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County OKs \$33M in ARPA funds

Several supervisors oppose accepting aid

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors voted to accept the second round of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (ARPA) during its meeting last week, and to allocate the entire \$33.3 million to lost revenue from the pandemic

among county departments.

ARPA authorized the federal government to deliver \$350 billion to state, local, territorial and tribal governments to bolster their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and deal with its economic impacts. The funding can be used for investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure, essential workers and other expenditures related to the pandemic.

Winnebago County was allocated \$33.3 million to be disbursed in two payments.

The second payment was voted on at the meeting last week, with several supervisors voicing opposition to accepting the funds.

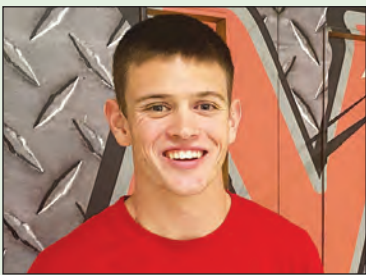
District 9 Supervisor Donald Nussbaum voted against accepting money from ARPA.

“It’s a ripoff of the American people,” he said, adding that he thinks the funding is a money laundering scam.

District 10 Supervisor Bryan Stafford

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Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation photo

Trail treats

Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation Department’s Trick-or-Treat Trail at Fritsch Park drew hundreds of families last week. Local businesses and volunteers braved the chilly weather for Halloween fun with the many children in attendance.

Negligence not found in police transport death

Outagamie officers cleared in May 30 case

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County District Attorney’s office has determined that two Outagamie County Sheriff’s deputies who were transporting a woman when she jumped out of the moving vehicle on State 441 in Fox Crossing and sustained fatal injuries were not criminally negligent for failing to engage the child safety locks.

Deputies were transporting 43-year-old Xee Yang of Grand Chute from St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Appleton to Winnebago County Mental Health Institution in Oshkosh when the incident occurred.

In the days leading up to her death, Grand Chute police responded to several calls regarding Yang’s increasingly erratic behavior. Police responded to a call from Yang on May 29 and offered to give her a ride to the hospital if she was willing to go.

Yang declined and said she instead wanted to do a religious ritual with her family and their shaman. Documents indicate the family performed a Hmong exorcism on Yang.

On May 30, police again responded to a call at Yang’s residence and transported her to St. Elizabeth’s hospital. Documents indicate the hospital treated Yang for acute psychosis and agitation. It was noted that she produced guttural growling and ingested a religious piece of fabric jewelry from her wrist. Due to aggressive behavior, both of her arms were handcuffed to the bed rails.

Yang was committed and the Outagamie County Sheriff’s Office was called to transport her from the hospital to Winnebago Mental Health. Deputies James Stordock and Thomas Van Horn placed Yang in handcuffs and attached them to a belly band, a restraint around her waist, and wheeled her in a wheelchair to the transport van. The deputies secured her in the back seat and seat belted her in before

departing just after 5:30 p.m.

During transport, Stordock, who was driving, asked Van Horn to check on Yang because he noticed her doing something in the backseat. Van Horn checked on Yang and she told him she was cold and her blanket fell off. Stordock turned down the air conditioning. At some point it is believed that Yang removed her seatbelt.

About 15 minutes into the trip, while traveling on State 441 where the speed limit is 65 miles per hour, Van Horn heard the noise of a sliding door opening and highway noise. He checked the back seat and saw Yang stand in the door frame and leap from the vehicle. Because of the handcuffs and belly restraint, she could not use her arms to break her fall.

Yang rolled into the center lane of the highway. Witness Paul Rosen, a retired West Allis police officer, swerved into the next lane, narrowly missing her body with his vehicle, coming close enough that blood spatter was located on his vehicle. A witness traveling behind Rosen said

he saw Rosen swerve into his lane and he believed Yang was struck by the vehicle based on the way her body was rolling.

Rosen stopped his vehicle and checked on Yang. He yelled to the officers to call 911 and grab their first-aid kit. Rosen was told by a deputy that the transport van did not carry first aid equipment, which shocked him, documents state.

Van Horn initiated CPR and asked Stordock to check the van for a bag valve mask, which is used to provide breath during CPR, which Stordock was unable to locate in the van.

A second witness, Lisa Conn, a medical caregiver who has almost achieved CNA status, pulled over, exited her vehicle and approached the deputies. Conn said the deputies appeared to be in shock. She checked Yang’s pulse and found she had a faint heart pulse. Conn returned to her vehicle to try to find something to open Yang’s airway but wasn’t successful.

SEE **Police transport** ON PAGE 7

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Commercial St. review, police station funds OK'd

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council at its meeting last week approved additional funding for Commercial Street studies, agreed to add air conditioning to the police firearms range being constructed and delayed a decision on whether to continue providing two police officers to the school district and welcomed a new human resources director.

Reconstruction updates

The council approved a change order and additional funding to fulfill state Department of Transportation requirements as part of the Commercial Street reconstruction project.

The approved change order was in the amount of \$10,180 to conduct an archaeology field survey on Commercial. The survey team will gather background information on known cultural resources in the project areas, conduct fieldwork including shovel testing properties, clean and catalog any artifacts that are located and provide a full report detailing the survey results.

The council also approved spending up to \$13,800 to conduct an intersection control evaluation at South Commercial and Winneconne Avenue as part of the project. The report will be used to determine the most appropriate intersection designs for the future. Alternatives that the consulting company will consider include the addition of a traffic signal with lane improvements, a multilane roundabout or a five-legged roundabout with Church Street realignment.

Police department expansion

The council approved funding for an

air conditioning unit and generator system upgrades as part of the Neenah Police Department expansion. The cost of the expansion was originally estimated to be about \$5.5 million but rising costs and inflation pushed the project to about \$1.4 million over budget.

Police Chief Aaron Olson said at an Oct. 11 Public Services & Safety Committee meeting that the proposed firearms range needs to have an air conditioning unit added due to humidity and safety concerns that officers could either slip and fall or equipment could jam. The total estimated cost for adding the air conditioning unit is \$121,043.

Miron Construction also recommended that the generator system be upgraded to handle the load of the new department addition. If the addition is not tied into the existing generator, officers would not be able to use any part of the expansion during an outage. The cost of that upgrade would be \$43,138. The council voted unanimously to approve funding the air conditioner and generator upgrades.

School resource officers

The decision on whether the police will continue to provide two school resource officers (SRO) to the Neenah Joint School District next year was delayed.

Chief Olson said at an Oct. 11 Public Services & Safety Committee meeting that Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer informed him that as of July 9 the district would only be funding one SRO for the middle and elementary schools. Olson said negotiations have been ongoing with the district on the current funding level that reimburses the city 75% of the cost for two SROs for 52 weeks.

Formerly called the police school liaison officer, SROs are responsible for law enforcement activities at the school during regular hours, but not general student discipline.

With the completion of the new Neenah High School next year, middle school students will move to the former high school. Roosevelt and Wilson Elementary students will move to Horace Mann and Alliance Charter School will move to Wilson.

