \$60

fee to surrender a dog or cat to the shelter. NAS notes on its website that exceptions to its fee policy can be made in certain circumstances.

The American Kennel Club's 2021 list of the most popular dog breeds, which is ranked based on registration data, lists pugs' popularity at No. 33 out of 197 breeds. Purebred pug puppies often sell for more than \$1,000. Even pug mixed breeds – often called designer dogs – sell for hundreds of dollars.

NAS wrote on social media that the pug puppies found by police are now safe, warm and well cared for.

Within days of the puppies' arrival, NAS received more than 200 applications to adopt them. All of the puppies are pending adoption and several have already been placed in their new homes.

NAS used the pug puppies' puzzling predicament as an opportunity to thank Neenah police for rescuing them and to urge the community to reach out for help instead of abandoning animals.

"Without (police) intervention, this story could have had an unthinkable outcome," NAS wrote. "Please, call us if you need help re-homing animals. We are here to help serve the community."

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Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Keepers of history

Newly elected Mayor Jane Lang (left) stepped down as executive director of the Neenah Historical Society on April 20, with society vice president C. James Taylor being named interim executive director. Shown with them is Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski, assistant executive director.

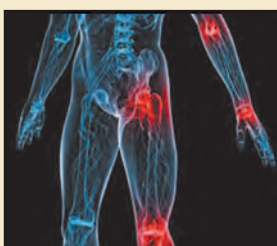
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Roosevelt/Alliance principal named

Neenah News

La Crosse Polytechnic School Principal Garrett Zimmerman will be the new principal at Roosevelt Elementary School for its last school year of 2022-23. He also will lead Alliance Charter School that will be expanded after next year.

The Board of Education approved Zimmerman's appointment at its Tuesday meeting.

He has been principal of La Crosse Polytechnic for the past three years. The charter school is a project-based learning school that serves 120 students in grades 6-12. He has also overseen the La Crosse School District's Coulee Region Virtual Academy and summer school programs for all grades over the past year.

Zimmerman will be Roosevelt principal before it transitions to the Horace



Zimmerman

Mann Elementary School in 2023-24. He will oversee the expansion of Alliance into a two-section school in the current Wilson Elementary School building that same year.

"Garrett is a high-energy, passionate educator who is ideal for the transitions Roosevelt and Alliance will experience next year," Neenah Joint School District Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer said. "He has a focus on personal relationships with students, staff and families that will be important in this time of change."

Zimmerman has spent his education career in the La Crosse School District, having taught middle school social studies for five years before his current principal position. He earned bachelor and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Zimmerman begins his duties July 1 and replaces Ashley Bath, who was recently named the district's director of Student Growth and Support Programs.

USDA food benefits for kids under 6 approved

The state Department of Health Services (DHS) announced last week that Wisconsin has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service for its plan to send out food benefits for children under age 6.

The 2021-2022 pre-6 pandemic electronic benefits transfer (P-EBT) is available to members of FoodShare households who are not receiving benefits as part of the school-age P-EBT program because they are not enrolled in a specific school.

Families will receive letters notifying

them of how much they are receiving going back to September 2021 through June 2022, when benefits are issued in mid-July.

DHS will determine benefit amounts based on a formula that was developed to meet federal requirements and maximize benefits for families.

Benefits will be issued automatically to FoodShare households with children that qualify. Pre-6 P-EBT benefits will be put on FoodShare households' QUEST card.

To learn more go to dhs.wisconsin.gov under ForwardHealth programs.



Satellite photo

Satellite staff and advisers Robert Barthell (from left), Abi Wise, Beth Plankey, Ashlyn Jacobs and Elaina Plankey are shown with their NEWSPA awards.

High school newspaper earns honors

Neenah High School's Satellite student newspaper took home 56 awards, including 17 Blue Ribbon honors, at a recent Northeast Wisconsin Scholastic Press Association (NEWSPA) conference in Oshkosh.

The Satellite staff won for best website design and best use of Twitter and Instagram. Editor in chief Ashlyn Jacobs won six Blue Ribbon awards and Robert Barthell collected four. Owen Holecko and Bruce Argall were each part of two Blue

Ribbon award projects.

Jacobs has also been named a finalist for Wisconsin School Journalist of the Year by the Wisconsin Journalism Education Association.

Satellite adviser Beth Plankey was awarded the Skip Zacher Friend of Scholastic Journalism Award from NEWSPA. She has been a Neenah High English and journalism teacher since 1993. The Satellite can be accessed at neenahsatellite.com.

County dog park in Fox Crossing to be dedicated

The Winnebago County Parks Department will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Jerry Finch Winnebago County Dog Park in Fox Crossing at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

"Providing another option for our local community to have the opportunity to recreate with their dogs is a great accomplishment and we are excited to officially open this new dog park to the public," said Adam Breest, Winnebago County parks director.

The location at 1111 Ehlers Road is the second county-owned dog park in

Winnebago County. The other is the Best Friends Dog Park at Winnebago County Community Park that opened in 2011.

The 4.5-acre dog park is an open field with a wooded area for dogs to enjoy off-leash. It has off-street parking, a small-dog area and waste bags, and year-round dumpster and porta-potty. Daily hours are from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The park is named after former county supervisor Jerry Finch, who was a strong advocate for creating a dog park in the northern part of the county.