Olson said the new configuration is going to be a challenge for police. He said the officer at the middle school can't keep up with all the calls and that elementary school calls average more than 100 per year, making it unsustainable to expect one SRO to cover the middle school and all elementary schools. He said the district's decision is setting the city up to look like they don't care about the students.

With the new high school in Fox Crossing, Neenah police will no longer be supplying an officer at that location. Alderperson Todd Stevenson said Pfeiffer doesn't want to fund a second SRO in Neenah because the district will also need to fund one in Fox Crossing.

The council was set to vote on whether Neenah police will continue to provide two SROs to the district at the meeting but instead tabled the issue for a later date.

New HR director

Amy Fairchild was introduced as the city's new HR director at the meeting. Fairchild relocated to Neenah from Sand Springs, Okla.

"I made the 850-mile trek up here to serve your wonderful citizens and employees and I'm excited to (serve)," she said.

Hydroponics project earns teaching award

Neenah High School STEM teacher Emily Bennett was awarded a total of \$12,000 in the national 2022 Vova Unsung Heroes awards program that will help bring "Hydroponics Lab" to the school district.

Bennett's Hydroponics Lab focuses on the crops in 13 hydroponics units that have provided students with the chance to see where their food comes from while promoting a healthy lifestyle.

As a second-place winner, Bennett will receive the \$10,000 award in addition to \$2,000 she received as one of the 50 national finalists.

Bennett will be able to expand the existing program by installing additional hydroponics units that can harvest up to 60 pounds of lettuce per week for students and staff. The lab will be run by students who will also receive high school and college credit.



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Photo from Neenah Historical Society

1940s Halloween

Children are shown dressed up for Halloween in 1949. Local schools hosted Halloween parties that were sponsored by the Neenah Kiwanis Club and Parks and Recreation. The largest party and dance were held in the high school gym for middle and high schoolers. Off-duty police officers were in charge of that event.



Future of county diversity panel remains in doubt

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Infighting among county supervisors regarding the potential dissolution of the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission (DAC) continued at a Board of Supervisors meeting last week.

District 1 Supervisor Rachael Dowling chastised District 25 Supervisor Karen Powers for implying that members of the DAC were racist and accusing a member of being a part of QAnon, a right-wing conspiracy theory.

Powers said she didn't accuse a DAC member of being a part of QAnon but said she relayed information that she was told by a resident that a committee member was a part of QAnon.



Powers

"No one has insulted anyone and certainly have not insulted Supervisor Dowling in any way whatsoever and if she has something written or something recorded that she can prove me wrong, bring it on," Powers said.

Board chair Thomas Egan said the person of concern was warned about what could happen next time.

"Remember, we're all grownups here," he said.

The fate of the DAC has been a heated topic in recent months, with the commission adopting a resolution to dissolve itself at a meeting in August.

County executive Jon Doemel said during the September Board of Supervisors meeting that he was considering disbanding the commission, stating he has struggled to maintain a full commission and the DAC has become political.

The DAC is overseen by the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee. That committee discussed dissolving the DAC last month.

According to the resolution, the commission is ineffective and the relationship with the Agriculture Committee is dysfunctional. Some members of the Agriculture Committee disagree, expressing that they feel the

push to dissolve will affirm that diversity has taken a step back in the county.

District 13 Supervisor Steven Binder said during the discussion that Doemel has done everything in his power to dismantle the DAC. He said he offered Doemel many qualified candidates to be on the commission and Doemel didn't appoint any of them. The committee voted to table the dissolution vote until November.

At the Oct. 13 DAC meeting, member Kathryn Noll-Arias questioned the motives behind dissolution.

"I personally do find it extremely curious that two new members, almost brand-new members, joined this committee, one of them volunteering to be chair, only to immediately request at the exact same meeting that this committee be dissolved," she said, referring to the August meeting where Jared Longsine was elected as chair and Dowling as vice chair, after which Longsine motioned to dissolve the DAC, which Dowling seconded.

At the October meeting, two other people interested in becoming members attended. If the DAC is not dissolved, it will vote on the new members in November. If their membership is affirmed, the DAC would send the recommendation to Doemel for approval.

Part of the DAC's meeting was spent discussing the September Agriculture Committee meeting. Longsine addressed the comment about a DAC member being a part of QAnon.

"There are multiple believers of QAnon, so if any of us five are members of QAnon, that's crazy talk," he said, adding that QAnon is a conspiracy group that he doesn't believe.

District 5 Supervisor Kay Horan said she feels the commission causes distress and if the DAC continues, she hopes other committees provide some oversight and direction.

Dowling and Horan are bringing the resolution to dissolve the DAC to the county board meeting Nov. 15. If the board votes against dissolution, Longsine said they will be updating the DAC's bylaws, strategic plan and future speakers.

District 24 Supervisor Andy Buck questioned County Executive Jon Doemel, who said he was unaware if any of the other 71 counties in Wisconsin had declined ARPA funds.

The board voted 27-9 in favor of accepting the ARPA funding. They then discussed a resolution to disperse the entire \$33 million to cover revenue losses incurred between March 4, 2021, and Sept. 30, 2022, for departments including sheriff, coroner, emergency management, parks, information systems, facilities and property management, and Park View Health Center.

District 2 Supervisor Rebecca Nichols expressed concern over the future use of the fund balances created by the ARPA revenue.

She proposed an amendment to the resolution, adding that the future use of surplus revenue would await further action based on recommendations from the ARPA Strategies and Outcomes Commission. The board voted against Nichols' proposal.

District 4 Supervisor Paul Eisen strongly opposed allocating all the ARPA funding to cover lost revenue. He proposed referring the amendment to the board's ARPA Commission, which the board voted against before voting 27-7 to allocate the entirety of the \$33 million to department revenue losses.



Pierce Manufacturing photo

Pierce's Volterra zero-emissions pumper truck is shown in service in Madison.

Pierce fire pumper wins award

Neenah News

Pierce Manufacturing's Volterra zero-emissions pumper has won the annual Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin competition.

The Appleton-based Oshkosh Corp. company with facilities in the Town of Neenah and Fox Crossing was among 16 finalists in the 2022 competition, which included seven products manufactured in Northeast Wisconsin. The contest is sponsored by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) and Johnson Financial Group to highlight innovative products made in Wisconsin.

"Throughout the competition, a strong sense of pride and dedication to innovation was evident with every match-up," said Lisa Barwick, vice president of marketing in the Fire & Emergency Segment for Oshkosh

Corp. "Winning is an incredible distinction, and we are thankful for the support of our Oshkosh Corp. and Pierce team members, the community, our dealer network across North America, and our customers."

Since the Volterra's introduction in 2021, Pierce has placed three zero-emissions pumpers into three communities: Madison, Portland, Ore., and Gilbert, Ariz.

WMC received more than 100 nominees for its seventh annual contest that had been narrowed down to 16 this week.

Neenah-based businesses nominated were personalized lithopanes from Another Turn Woodworks, Quidel Savanna from Plexus Corp., handcrafted mugs from Sunset Hill Stoneware and Big Bag Yellow Popcorn from Valley Popcorn Co.

Federal funds

FROM PAGE 1

also expressed concerns about accepting the funding.

"We have a lot of great uses for these dollars and I'm not going to dispute that we could do a lot of good with this, but where I struggle with this is the money that we take will also hurt us, so it's almost like a poison pill," he said.

District 6 Supervisor Brian Defferding said he is worried that accepting the funds will create a fiscal cliff for the county in 20 or 30 years.

"What will happen is eventually the money will run out and we'll have to find ways to continue on with maintaining all these pet projects," he said.

District 23 Supervisor Koby Schellenger encouraged the supervisors to vote in favor of accepting the funds.

"Ultimately, every dollar that gets spent has to be run through this board," he said. "If you're afraid that accepting this money will create a problem in 30 years because of the way we spend it, then choose wisely when we spend the money. This is about accepting it, so that we can set a framework, so we can choose which projects we should fund."

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-Dr. Dintelman

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Students learn how to work at election polls

By Laurie Schlosser
UW OSHKOSH TODAY

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is helping to foster a successful election Nov. 8, supplying a class of trained student poll workers.

More than two dozen students from the Quest III course Essentials of Civic Engagement were trained in class by Oshkosh City Clerk Jessi Balcom and two representatives of her office. Balcom said the students will serve as paid election inspectors, helping to staff the 15 polling locations in the city.

With elections being such an important part of government – how leaders and representatives are chosen in the political process – Balcom is grateful for those who provide their time and talent to make sure those who are eligible and willing to vote will have the opportunity on Election Day.

Franklin native, Keshia Patel, a sophomore majoring in biomedical science, said she will be helping people get through Election Day processes and is assigned to the Oshkosh Public Library polling site.

“I am excited to work as a poll worker but also very nervous,” she said. “I am excited because this is something that I have never done before. I have voted but it will be interesting to work behind the scenes to see what goes on in the background.”

Patel has a few nerves, when she considers the job involves people’s ballots and votes.

“Our class focuses on lots of aspects of civic engagement and how we as individuals can apply those practices in everyday life,” said Sam Ramaeker, a sophomore student from Neenah who is considering majoring in secondary education with a history emphasis or special education. “I think this class is very helpful and contains important



UW Oshkosh photo

College students from a civil engagement class at UW Oshkosh learned about the local voting process.

information that every U.S. citizen should know.”

Kaya Boettcher, a sophomore from Neenah majoring in ecological and organismal biology, said she will be working at Sunnyview Christian Church.

Some of the training students received involved getting voter information, including legal name and place of residence. They were trained how to register people on the day of the election, providing them with the correct ballot based on their address, and even how to find voters’ correct polling place.

“I’m not a huge fan of politics in general because I do not really identify with either party, but I do think this class is beneficial,” she said. “I have already learned that al-

though I do not agree with any one party, engagement in the community is still extremely important.”

Memorable experiences will undoubtedly come during a full day at the polls with hotly contested state races and predicted strong voter turnout.

“This work has a value for our students in that it helps them understand our democratic process and their ability to participate in it,” said James Krueger, political science department chair who is teaching the class. “It also provides a substantial benefit to other students who might be more interested in voting if they see their peers staffing the polls and offering to help them register to vote.”

Sturgeon spearing license deadline nears

Those interested in sturgeon spearing have until Monday to purchase a license for the 2023 Lake Winnebago sturgeon spearing season.

The season opens Feb. 11 for Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes of Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan, and will run for a maximum of 16 days or until any of the predetermined harvest caps are reached.

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) notes that during the season, some spearers use technology such as underwater cameras to help them harvest a sturgeon.

The DNR considered additional regulations on technology used during spearing but decided to not move forward at this time with any additional restrictions this season.

Resident and nonresident licenses can be purchased through the GoWild system or at any license sales location.

Hunting mentor programs offered by DNR

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is encouraging experienced hunters to share their skills and knowledge with novice hunters by becoming hunting mentors this fall.

Mentored hunting is a one-on-one learning experience that can be a great way to help new hunters navigate hunting scenarios with the guidance of somebody with experience.

“Not only do we see interest in learning to hunt from people of all different backgrounds, but many established hunters

Krueger said the 26 student workers will help ensure polling places throughout Oshkosh are better staffed and should help avoid formation of long wait lines at the polls.

Students who start their college career at UW Oshkosh take Quest I and Quest II in their first year as well as a public speaking class and a writing class, as part of the University Studies Program.

In Quest III courses students extend their classroom into a community setting, working with a local nonprofit, community group or campus partner. The experience allows students to apply their classroom learning to a real-world practical experience and return to the classroom with a higher proficiency.

UWO has had a relationship with the city clerk’s office through the American Democracy Project (ADP) since at least 2010.

Krueger said Mike Lueder, UWO’s Center for Civic and Community Engagement director, approached the clerk’s office in August after they discussed scaling up the experience from ADP interns to an entire Quest III class.

The Quest III course is optional but counts for the civic engagement minor through the political science department. Students were given the option to help with voter registration, event planning, working with county political parties or poll working for their service learning in class. Nearly 30 of the 50 chose poll working.

“Having students from UW Oshkosh who are investing in their education and community through the political science department, working at the election is wonderful,” Balcom said. “I hope they will share their experience with friends and family and encourage others to sign up to work at the polls and to vote.”

The sale of licenses funds a variety of sturgeon management activities on the Winnebago system.

All license holders must be at least 12 years old. Licenses for the Lake Winnebago spear fishery must be purchased before Monday except for military personnel home on leave during the season and youth who will turn 12 between Nov. 1 and the last day of the spearing season.

While there are unlimited licenses available for Lake Winnebago, the Upriver Lakes fishery is managed by a preference point system and limited to 500.

Applicants already authorized for an Upriver Lakes tag for 2023 have until the start of the spearing season to purchase a license but cannot purchase one for Lake Winnebago.

More information on harvest trends and management can be found on the DNR’s sturgeon spearing webpage.

ask us how to mentor someone new,” said Emily Iehl, DNR hunting and shooting sports program specialist.

“Hunting involves skills that can be uncomfortable to teach and learn with someone you don’t know, such as navigating the woods at night, handling firearms and processing the emotions that come with harvesting an animal. Knowing that you are with somebody you can trust is important.”

The DNR offers a variety of opportunities to help facilitate mentored hunting for people of all ages and backgrounds. Go to dnr.wisconsin.gov under the Hunting/Hunter Education and Safety for details.

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Iehl

Debate students win national honors

Neenah High School seniors Parker DeDeker and Robert Barthell were among three recipients state-wide of the National Speech and Debate Association's Speaking and Service Award. The award was presented to 184 students nationally out of more than 140,000 members of the organization.