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The *Jewel Box* of the Fox Valley

Boutique floral shop nurtures its passions

By AJ Mikkelson
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

For the first time since 2019, Neenah has a full-service boutique flower and gift shop.

Seven Thymes Floral Boutique & Atelier opened its doors March 30 at 107 S. Church St. Owner and floral designer Jollee Miller says that “a passion for gift giving” is what motivated her to turn her art and floral design into a way to serve the community.

Miller is a mother of seven children. Her oldest two daughters don't live in the area but serve as a vital support to her as a business owner. Her five other children have all found a niche role in making Seven Thymes a family affair.

It was while homeschooling her children a few years ago and encouraging them to find something that fit their passion and utilize their gifts that she realized that she also needed to follow her own advice. She also found a hunger for learning and poured herself into learning the ins and outs of floral design.

Miller, a certified floral designer, learned floristry at the American Institute of Floral Design and found she had both a passion and talent for artistic design. Before opening Seven Thymes, Miller began her craft by making wreaths for other shops in Neenah to sell. The demand for her work was strong and she expanded into making custom arrangements and table-scapes that businesses in Neenah would use to display within their stores.

The focus at Seven Thymes is gift giving in its entirety. For Miller this is demonstrated by understanding both the gift giver and gift receiver's needs and wants, to find a “gift that is completely suitable for

the occasion.”

While Miller's specialty is custom floral arrangements, her shop is filled with a variety of gift options from fresh and forever flowers, houseplants and pots, seasonal decor, cards and gifts, and displays some outdoor planters and wreaths.

One of the things that sets Seven Thymes apart from some larger florists is that it's not connected to any flower networks such as FTD.

“We don't have the capacity or staff to be able to recreate someone else's design from a picture on the internet,” Miller said.

Customers will find special arrangements tailored to fit an individual, made by a designer who said she “knows when it's OK to break the rules of floral design.” Miller also offers stems of unique flowers that customers won't find most anywhere.

Like other sectors, the floral industry has been hurt by the pandemic and global supply chain challenges. Globally, floral farmers have turned to higher-profit growing options, limiting access to many types of flowers. This has driven up prices of all types of flowers.

Opening a floral shop during this time has created challenges that Miller is overcoming by doing business differently. Miller said she is “breaking the rules of the industry” to serve the need for a boutique flower shop in Neenah.

Miller said her objective is to serve the community as much as the people who come into the shop. She noted that the “most successful people in Neenah's history got that way by giving and not taking” and hopes to fill a need she sees in providing that along with floral beauty.



Photo by AJ Mikkelson

Jollee Miller opened Seven Thymes Floral Boutique & Atelier recently on South Church Street.

Hobby transforms yard into outdoor paradise

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Neenah gardener Nancy Goodman has turned her hobby into her life's passion, recently indulging in plants and transforming her yard into a garden paradise.

“I'm a wife, mom to two daughters and grandmother to two amazing grandsons,” Goodman said. “I have been a gardener all of my adult life. Our yard and gardens started transforming after taking the Master Gardener course in 2018. After every class, I came home with a new idea. Each year sees more and more gardens and plants taking over the grass.”

The Neenah GARDENER

With plenty of shade to work with, Goodman quickly became fond of hostas, and uses them to create tapestries of color and texture throughout the garden beds.

“One of my very favorites are hosta plants. I started out with a few in a shady garden in the front yard, but now we have three good-sized beds full of hosta,” she said. “There are also a few scattered in smaller, sunnier beds throughout the yard. I just love the color, size and leaf variations of these plants.”

“If you were to ask how many I own, my honest answer is that I do not know. I would guess that there are about 400 different varieties here. That's not many compared to some who have well over a 1,000. Life goals!”

With a variety of plant and gardening interests, Goodman doesn't just stick to blooms. The yard also contains plenty of space for vegetables and fruits, and, with her green thumb, the yield is quite



Submitted photos

Nancy Goodman's wide variety of tomatoes (above) are displayed, along with Amaryllis bulbs (at right) started indoors.



spectacular.

“My husband built me a huge U-shaped raised bed for veggies that is just right for me. I'm not very tall, so this bed is the perfect height. Last year, I bought too many tomato seedlings, so he built me two more big raised beds. I particularly enjoy growing heirloom tomatoes because of their shapes, colors and flavors. I planted 60 tomato plants last summer. That's a lot of tomatoes for two people. Most of them were given to family and friends.”

Like many gardeners, growing plants for butterflies and hummingbirds is part of Goodman's dream garden.

“I have a big butterfly and perennial bed that gets wider and longer every year. The hummers, butterflies and bees love the echinacea, butterfly bush, milkweed, wild bergamot and lots of other plants that were planted just for them,” she said.

Goodman has also found success growing plants few others in our area can keep

alive over the winter season, and she has a love for tropicals and house plants.

“I enjoy growing unique plants like elephant ears and passion flowers. I've had the same passion flower for three years. It stays in the garden all year round. In the fall, I cut it back and I mulch it quite heavily. Hopefully, it will make another appearance this summer. Last summer, it wound its way up the beautiful trellis that my husband designed and built. The unique blossoms of this plant are very special.”