Barthell

The award recognizes students who have reached the maximum number of service points in the student honor society. Students earn distinction through speech and debate competition, as well as community service, public speaking and leadership activities. Example activities include judging

a speech or debate round or coaching a practice for younger competitors.



DeDeker

Barthell produces the student news report each week and participates in cross country.

Neenah was one of just 32 schools nationally with more than one recipient. The only other student from Wisconsin who was honored was David Jia from Brookfield East High School.

DeDeker is the reigning national champion in congressional debate, while Barthell also participated in national competition last spring.

DeDeker is a student representative to the Board of Education and also participates in orchestra and choir.

Alzheimer's awareness featured in play

In partnership with the ADRC of Winnebago County, CLIMB Theatre is presenting its Alzheimer's Awareness play, "Grandpa and Lucy," at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 5 at the Neenah Public Library.

November is Alzheimer's Awareness Month, and CLIMB is helping spread awareness with "Grandpa and Lucy," based on the children's book by Edie Weinstein. The youth-centered organization based in Inver Grove Heights, Minn., uses theater to teach social-emotional learning. The touring company brings the programming to schools and libraries across the Midwest, including several dates in Wisconsin.

Starting as a Girl Scout Silver Award project, Weinstein wrote the book as a ninth-grader. Artistic director Anton Jones then adapted the book into

CLIMB's play version, which first toured in 2019. This play aims to help kids and parents strengthen their intergenerational relationships with older relatives who may be struggling with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

This event is free and open to the public ages 5 and up. There will be a talkback after the event and Brewing Futures Mobile Cafe will be selling drinks, hotdogs, popcorn and snacks from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. There will be activities for children after the show from 3 to 4 p.m.

Winnebago County residents have free access to CLIMB's online platform of additional resources, including an animated version of the play, fun activities, and supplemental curriculum. For more details go to climb.org.

Officers immerse in mental health training

Neenah News

Crisis intervention team training was provided to area law enforcement officers earlier this month by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Oshkosh that included ride-alongs with Winnebago County caseworkers.

The 40-hour training brought community leaders together to give police officers more tools to do their job safely and effectively when encountering people living with mental illness. Officers heard presentations

that gave them techniques for working with a variety of populations, learned how to safeguard their own mental health and the importance of checking on each other.

The week of training culminated with officers interacting with actors portraying scenarios they may encounter. This gave the police a chance to try out what they had learned during the week.

Research shows that crisis intervention training improves officer attitude and knowledge about mental illness.

Town of Neenah sets voting equipment test

The public is invited to attend and observe the testing process for the Town of Neenah's voting equipment at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Town Hall, 1600 Breezewood Lane.

State law and Election Commission administrative rules outline a security protocol to ensure the integrity of Wisconsin

elections. All municipalities are required to conduct a public test of their voting equipment within 10 days of each election.

Programming is verified by feeding a set of pre-marked ballots into each machine and reviewing the results tape that is generated. Following the public test, the voting equipment and memory devices are secured.

Volunteer needs

Volunteer Fox Cities' annual volunteering and wish list guide can be found at volunteerfoxcities.org. The publication includes holiday-specific volunteer opportunities like bell ringing, helping at nonprofit holiday fundraisers/parties, holiday meals and sorting/wrapping gifts for nonprofit organizations in the Fox Valley and Oshkosh. It also includes wish-list items for local nonprofits.

Make the Ride Happen is seeking volunteers to provide transportation to older adults during the week so they can get to essential services, such as the grocery store, pharmacy, dentist and medical appointments. Drivers are eligible to receive 31 cents per mile. Volunteers and passengers wear facemasks. Contact Jan at 920-832-9360 or rsvp@volunteerfoxcities.org.

Orphan Animal Rescue Sanctuary (OARS) is looking for volunteers who love cats and kittens to help feed, clean and play with adoptable kitties and cats at 810 S. Commercial St., Neenah. It usually takes about two hours. For details, contact Patti at 920-729-9600 or lptcomf@gmail.com.

St. Vincent de Paul Neenah/Menasha is seeking friendly cashier volunteers, at least age 18, with some experience, to volunteer in four-hour shifts. Staff members are available for backup and training is provided. After 30 days, volunteers receive a 50 percent discount on everything in the store priced \$15 or less. For details, contact Toni at volunteercoordinator@svidpneenah.com or 920-727-1766, ext. 3.



Photo from Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Spooky reflections

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass will offer some pre-Halloween trick-or-treating Sunday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. along with its glass art on display, a Halloween scavenger hunt, Halloween glass art in the Museum Shop, and treats for visitors. Costumes are encouraged.

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Recovery programs seek to solve food waste, insecurity

By Charlie Hildebrand and Riley Sumner
WISCONSIN WATCH

Driving a university-owned van, University of Wisconsin-Madison student Morgan Barlin traverses the campus, making stops at three dining halls on a spring afternoon.

At each stop, Barlin is met by kitchen staff who present her with various leftover foods, from sweet potatoes to breakfast omelets. These foods, which would have otherwise been thrown away, will be redistributed to students at no cost.

At the end of her route, Barlin records the weight of each donation. Her calculations show that on this day, she saved 271 pounds of food from ending up in the landfill. Barlin's organization, the Food Recovery Network at the UW-Madison, uses the recovered food to provide free community meals.

The state Department of Natural Resources' 2020-21 waste characterization study estimates that 854,000 tons of food were thrown away in Wisconsin last year; more than 70% was still edible, which DNR calls "wasted food." While 1.7 billion pounds of edible food ended up in the garbage in Wisconsin, 1 in 11 people across the state faced hunger.

Groups across the state have searched for alternatives to get food that would be wasted to people in need.

"(The Food Recovery Network) addresses both food waste and food insecurity at the same time because they're paradoxical problems," said Barlin, who graduated in May. "We shouldn't be throwing away food at the same time that people in our community are also going hungry, and so it seems like the most prac-



Wisconsin Watch photo by Joey Prestley
Anna Thiso, a student volunteer, prepares a dish for the Food Recovery Network's Tuesday community meal Sept. 27 in Madison. The group sources leftover food from UW-Madison dining halls, which would have been thrown away, to provide free meals to the community.

tical and easy way to kind of ameliorate different issues in our food system."

But redistributing restaurant and grocery food that has not yet spoiled is controversial within the charitable food assistance world — and difficult to accomplish under existing food-handling standards.

Beyond efforts on the UW-Madison campus, other programs in Wisconsin intercept still-edible food from grocery and convenience stores and restaurants that would normally be heading to the dump-

ster. In Madison, The River Food Pantry operates a food recovery program that collects food from more than 100 stores around Dane County.

"There's so much food that is thrown away every single day," said Helen Osborn-Senatus, director of operations at The River. "If you're in the grocery store and you see that dollar off coupon, if that's not picked up that day, it's gonna get tossed."

In 2021, about 40% of the 3.6 million

pounds of food served by The River came from this recovery program, she said.

"This is quality food that's safe to eat, but it's past the (expiration) date, and that's the only reason it's being thrown away," Osborn-Senatus said.

But Osborn-Senatus' perspective on the value of food recovery is not universally shared. Sherrie Tussler, the executive director of the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee, says her agency refuses to redistribute such food.

"Our organization does not accept donated food from grocery stores or food that would be otherwise wasted," Tussler said. "Our organization has a value of dignity. We will not pass through our food pantry network any food that we would not personally give to our best friend."

Tussler suspects there are other motivations for grocery stores offloading their food to these recovery programs.

"There's this secret in the food bank world that began with Second Harvest, and they're sourcing their food from grocery stores," Tussler said. "Grocery stores then don't have to pay dumpster fees... (They) can get a tax write off for donating food — but what is the quality of that food?"

Waste a matter of taste

Brandon Scholz, the CEO and president of the Wisconsin Grocers Association, acknowledges such efforts do cut dumpster fees, but he says that isn't the only goal.

"When you have to put (food) in the dumpster, you are wasting that money — which you don't want to do," Scholz said. "The last thing (grocers) would do, (after)

SEE **Food recovery** ON PAGE 7



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Police transport

FROM PAGE 1

Van Horn continued CPR until the ambulance arrived. Yang was pronounced dead before arriving at the hospital. It was determined Yang was able to exit the moving vehicle because the child safety locks, which would have prevented her from opening the back doors from the inside, were not engaged.

Both of the sheriff's deputies involved in the transport consented to a blood draw and were placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation by an outside agency. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department was selected to complete the investigation.

Documents indicate Van Horn and Stordock both obtained legal counsel and refused to consent to an interview about the incident if it was recorded. According to a written summary of the interviews, Van Horn said he didn't hear Yang remove her seatbelt and there was no warning tone indicating the seatbelt was unbuckled before her exiting the vehicle.

Van Horn said he had completed at least 20 transports during his time at the sheriff's office. Stordock estimated he completed hundreds of transports during

his 30-year law enforcement career. Both deputies confirmed they never received special training on transports and there wasn't a checklist used before transport. They both said they believed all transport vans had their interior handles disabled or inaccessible and did not know to check the child safety locks.

The Winnebago Sheriff's Department provided a report of their findings to the DA's office for a death review. Assistant DA Adam Levin reviewed the incident and concluded that Yang jumped from the moving van on her own volition.

Levin determined there is no basis to criminally prosecute the deputies involved because their only role in Yang's death was failing to check that the child safety locks were engaged. He noted there is no Outagamie Sheriff's Office policy requiring deputies to check the child safety locks. The sheriff's office did not respond to a request for comment.

"I conclude these officers' failure to check and enable the child safety lock setting is not an act constituting criminally negligent handling or operation of the transport van, and conclude no criminal charges are appropriate," Levin wrote in the death review.

Yang was a married mother of two young children.

no reason), but I can assure you that there isn't one in Wisconsin."

Restaurants must adhere to health codes that sometimes prompt them to discard edible food.

Food must be kept at certain temperatures, says Susan Quam, executive vice president of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association. If food is continuously kept within the required temperature range, it can be re-served and not wasted, she says.

But, "If it's something that is supposed to be kept cold, and was kept at room temperature, then you are not able to keep that product — you must dispose of it within four hours," she said.

Restaurants are under the same pressure as grocery stores. Quam says profit margins in the industry are low, and restaurants are incentivized to reduce food waste since they are losing money for each dish that is discarded. But safety is the top priority.

"Food safety plays a big factor in anything a restaurant does," she said. "We protect public health first and foremost. Ideally we have (restaurant) operators not doing anything that produces waste."

Beyond waste produced at grocery stores and restaurants, Barlin says the majority of food waste is generated by individuals. According to the USDA, 31% of the edible food supply in the United States was not eaten in 2010 — with consumers responsible for more lost food than retailers.

That year, consumers threw away 90 billion pounds of food; Barlin notes this presents a good opportunity for people to learn how to reduce food waste at home, with campaigns dedicated to repurposing food components often thought of as inedible, such as broccoli stems.

The task can be as simple as making a grocery list to avoid overbuying, or educating themselves on unregulated "best by" dates to avoid throwing away food while it's still edible.

"If you're more attuned to how far your food has traveled to get to your plate or who has labored to get that food to your plate," Barlin said, "it's much harder to throw out that meal."

The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



Neenah Parks & Recreation map

Arrowhead updates

Work underway at Arrowhead Park includes rough grading of the western prairie area leading to development of a stone walking trail. Pier work is planned in 2023, which will include a gangway leading to a gathering landing and quiet water launch.

Calendar of events

Friday, Nov. 4

Linda Sparks and Rhonda Rizzo, First Friday Concert Series, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Nov. 5

CLIMB Theatre "Grandpa and Lucy," 1:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
NHS Helping Hands Art & Craft Fair, 9 a.m., 1275 Tullar Road

Thursday, Nov. 10

Let's Go Downtown, 5 p.m., 14 downtown locations
Meditation sessions with Zen River Sangha, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum

Friday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day commemoration, 10:30 a.m., Shattuck Park
Meditation sessions with Zen River Sangha, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum

Friday, Oct. 28

"Ghostbusters: Afterlife" Friday Family Fun, 6 p.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

Saturday, Oct. 29

Halloween Party, 9 p.m., Ground Round Neenah

Monday, Oct. 31

Neenah trick-or-treating, 4-7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 3

Meditation sessions with Zen River Sangha, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum



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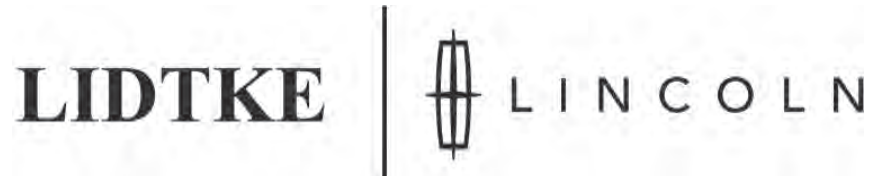
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Food recovery

FROM PAGE 6

they have exhausted all other options, is throw it away."

One of these options includes making banana bread with bananas that are turning brown. Otherwise food can be donated to local pantries, he said.

Ian Steele, the food resources manager at Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, says his organization takes precautions to ensure donations are safe to distribute. Second Harvest checks the temperature of food to ensure there are no items in the "temperature danger zone." The Foodbank also checks for potential cross-contamination between raw and ready-to-eat items.

Sell-by dates not regulated

Steele notes that, aside from baby food, the U.S. Department of Agriculture does not regulate food items' code dates, which include consume-by, sell-by and freeze-by dates, among other phrases.

"Basically, what this means is, a portion of the food we receive in via donation and distribute out is in fact past (its) listed code date. (But) this does not impact the safety of the food being distributed," Steele said.

Scholz explains these dates are "more of a guideline than a requirement," adding, "What happens if you eat a product with a sell-by date of April 7th on April 8th? Really nothing."

Grocers are more motivated to keep food fresh to satisfy customer demand rather than because of any health code requirement, he said.