“When my husband, Mark, and I were married, we had about 200 houseplants between us,” Goodman said. “Now, there are only about 30 plants in the house. That includes 20 Amaryllis bulbs. I like to have them bloom at various times in the winter and spring. It is nice to have some flowers in the house while waiting to get back outside and play in the soil.”

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'Castlewood' stage premiere coming to St. Mary Catholic

St. Mary Catholic High School is producing the premiere of Bethany Paulsen's new drama "Castlewood" May 13 and 14 in the school's theater.

During the London Blitz of 1940, young Winifred is sent to join her sister in the English countryside to escape the horrors of the war. When she arrives, she encounters Edwin, a young eccentric boy whose imagination and friendship provide her solace and companionship. They escape their reality by creating a world together in the woods.

First workshopped at the University of Idaho, "Castlewood" deals with the joys and consequences of becoming consumed by imagination in efforts to avoid the reality of circumstances.

Director Jessica Lynn French said the play is unique.

"It is one of the most refreshing and endearing scripts I have come across in a long time," she said. "The students I have cast are from my advanced acting class at St. Mary Catholic High School. Just like the characters in this play, I have seen these young people journey through some difficult circumstances. I believe that giving them this opportunity is not only a gift

to them but also to the audience."

French said the students have also had the opportunity to work on other theater elements such as costumes, props, set and lighting design, and stage management.

Senior student Brody Adams, who will be attending Belmont University's School of Theatre and Dance, will originate the role of Edwin. Eden Marshall, also a senior, will play Winnie and junior Laura Harness plays Fern for the 7 p.m. Friday performance. The 7 p.m. Saturday cast will feature freshman Eva Radtke (Winnie) and sophomore Isaiah Plutz (Edwin). An additional performance may be added should tickets sell out.

Those coming to the Friday performance are invited to attend a red carpet premiere event before the show.

Paulsen is the founder and original artistic director of Shadowbox Productions, a student-run production company based in Chicago. She currently works as an artistic director and playwright for Young Musicians of Virginia and theaters in the Virginia Beach area. She will be at the performances to host post-show curtain talks.

Tickets are \$5 and available at showtix4u.com/event-details/62219.



Submitted photo

Brody Adams, portraying Edwin, and Eden Marshall as Winnie are part of St. Mary Catholic High School's theater group that is premiering Bethany Paulsen's "Castlewood" next weekend.



Photo from Winnebago County Health Department

Shelley Brown-Giebel is shown with Health Department director Doug Gierny after receiving a Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Support of county employees in military cited

Shelley Brown-Giebel, preparedness specialist and COVID-19 response leader at the Winnebago County Health Department, was recently honored with a Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in recognition of supporting those with the 128 Air Control Squadron.

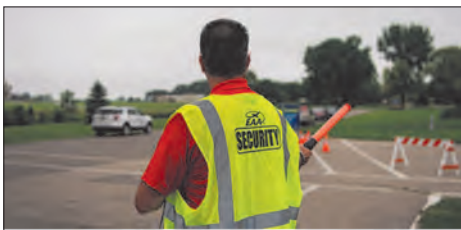
"The Patriot Award was created by ESGR to publicly recognize individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees who, like the citizen soldiers before them, have answered their nation's call to serve," said LeRoy Frahm, Wisconsin ESGR ombudsman director and volunteer. "Supportive supervisors are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units."

Master Sgt. Kenton Craddock of the Air National Guard nominated Brown-Giebel for her assistance and coordination with the Guard during its pandemic response mission. Brown-Giebel leads the health department's efforts in testing and vaccination.

"While I served on state military orders assigned to Winnebago and surrounding counties, Shelley excelled as a bridge between the Wisconsin National Guard and numerous county entities, ensuring mission success for testing and vaccination sites for over 50 soldiers and airmen at dozens of locations over an 18-month

span," Craddock stated.

An official Statement of Support for all those who serve in the Guard and Reserve can be seen in the department's lobby.



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Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup, 9 a.m., Herb and Dolly Smith Park
Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

May 6-8
Flatgrass Soccer Tournament, Memorial Park

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St. Mary Catholic's Norville excels at protecting the net

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Playing goalkeeper requires eyes-on-the-prize focus. Exceptional ball skills and plenty of toughness – mental and physical – are also necessary.

Greta Norville checks all the boxes for the St. Mary Catholic girls' soccer team. She was a second-team all-Big East Conference selection as a junior and has been



Norville

the Zephyrs starting goalie since her freshman year.

With Norville protecting the net, St. Mary Catholic has gone 35-9-5 (heading into this week's play) over the past four years.

The Zephyrs have also gone deep into the postseason, reaching the sectional finals last season and the WIAA Division 4 state tournament in 2019. The 2020 season was called off due to the pandemic.

"She's not perfect – no one is – but at times, she saves our bacon," said Zephyrs coach Gary Kruger. "She's always focused on the task at hand, regardless of the situation. She never wants to leave the field."

Norville's unwillingness to abandon the net is a good thing for the Zephyrs. She's an exceptional keeper who welcomes the difficult challenge of shutting down opponents. Norville had 25 saves and a 1.17 goals-against average entering this week. Opponents had notched just one goal against her in SMC's last four games.

"I'm really competitive and goalie is a position I've always played," Norville said. "What I like is that you have your own as-



Submitted photo

Senior Greta Norville anchors a strong defense in goal for the St. Mary Catholic soccer team.

pect of the game. You can be a leader because you can see the whole field and tell people if you see mistakes."

Kruger calls Norville a "tough cookie" who is always willing to play through injuries. She is competing this spring with a painful injury: a torn shoulder labrum.

"They don't know if it's going to heal by itself, but my goal right now is to push through the season and see where it is after that," Norville said. "I can possibly get surgery after the season. It's definitely painful, but I know at the end of the day that I'm still playing to the best of my ability."

Norville will need a healthy shoulder next year as she plans to play soccer at Lake Forest (Illinois) College where she will major in business. She is a terrific student who carries a 3.68 grade-point average.

"Two of my aunts went to school there

and we know the coach, so it just seems like a great fit," Norville said. "I thought about not playing in college but then I was like, 'You know what? I don't think I can leave this sport right now because it means so much to me.' I think even after college, it will be a part of my life. I hope to one day coach my kids and maybe even be a part of a college coaching staff"

Soccer is Norville's preferred sport but not her only game. She was a middle hitter in volleyball and a key part of an outstanding Zephyrs girls' basketball team that went 25-2 and reached the Division 4 sectional semifinals, averaging 5.3 points and 4.1 rebounds.

Greta isn't the only Norville finding athletic success at SMC. Her sister, Audrey, a sophomore, was also a valuable member of the girls' basketball team and is also a

Senior Spotlight

first-rate soccer player. She received first-team all-Big East Conference honors in soccer last spring as a defender.

"I love playing with my sister," Greta said. "She's really good and I like to think that I trained her a bit to become the player she is."

Norville made an instant impact, becoming the Zephyrs' starting keeper her freshman year. She is a taller goalkeeper at 6-foot-1 and has great instincts for the position.

"The first time I saw her was at freshman camp, where I saw her two-hand-catch a shot which was over the crossbar," Kruger said. "I was very impressed. She's vocal in the back, providing support to the defense and directing defensive responsibilities. Her distribution is above average."

Norville started her prep soccer career with a trip to Milwaukee's Uhlein Soccer Park for the Division 4 state tournament and wants to close it at the same venue. The Zephyrs lost to Oostburg in an overtime shootout in their 2019 appearance.

"That was a pretty cool experience and getting to state that year was probably my best (high school soccer) memory," Norville said. "A lot of our students traveled down to Uhlein to watch us play and I'll never forget the experience. It was tough losing in a shootout, but it was still so cool to get there."

The Zephyrs have played solid soccer this spring, taking a 6-2-1 mark into this week's play.

"We started off a little rough this season, but I think we're going to have a good year," Norville said. "Hopefully we'll make it back to the big game at the end."

Fox Cities Marathon registration opens

The 31st annual Community First Fox Cities Marathon presented by Miron Construction opened registration this week for the marathon race and its related events set for Sept. 16-18.

Participants can register for the marathon, ThedaCare Half Marathon, Orthopedic & Sports Institute Relay, Scheels 10K Run/Walk, Ascension 5K Run/Walk, Guardian Kids Fun Run, Huggies Diaper Dash & Toddler Trot and a health and wellness expo among the activities.

"Our full weekend of events remains one of the most fan-supported running events in the country. We can't wait for the community to come together again and

help our participants reach their goals and have a blast on all our routes," said Amanda Secor, marathon spokesperson.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, the marathon supports area nonprofits, community partners and running organizations. Event organizers said it has returned more than \$1 million to local nonprofits in the past 31 years.

Race officials are encouraging participants to register by May 31 for the lowest prices by visiting foxcitiesmarathon.org.

The marathon will also have a virtual option offered soon.

For more information, email info@foxcitiesmarathon.org or visit foxcitiesmarathon.org.

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS GOLF

Callahan's even par round helps Rockets

The Oshkosh West boys golf team hosted Neenah in a Fox Valley Association match last Thursday, held at Ridgeway Golf Course on a cold and windy afternoon.

John Callahan and Payton Kramer fired a 36 and 38 to lead the Rockets past the Wildcats, who were led by Will Vu – who shot a 46.

Carson Schultz and JJ Paider each fired 44s to round out the scoring for the Rockets.

Kramer's medalist-winning round of 40 helped carry the Rockets to a one-stroke win over Appleton East as Neenah collected a 179-180 victory on a soggy Reid Golf Course on Monday.

Eli Oitzinger added a 45 for the Rockets, while Schultz shot a 46 and Paider finished with a 48.

SOFTBALL

Rockets pick up three wins in busy stretch

The Neenah softball team got in three games last week, beating Appleton West 8-4 last Thursday and Algoma Saturday, 6-3. The Rockets were shutout at Hortonville on Friday, losing 3-0.

In the win over Appleton West, Morgan Harwood struck out 12 batters in seven innings and all four of her runs were unearned. She also went on to lead the Rockets at the plate, going 2-for-4 with two runs scored.