"There is not necessarily a specific law that says you have to get rid of lettuce that looks brown," Scholz said. "This is a highly competitive business, so you don't want to have crummy looking produce, because if your competitors have better looking stuff, then your customers are going there."

On a \$100 grocery sale, after various expenses, a grocer is only left with just 80 cents in profit — a margin of less than 1%, Scholz said.

"If a grocery store is throwing away food, it's probably for a reason," he said. "There's probably some foolish retailer out there that does (throw away food for

Rockets ready for rematch with Papermakers

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

It's time for Round 2. Fox Valley Association co-champions Neenah and Kimberly will meet for the second time this season Friday night at Rocket Field as the two teams collide in a WIAA Division 1 Level 2 playoff game.

Kimberly won the regular-season meeting 31-10 in Week 8, but the Rockets are hoping for a different outcome this time around where the winner extends its season at least one more week to face the winner of the Middleton-Waunakee game.

"Our kids have risen to the occasion all season and as coaches, we have to put them in a situation to have success," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "Our kids believe in what we are doing. I expect it to be a great game."

One of the most notable differences this time around is that the Rockets get to hold the game on their home field. The regular-season meeting was at Kimberly.

"It's awesome to get to play them again, especially at our place. We got another shot at them," said senior lineman Blake Dietzen. "They got us pretty good but we didn't feel like we were 100 percent for that one. We have to come out fast and physical. That's always been our motto. We didn't do that the first time."

Neenah's offense is highlighted by senior running back Jase Jenkins, who is coming off a 163-yard, three-touchdown performance in the Rockets' 40-14 win over Brookfield East in last Friday's playoff game. Sophomore quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven added 122 yards on just nine carries with a touchdown and threw

WIAA playoffs

Division 1, Level 2

(all games Friday at 7 p.m.)

- Kimberly (9-1) at Neenah (9-1)
- Middleton (7-3) at Waunakee (10-0)
- Appleton North (8-2) at Hudson (9-1)
- Wausau West (9-1) at Bay Port (10-0)
- Mad. Memorial (8-2) at Arrowhead (8-2)
- Marquette (6-4) at Hamilton (8-2)
- Franklin (8-2) at Muskego (9-1)
- Badger (9-1) at Mukwonago (9-1)

for a score as well.

The Rockets led only 7-0 after the first quarter against the Spartans and the game was tied early in the second quarter before the Rockets rattled off 33 straight points to break the game open.

Jung is looking for an even faster start against the Papermakers, who blanked the Rockets in the first half the last time.

"We have to score on our first or second drive. That's a must," Jung said. They did some nice things against us defensively and we need to be able to adjust our game plan and attack what they give us."

Defensively, the Rockets may look to change some things up for this meeting after allowing nearly 400 yards of total offense the first time.

Kimberly's talented runner Blake Berry ran for 228 yards against Neenah, while quarterback Seth Miron finished 10-of-14 for 161 yards, so giving the Papermakers some different looks will certainly be part of the game plan.

"Hopefully we can catch them off guard with it," senior linebacker Trevor



Neenah News

Neenah quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven runs for a touchdown against Oshkosh North earlier this season. Vanevenhoven ran for 122 yards in the Rockets' playoff opener against Brookfield East last week.

McGinnis said. "That first meeting is the past, so we just have to move on and be ready."

Plus, there is more at stake this time when the two teams hit the field and this time, that field will be grass and located in Neenah.

"It's going to be an awesome atmosphere and our confidence level is going to be a lot better," Dietzen said. "We just

have to be sound. We know what we have to do and all be on the same page and then just play fast and physical."

McGinnis echoed Dietzen's thoughts about playing at home.

"Its going to be a game-changer," McGinnis said. "If we can get past Kimberly, that would be a big boost and we would be unfazed when it comes to who is next."

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Neenah News

Senior Jack Dorner has been the No. 1 runner all season for the Neenah Rockets and will lead the defending Division 1 champions into the state meet this weekend in Wisconsin Rapids.

Rockets' Dorner almost enjoys going for a run

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Senior Spotlight

It wasn't full speed ahead for Jack Dorner when he took up cross country in seventh grade.

Well, maybe it was. But there just wasn't a lot of speed there yet.

"I didn't really like it and I wasn't very good at it," Dorner said. "I wasn't very coordinated or athletic at that point, so I really didn't have anything else to do. I was just going to stick with it and see what happened. I didn't expect to be good at all."

What happened was that Dorner discovered the more he ran, the faster he would get. So he trained a little bit for his eighth grade year and started getting better. As he entered high school, he started training even more and that led to some success.

As a sophomore, he had developed into a varsity runner and was Neenah's fourth finisher on a team that took seventh at state and then finished 71st overall and was the Rockets' second finisher at the state meet as a junior.

"The middle to end of my sophomore year, I realized that if I started working on this, I could actually be pretty good at it, so then I trained more," Dorner said. "Over the course of five years I grew to the point where I almost enjoy running now, which makes it easier to train."

Almost enjoy running?

"I'm getting close," he said with a smile.

Dorner may not fully enjoy it, yet, but that hasn't diminished the results he's put up in his senior season.

He finished third at the Fox Valley Association meet to help lead the Rockets to their third straight conference title and 27th overall in the program's history and followed that up by taking third at the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet in Stevens Point as Neenah placed second to earn its 36th trip to the state cross country meet.

"It was important to finish my career at state. That was my biggest goal coming into the year – to get the team to the state meet," Dorner said. "This is by far one of the best teams here at the high school. A great culture and a great history. It's awesome."

Dorner said he was disappointed with his finish at the state meet last year – "The course kind of surprised me" – but overall,

it was a good day to be a Rocket runner.

Teammate Austin Henderson finished first in the Division 1 race and that dispersed any ill feelings about the day.

"Coming across the finish line and hearing that he had won it, that was easily the best day of the season and it was one of the best moments of my high school career," Dorner said. "It was so exciting for all of us to see him do that."

Dorner doesn't have visions of following in Henderson's exact footsteps Saturday, but he is looking for a much better finish in his second trip around the course at The Ridges.

"I just want to race well. This year, I know what to expect and I hope to place in the top 30 or top 20, we'll see how it goes," Dorner said. "The third mile, it's probably the most difficult third mile in a course we face all season. It's mostly uphill the whole third mile so you have to be careful you don't go out too fast, but it's a downhill start so it's difficult."

Even if Dorner doesn't fully enjoy running, there are advantages that he pulls from getting out and training.

He said that running on his own gives him a chance to think about the future – whether it be an upcoming test in a tough class or what awaits him three years down the road. He also uses the time to visualize a race if there is one upcoming.

But most of all, it keeps him more connected with everything going on.

"Sometimes, it's just relaxing to go out and get a good run in. It clears your mind and it's great to get the fresh air," Dorner said. "I find that I just feel smarter when I'm running. When I'm not doing something, I feel sluggish, but I find that during a season or when I'm training, I feel sharper."