Madie Jagoditsh had two RBIs in the win. In the loss to Hortonville, the Rockets



Photo by Art Eichmann

Neenah's Savanna Knuth connects on a pitch during Monday's win over Fond du Lac.

only had two hits while Harwood pitched well – giving up three runs on five hits in all seven innings while striking out 11.

On Monday, The Rockets scored four runs in the bottom of the first and kept the lead the rest of the way in a 6-2 win over Fond du Lac.

Amara Kaminski finished 2-for-3 and drove in three runs, with Quinn Marnocha, Savanna Knuth, Bella Coulman, Piper Alberg and Morgan Harwood also collecting hits in the win. Alberg and Kaminski registered doubles.

Morgan Harwood struck out seven in five scoreless inning in the circle to get the win.

Zephyrs can't hold off Knights' late charge

The St. Mary Catholic softball team gave up two runs in the bottom of the seventh in a 6-5 loss against Lourdes last Thursday on the road.

The Zephyrs got two hits from Chloe Vogel – one being a double – and an RBI while Adela Thiel added the other RBI.

On Monday, St. Mary Catholic jumped out to a 5-0 lead over Hilbert but were kept off the scoreboard the rest of the way as the Wolves claimed an 11-5 win.

Rhiannon Reichenbacher finished 2-for-4 with a pair of RBIs, while Nevaeh Saringer

had a double and an RBI in the loss. Teagan Miller and Allie Strande also had hits in the game for St. Mary Catholic.

Hilbert used four-run outbursts in both the third and fourth innings to rally past St. Mary Catholic.

BASEBALL

Rockets top Jaguars, lose to Kaukauna

The Neenah baseball team split a pair of games last week, losing to Kaukauna 8-2 last Thursday while beating Ashwaubenon 3-2 on Saturday.

The Ghosts scored all their runs in two innings – four in the third and four more in the sixth to secure the win. The Rockets finished with six hits – all scattered – while Eli Schmidt and Ethan Van Dyke had the two RBIs.

In the win over the Jaguars, Max Medrano and Evan Paque each had two hits while Brady Corseo had two RBIs and Paque added the other.

Beckett Davidson started the game off and lasted 2 and 1/3 innings, giving up two runs with five walks and three strikeouts. AJ Price picked up the win in relief, giving up two hits and struck out four.

Fast start carries Zephyrs past Hilbert/Stockbridge

St. Mary Catholic scored seven runs in the first inning and led 10-1 after the top of the second as it cruised to a 15-2, five-inning win over Hilbert/Stockbridge on Monday.

Fisher Mackenzie finished 2-for-4 and drove in a pair of runs for the Zephyrs, who

SEE **Prep Roundup** ON PAGE 10

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 9

totaled 11 hits in the game while also taking advantage of eight walks and five errors.

Noah Bublitz, Matthew Betcher and Camden Akey also had two hits apiece in the win, while Aken and Owen Ripley each drove in two runs.

George Albers pitched all five innings for St. Mary Catholic allowing five hits while striking out three.

TRACK & FIELD

Rockets finish third in home invitational

The Neenah boys and girls track and field teams hosted their invitational last Friday, and both finished third.

The boys were led by a handful of top five finishers – including three of their relay teams. The 1600 relay took second, the 3200 relay took third and the 400 relay took fifth.

Individually, Ethan Snider and Jack Monson took third in the 200 and 400 runs while Isiah Lassiter was fourth in the 800, Jack Dorner was fourth in the 3200, Michael Price was fourth in the discus and Dayne Newman was fourth in the triple jump.

Adding top five finishes were Aaron Merkley and Trevor McGinnis in the 110 hurdles and high jump.

On the girls side, Mazie Olkowski collected a couple of wins in the 1600 (5:31.63)

and 800 (2:34.08) while Hadley Hackinson won the 3200 (12:45.42).

Lydia Delene was third in discus and fifth in shot put while Ava Schalow was fifth in the triple jump.

The 3200 relay team was fourth, while the 1600, 800 and 400 relays all finished fifth.

Neenah boys finish third at FVA Relays

Led by the winning 1600 meter run and 1600-meter relay teams, the Neenah boys took a close fourth at the Fox Valley Association Relays on Tuesday night.

The foursome of Charles Fredrickson, Gage Ramos, Ethan Snider and Jack Monson combined to post Neenah's lone relay win of the night. In the 1,600 meter run, Jack Dorner took second, Carson Timm was third, while Braedy Klawikowski and Drew Gentile were sixth and seventh, respectively, to earn the Rockets the top points.

The Rockets also finished second in both the 3,200-meter relay and the sprint medley relay.

Top individual finishes for the Rockets had Aaron Merkley taking third in the 300-meter hurdles, while Blake Dietzen was fifth in the shot put.

Kimberly won the boys title with 111 points, with Neenah finishing one point behind second-place Kaukauna.

The girls finished seventh overall among the 10 teams, with the Rockets' best finishes coming in the 400-meter throwers relay and the 3,200-meter relay where Neenah quartets each took second. The

distance medley relay team added a third-place finish.

Neenah's top individual showing on the girls side was from Lydia Delene, who posted a fourth place in the discus.

Zephyrs girls take third, boys fourth at Brillion

The St. Mary Catholic track and field team had a successful run at the eight-team Brillion invitational on Friday.

Gabby Ruback led St. Mary Catholic with three individual top-five finishes, while Jaydin Vosters and Anna Vanden Acker each added two. Vosters and Ruback placed third and fourth, respectively, in the 100-meter hurdles, while Vanden Acker and Ruback were third and fourth, respectively, in the triple jump and fourth and fifth, respectively, in the long jump.

Vosters picked up her other top-five finish in the 300-meter hurdles where she took third, one spot ahead of teammate Norah Lee.

Other individual top-five finishers for the Zephyrs were: Margherita Gennaro, tied for second in the pole vault; Katherine Schoeni, fourth in the 3,200 meters; Anna Porter, fourth in the 400 meters; Nolie Anderson, fourth in the shot put; Haley Gustafson, fifth in the 3,200 meters; and Maria Marti, fifth in the 800 meters.

St. Mary Catholic also placed third in both the 800-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

The girls finished with just over 100 points in the meet, trailing only Kiel and Manitowoc Lutheran.

The Zephyr boys edged Manitowoc Lutheran, 69-68, for fourth place in the final standings with Kiel (177), Brillion (131) and Wrightstown (102) filling the top three spots.

Alexander Groppe registered the lone individual victory for St. Mary Catholic at the meet, winning the 800 meters, while teammate Nathan Seiske took fourth.

Ashton Post tied for second in the pole vault, Cam Connolly took third in the discus and fourth in the shot put and Benjamin Schoeni placed fourth in the 3,200 meters for the Zephyrs other top individual finishes at the meet.

St. Mary Catholic also had a strong night in the relays, winning the 3,200-meter relay, while placing second in the 1,600-meter relay and third in the 400-meter relay.

GIRLS SOCCER

Rockets play to another scoreless tie vs. Bay Port

For the second consecutive game, the Neenah girls soccer team played to a 0-0 tie – this time against Bay Port last Friday night as part of the De Pere Invitational.

The Rockets sit at 2-2-2 on the season.

Zephyrs post fourth consecutive victory

The St. Mary Catholic girls soccer team won its fourth straight game last Thursday, beating Kohler 4-0 at home.

The Zephyrs scored three goals in the second half.

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YOUR NEIGHBORS' CONCRETE GUYS

Coming home

FROM PAGE 1

immediately become part of the Badgers' rotation and could push for a spot in the starting lineup this season.

"With the transfer portal, a lot of schools are looking for guys with more experience – with a few years and some games under their belts," Klesmit said Tuesday in a phone interview. "I feel like I'll be pretty well prepared for this."

Klesmit was a third-team all-conference selection last season, starting all 31 games and averaging 14.9 points, 2.8 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.6 steals. He shot 44.6 percent from the floor and 33 percent (63 of 188) from the 3-point line. He was also one of the nation's top free-throw shooters, sinking 84 percent of his foul shots. Klesmit scored 20 or more points in seven games.

Klesmit joins former UW-Green Bay point guard Kamari McGee as off-season transfers to coach Greg Gard's Wisconsin program. His decision to join the Badgers was a bit of a surprise, considering that he posted a recent tweet revealing that Clemson, Colorado State, South Carolina and Vanderbilt comprised his "final four" potential landing spots.

But after making a visit to the UW campus in late April, Klesmit announced his decision through a tweet April 30, with the words, "I'm home" along with a heart emoji.

"I'm super excited – can't wait to get there," he said. "It just felt like it was the right fit and a really good opportunity for me."

Practically every Wisconsin kid who bounces a basketball wants to play for the Badgers and Klesmit is no exception. When he wasn't shredding nets for Neenah, Klesmit closely followed Badgers basketball and football teams, attending many games in person.

"When you get to play for your dream school, it's awesome," Klesmit said. "High school basketball players in Wisconsin all dream of playing on the Kohl Center floor for a big tournament, but there's a different level of excitement when you're doing it for the Badgers."

"As a kid, a lot of my life consisted of going to Camp Randall and the Kohl Center to watch the Badgers play. It was fun to be a part of that atmosphere at a young age. That's why I think the fit is perfect: an in-state kid who grew up watching them play and understands the culture and atmosphere."

Klesmit didn't say specifically what triggered his decision to enter the transfer portal but admitted that the opportunity to play for his home-state team was a significant factor.

"You know, everyone has their own reasons for why they transfer," he said. "But yeah, being closer to home was a big deal for me. Madison is just up the road from Neenah and my friends and family will now be able to come to some of my games. I feel very fortunate to get this opportunity."

Klesmit is considered to be a combo guard who can play some point, but he will likely be used as a traditional shooting guard and should help the Badgers survive the loss of NBA-bound Johnny Davis. Klesmit showed at Wofford that he can shoot the rock and be a double-digit scorer at the Division I level. He has excellent shooting range and can knock down the three, while also showing the ability to attack closeouts and get to the basket.

And he's not just a scorer. Klesmit has quick hands on defense and used them to force turnovers at Wofford. Klesmit brings a complete game to Madison and he's an ultra-competitive player who should quickly adapt to Big Ten play.