Dorner hopes to continue running throughout his life and aims to extend his competitive running career next year at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

If he stays with it long enough, he might fully enjoy it one day.

"I hope I'm still in that good of shape to keep doing it when I'm older," Dorner said. "I want to run at MSOE. I'd love to run at the D3 level. I'm not quite good enough to go D1, but I'm not ready to be done running yet either."

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Neenah squads set to make familiar trip to state meet

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Both the Neenah High School girls and boys cross country teams are headed back to Wisconsin Rapids for the WIAA State Cross Country Championships.

The girls advanced by finishing first at the Stevens Point sectional last Saturday, while the boys took second to earn their trip to The Ridges Golf Course.

It's a trip that both teams have made often.

The girls will be making their 29th appearance at a state meet as a team, which is the second most in WIAA history, trailing only Stevens Point's 31 state trips. The boys rank sixth overall with 36 appearances as a team, trailing only Stevens Point (49), Shorewood (45), Madison West (44), Whitefish Bay (41) and Racine Park (37).

"It's really exciting," said senior Ian Cowell. "We put in a lot of work, not just in season but a lot leading up to the season. Overall, it's really a cool experience to get to go as a team again like last year."

The boys finished 17th among the 20 teams last year, but featured the individual boys state champion, Austin Henderson. Henderson - now a member of the University of Wisconsin cross country team - has graduated but four members of last year's squad will be making another run at state.

Seniors Cowell, Jack Dorner, Carson Timm and Drew Gentile all return from last year's qualifying team and that experience is certainly an asset for the group.

"Having that knowledge of running at that course it helps a lot," said Timm, who was injured while running last year's race. "I know we're pretty fired up coming off the sectional meet and we're pretty confident, too, coming off an FVA championship. I feel like we're excited and confident and we can't be better than that."

Head coach John Morgen agrees that the experience of running the course before will be a plus for his team.

"It's a challenging course because it's really difficult to come from behind just because of the nature of the course and the

State cross country

At The Ridges Golf Course,
Wisconsin Rapids

Saturday's start times

Girls

- Division 3 — Noon
- Division 2 — 12:40 p.m.
- Division 1 — 1:20 p.m.

Boys

- Division 3 — 2 p.m.
- Division 2 — 2:35 p.m.
- Division 1 — 3:10 p.m.

room that they have," Morgen said. "It is certainly beneficial to have guys who have run there in the past."

The returning foursome will be joined by senior Braedy Klawikoski, junior Wyatt Armock and sophomore Nolan Smith in competing at the state meet.

The group won't be the favorites in the Division 1 field, but there is certainly a lot left to accomplish.

"There are a lot of different ways to measure success at the state meet. One is to win it or take second, I don't know if it's realistic that we are going to win the title," head coach John Morgen said. "They want to represent themselves well and they have our own internal team goals that are important to us and we're looking forward to see how we compare to the state as a whole."

The Neenah runners should be free of pressure this week, now, unlike the sectional meet.

The Rockets figured powerhouse Stevens Point would grab the top spot in the team standings, leaving Neenah to fend off the rest of the field for the second spot.

"I feel like that there was more pressure for us at sectionals. We had to run our race and do well," Cowell said. "It looked like we would be second, but there were a lot of other teams, like Appleton North, that were coming for us because they also wanted to punch their ticket to state."

Dorner led the Rockets with a third-place finish, while Timm grabbed the final spot in the top 10 - where Stevens Point

put all seven of its runners. The remaining five Rocket runners all finished about 16 seconds apart with Cowell taking 15th, followed by Armock in 16th, Klawikoski in 17th, Smith in 19th and Gentile in 20th.

Having all seven runners in the top 20 likely won't happen at the state meet, but where each runner finishes is certainly going to be on the minds of the Rockets.

"Once you get to the postseason, it's all about where we place," Cowell said. "That's when we encounter some of the more difficult courses that we will run all season so it's about matching up and beating enough guys to get the places to score well."

The Neenah girls will also have four members of last year's state-qualifying team returning for Saturday's meet.

Senior Lauren Tears is the top returning finisher from last year's meet having placed 54th overall while junior Lexi Dorner and sophomores Brooke Veith and Mazie Olkowski also ran with the state team last season.

The foursome will be joined by junior Lauren Linstedt and freshmen Natalie Willies and Elsa Gruber.

"It's really cool to be able to make it because not every team gets to go," Tears said. "State is supposed to be fun. Obviously you try your best, but it's more about the experience of getting to run. There is less pressure put on about trying to be first or winning."

Head coach Michael Heidke said one of the key factors for his team is just to be healthy.

Despite battling some illness within the group, the Rockets still managed to outduel Appleton North and Stevens Point for the title at last weekend's sectional meet. Neenah finished with 70 points, followed by the Lightning with 87 and the Panthers with 91.

Tears led the team by placing third overall, followed by Willes in fifth. The rest of the finishers at sectional were Gruber in 14th, Linstedt in 21st, Veith in 27th and Olkowski in 31st. Olkowski was the runner-up at the FVA meet in mid-October.

"We're hoping to be healthy going into

the meet," Heidke said. "If we're healthy, our goal is to finish better than last year."

Having a nucleus of runners that has been there before is important and something the girls will try to take advantage of.

"It's definitely not as nerve-wracking going again because you know what's going to happen going into it," said Olkowski, who finished just outside the top 100 in her first trip last year. "With a better idea, you can think about it more in advance as to what you need to do. You still want to try and do your best so there is still a bit of pressure."

Tears said she feels like she is peaking at the right time for the state meet, which could be an indication the rest of the team is at the same point.

"I feel my best and definitely am peaking right now," Tears said. "Our times don't always show it because the sectional and state courses are slow."

Neenah will have some familiar faces to pace with at the state meet as well. Kaukauna will be lined up right next to the Rockets at the start, while other fellow FVA members Oshkosh West and Appleton North are also in the field.

"We always have good competition," Heidke said. "Besides the conference meet, we see them at different invitationals and meets and it's always good competition. It helps us as a team."

Zephyrs to be represented in Division 3 state meet

For the third straight season, St. Mary Catholic will have a runner in the Division 3 race at the girls state meet.

Junior Addison Dinka grabbed the final individual qualifying spot at last Saturday's Pacelli sectional with an eighth-place finish. It will be her first trip to the state meet.

Dinka follows in the footsteps of Lauren Ripley last year and Kaela Groppel in 2020 as Zephyrs to qualify for the state meet. Both runners finished in the top 15 at the state meet.

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Neenah's tournament run ended by Appleton North

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah boys volleyball team had an upset on its mind Tuesday night when it traveled to take on top-seeded Appleton North with a spot in the sectional final on the line.

The Lightning simply didn't let it happen.

Appleton North won in three sets 25-17, 25-14, 25-23 – the third time the Lightning have swept the Rockets in a match this season – to advance in the WIAA tournament and end Neenah's season.