"He is someone who has always adjusted," said Lee Rabas, Klesmit's former coach at

Neenah, to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "He's a super competitive kid with a lot of mental toughness. He will take the necessary strides. He's one of those – he will always get better."

It didn't take long for Klesmit to show he could handle high-level hoops. He made the Southern Conference's all-freshman team in 2020-21, averaging 8.2 points, 2.7 rebounds and 1.2 assists, while sinking 25 3-pointers.

"The Southern Conference is a really good conference and I was a little nervous coming into it a few years ago," Klesmit said. "But when you put the time in – put the work in – that just builds your confidence and allows you to be a lot more comfortable on the floor. The whole college basketball experience is a little daunting and nerve-racking, but in time, those nerves go away."

That added confidence helped Klesmit spike his scoring numbers last season.

"I took on a bigger scoring role," Klesmit said. "I think I proved my freshman year that I can play at this level. That just made me hungrier to keep working and going for more. That's the biggest thing about college ball. You need to keep working and keep getting better. If you do that, the skies the limit."

Max isn't the only Klesmit who will be watched closely on the basketball court next season. His younger brother, Cal, is expected to return for his senior season of basketball after missing all of last year with a torn ACL in his left knee.

Cal, also a guard, is an elite player who is a Division I prospect. He was able to suit up late in the postseason, but didn't play until the closing seconds of Neenah's state championship win over Brookfield Central. Cal was the player who had the ball in his hand when the game ended and Neenah emerged with its first state title since 1978.

"I told him following the state championship that I was super proud of him for being able to deal with this type of injury and still have a positive mindset and a really good outlook on things," said Max. "He's cut from the same cloth that I am. All he wants to do is win and he'll do whatever it takes to win. I was just super proud of his attitude and the leadership he showed all season."

Max took in Neenah's state championship finish at Kohl Center in March. He was a major part of an outstanding 2019-20 Rockets team that never got the chance to compete at the state tournament due to the onset of the global pandemic. Tournament play in Wisconsin was suddenly halted in March 2020 after Neenah's sectional semifinal win over Chippewa Falls. The Rockets finished 23-2 and many felt that Neenah would have won the state title that year.

"It was awesome to be there, watching Neenah win state," Max said. "I know there were a few seniors that were on that team that had the tournament cancelled due to the pandemic. That was super hard. I'm really happy for those guys and the entire program."

"Coach Rabas has had a pretty big impact on my life. I still stay in touch with him and he's helped me improve my game from year to year. He's a really good coach, but an even better person."

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10 AM - 6 PM**

**SUNDAY, MAY 8
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**2788 TOWNE COURT, NEENAH
(Indoor Facility)**

See full ad at GLAUCTIONS.NET

Traffic help

FROM PAGE 1

Olson said the idea isn't to write more tickets but to educate people. Olson hopes the new traffic officer will help people slow down and obey rules of the road.

As for where people will see the officer, Olson said they will focus on data-driven policing.

He said it won't be random.

"If you ask anyone in the city, they will tell you their street is the busiest," he said.

Edwards will focus on areas with either lots of complaints or crashes. He envisions Edwards issuing verbal or written warnings before writing a ticket.

Olson feels safety is the most import-

ant part of the title.

"That part is huge," he said, which is why a big part of Edwards' job will be putting together safety classes with a Power Point presentation he can take to schools and show community groups. It will also include information about bicycle safety, especially for children.

The position is full time and Edwards will primarily work the day shift. But Olson says it could include weekends and nights depending on where problem areas exist and what time of day. Olson says neighborhood groups can request Edwards meet with them to talk about any concerns.

As he prepares for his new position, Edwards will begin meeting with a crime analyst to go over computer data and to determine where problem areas and crashes occur the most.

Classifieds

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Garage/Estate Sales

Freewill Rummage Sale and Concession Stand. Take what you need, pay what you can. Saturday, May 7th, 8 am - 2 pm. 1331 High Avenue, Oshkosh. (River Valley Church). All proceeds go to Damascus Road. Rain or shine, we will be indoors.

MOVING SALE - 1520 Wilson Ave. Oshkosh. Friday, May 6th, 8-6 & Saturday, May 7th, 8-4

MOVING SALE 1601 Maricopa Drive Saturday May 7th 9:00am to 3:00pm. Household items, Stampin Up stamps, paper and dies. Oak kitchen table with 4 caned seat chairs, twin size maple bedroom set, pine drop leaf farmers table, corner china cabinet, Ethan Allen bookcase and TV cabinet. Hinterberg Quilting frame with BabyLock sewing machine

Moving Sale - Furniture: Showcase, Secretary's Desk, Bookcase, Rolltop Desk, Librarian's Table. **May 7th-8th 10am-3pm - Cash only. 917 Brookwood Court - Oshkosh**

Multi-family Craft and Rummage Sale: Women and Men's clothing, household decor, furniture, men's bike, knitted items, -including

mittens, sweaters, canvas and wood signs and more! Saturday, May 7. 9 AM-4 PM 3806 Oregon St (By Baldor Generators)

Part of Annual Neighborhood Rummage Sale. 362 Overland Trail (Town of Algoma). Wed. May 4th 12:00 - 5:00, Thurs. May 5th & Fri. May 6th 8 - 5:00, Sat. May 7th 8:00 - 2:00 (See Craigslist for more info)

Porch Rummage Sale: Friday May 13th 10:00 to 5:00 and Saturday May 14th 10:00 to 4:00. Location the corner of New York Avenue and Jackson Street. I will have a rummage sale sign up. Items for sale: Adult clothes, Kitchen items, Electronic items, etc. Parking on New York Ave on the south side of the street (right side).

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County Board plans upkeep at Sunnyview equine complex

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County's equine complex and the Sunnyview Expo Center grounds could be getting a bit of a refurbishing this summer.

Andrew Breest, Winnebago County Parks and Expo Center director, made a presentation at last week's Board of Supervisors meeting to go over plans for upkeep and improvements around the horse barns on the grounds. There will be a formal request for funds later this month.

There are three areas involved in the project with a projected cost of \$127,000. The first is to change the lights in the horse barns and show arena to LED lights. Paving the area around the barns and installation of rain gutters at different locations are also part of the plan.

"Even though its pretty much maintenance related, it's (considered) a capital project because of the amount and the number of things involved with it," Breest said.

The lights will come at a projected cost of \$55,000 but will save roughly \$5,200 annually compared with the current lighting. The LED lights come with an estimated life of 20 to 25 years.

"They are more cost effective and provide a better product for the users," Breest said.

He estimates there are more than 200 lights that will need to be changed over to complete that part of the project, which will be handled by the facilities department.

The projected grounds paving has a projected cost of \$60,000 and would be done by the Highway Department. The current

pavement is inundated with spider cracks and sinking in spots since it was installed about 25 years ago. Breest said new paving would provide better walking surfaces for people and horses as well as being able to handle the truck traffic involved with some of the horse shows.

The pavement would be installed to steer water away from the barns, with the runoff directed to retention ponds being created near the facilities. Breest said that in heavy storms the rainwater runs directly into one of the barns.

"When it was built, they didn't do a lot of groundwork to create a topography and just left it flat. We're working with that now," Breest said. "Since we are building these ponds, we now have the opportunity to send this water to those ponds instead of having it run into the barns."

The final piece of the proposed project would include rain gutters over the doors of the different buildings to eliminate the puddling and muddy conditions at doorways. The projected cost of the gutters is \$12,000.

Breest said it will be necessary to get the funds approved in May to get things completed this summer around the busy schedule at the complex.

The heavy use of the facility – it creates an estimated \$226,000 in revenue annually – was another reason Breest cited to approve the projects.

"It's significant revenue for our department and so we need to make sure that these shows go on," Breest said. "They aren't the most exciting projects to the public but they are vital to the functionality of the property."

Electric scooters

FROM PAGE 1

nated fleet manager who is also responsible for collecting scooters discarded outside of nesting areas. Riders that leave their scooters on private property or other unreachable areas may be charged a pickup fee if a Bird employee has to retrieve them.

The scooters can go a maximum of 18 miles per hour. Bird uses geofencing to control the maximum speed overall and top speed allowed on the Loop the Little Lake Trail, which will be 12 mph.

Bird scooter riders must be 18 or older and follow the same laws as bicycles. They are prohibited from sidewalks downtown and intended to be ridden in bike lanes, on roads or designated trails. Helmets are rec-

ommended and only one rider is allowed per scooter.

The Neenah Police Department referred questions about the traffic laws for using the scooters to the Community Development department.

Jefferson said complaints will be handled the same way as bicycle complaints. Reckless riding can be reported on the Bird app and to police.

"The police definitely have their prerogative where they can say, 'I see someone riding recklessly' and they can talk to them about that (or) they can cite them for that," Jefferson said. "There is an opportunity for them to decide if it's reckless and they can do something about it."

According to the Bird website, e-scooters offer a low-carbon alternative to most vehicles for short-distance trips. Electric scooters

are touted for reducing fuel use, CO2 and other emissions and increase mobility within a community. The company estimates that in the first few months of 2022 its riders in North America, Europe and the Middle East have reduced the need for 2.3 million car trips.

Jefferson said other municipalities with Bird scooters found that the scooters help relieve traffic congestion and are popular with tourists exploring downtown areas.

The city recently posted a video on Facebook of Mayor Jane Lang and other city employees trying out the scooters. Several commenters expressed concern over their safety and what they viewed as the unsightliness of discarded scooters.

Jefferson said the cities she researched had few complaints regarding safety. The main complaints she heard were about discarded

scooters.

"We know that there is a potential for that to happen here so we have done several things to try to mitigate that even before this started by adding preferred parking and key locations," she said. "We wanted to make sure that they would be put in specific places that are out of the way. That is something that we're going to keep a really close eye on."

Jefferson encouraged residents to keep an open mind about the scooters.

"We know that this is a new thing for the Valley... so it is a little bit of a touchy subject with some people so we really just wanted to see how it goes," she said. "I did a significant amount of research on this because we wanted it to go well and be a benefit and not a negative thing for our community so we're watching it closely and we hope it's a success."



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