"I am so proud of how our guys competed tonight against a very good Appleton North squad," head coach Jake Coenen said. "We knew what we were up against and knew that we had to play our best to have a chance. Although we came away on the wrong side of this one, the kids didn't quit and battled all the way until the final point was awarded."

As well as Neenah has played this season, Appleton North – ranked 10th in the state and the top seed of the sectional –

was just better.

Not that the Rockets made it easy for them. Neenah came out battling in the first set and kept the score close most of the way before the Lightning were able to take a 1-0 lead.

"North is always going to be a tough team, but we were ready for the challenge," Sina said. "For the most part, we played right with North out of the gates, but we were unable to maintain that as the set went on. Trying to come from behind against a team like North is never an easy thing to do, especially when you look at all the great players they have."

The Rockets fell behind early in the second set and never recovered as the Lightning took a 2-0 lead.

But Neenah bounced back in the third set and made Appleton North earn every point. The Rockets rallied from a 20-18 deficit to tie the set at 23, but the Lightning notched the next two points to close out the win.

"Before the third set we spoke about coming out and being aggressive from the beginning and to not back down," Coenen

said. "I was so proud of our guys for how they battled the entire third set. We had no quit and Noah Harmon really got us going from the middle with some nice swings and blocks to liven up our group."

The Rockets finished the season with a 16-13 record, which was the first time the program has finished a season with a winning record since 2002 – the last time the program advanced to the state tournament.

Coenen credits the team's talented se-

nior class of JJ Schlak Luke Abing, Noah Harmon, Justin Sina, Zac Freundt, Chip Calcaterra, Mitch Krueger, Max Diekfuss and Reece Kandler.

"This is a very special senior class that laid it all on the floor every night," Coenen said. "They meant a lot to this program over the years and I want to thank them all for what they have done and meant to us. They have not only grown as players but have turned into great men and they will be missed severely."

Fish fry for NHS boys basketball

The Neenah High School Boys Basketball Booster Club will host its fifth annual Fish Fry Fundraiser dinner Nov. 10.

The evening speakers are Todd and Carol Dekker, parents of University of Wisconsin former basketball player Sam Dekker. The Dekkers will sit down with Coach Lee Rabas to answer questions and discuss their basketball journey.

"Our fish fry is an event that is about people and relationships," Rabas said. "People will attend for one of two reasons, Neenah or basketball, and hopefully in many cases, both. My hope is for this event to be one of the times each year

when former players, parents, coaches, fans and people of Neenah come together to re-establish, strengthen and perhaps even begin new relationships.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner follows at 6:30 p.m. and the evening concludes with the speakers, raffle and silent auction winners.

Tickets are \$50 per person, \$80 per couple, \$300 for a table of 8, or \$30 for former players or district staff. Tickets can be purchased at neenahboyshoops.com or by contacting Rabas at lrabas@neenah.k12.wi.us.

Prep sports roundup

FOOTBALL

Zephyrs cruise to win in season finale

The St. Mary Catholic/Valley Christian football team completed another perfect 8-player football season with a 62-20 thumping of Wisconsin Heights.

The Zephyrs, who finished 8-0 in 8-player games this season, scored four touchdowns in the first quarter and led 48-0 at halftime en route to the win.

Danny Griffith threw for 166 yards and three touchdowns on just eight completions in his final start for the Zephyrs. He threw a 46-yard touchdown to Atticus Johnson, a 34-yard touchdown to Dylan Dwyer and a 26-yard touchdown to Andrew Birr.

Ashton Post ran the ball nine times for 163 yards and four touchdowns in the win. Post averaged 18.1 yards per carry and had scoring runs of 47, 58, 2 and 1.

Sam Todd also added a touchdown run, while Connor Riehl returned a punt for a touchdown for the Zephyrs.

Todd also led the defense with 17 tackles, while Owen Swanstrom finished with 16. The Zephyrs finished with 6.5 sacks in the game, led by Nyles Schneider who had 2.5.

CROSS COUNTRY

Zephyr girls third, boys fourth at sectionals

The St. Mary Catholic girls cross country team nearly qualified for the state cross country meet, finishing a close third at the Pacelli Sectional on Saturday.

The Zephyrs finished with 78 points, which was just 11 points behind second-place Laconia. Assumption won the sectional title with 38 points.

Addison Dinka led the way for St. Mary Catholic with an eighth-place finish, which

qualified the sophomore for the state meet.

Maria Marti came in 11th place, followed by Lauren Ripley in 24th, Katharine Schoeni in 26th and Alejandra Cunillera Fernandez in 27th,

The Zephyr boys finished in fourth place in the final team standings, just five points behind Pittsville for third place. Pacelli and Pardeeville grabbed the top two spots.

Alexander Groppel led St. Mary Catholic in 18th place, two spots ahead of teammate Benjamin Schoeni. Nathan Seiske was 22nd, with Ian Albino taking 26th and Owen Ripley finishing 42nd.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Rockets fall to nationally ranked Oconomowoc

Neenah's volleyball season came to an end as the Rockets fell to Oconomowoc 25-15, 25-18, 25-18 in a WIAA Division 1 regional final. Oconomowoc is ranked 17th in the nation.

Carly Stamm and Marissa Corso each had six kills to lead the Rockets, while Claudia Merizon finished with five and Zoe Schumacher had three.

Merizon led the team in assists with 15, followed by Leia Kersten with nine.

Jenna Lawatsch and Elizabeth Oldenburg added nine and seven digs, respectively.

SOCCER

Zephyrs' season ends with loss to Kiel

The 10th-ranked St. Mary Catholic soccer team ran into a tough opponent in eighth-ranked Kiel and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Raiders in a WIAA Division 2 regional final Saturday.

The Zephyrs end the season with an 11-4-2 record.

Wisconsin's share of the American Rescue Plan Act.

Fentanyl test strips are available at the Winnebago County Health Department in Oshkosh during normal business hours. People struggling with substance use can contact the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline to be connected to treatment options. Call 211 or go to addictionhelpwi.org.

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STEMSational HALLOWEEN SCIENCE

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MONSTER MOLD

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:



canning jars with lids



water in a spray bottle



bread, cheese, apple cut into one-inch cubes

THE EXPERIMENT

1. Spray each piece of food with a little water.
2. Place each piece of food in a separate jar, screw on the lid and write the food type and date on the top.
3. Place the jars in different locations—in sunlight, a dark place (inside a paper bag would work), a cool place (in your refrigerator) and one in a warm place.

4. Examine the jars everyday, observe the changes and record how quickly food gets moldy.

Mold on food is not good to eat but mold is one of nature's recyclers. Things that rot in this way will eventually become soil and supply nutrients to help plants grow.

Standards Link: Science Investigation: Conduct simple experiments.

The Science

Unlike plants, molds don't grow from seeds. They grow from spores that float in the air. These spores multiply on damp food and the chemical they produce will make the food rot.

Don't open your jars as more spores are forming and could be released into the air. Molds can make people sick.

SPOOKY GLOW-IN-THE-DARK BUBBLES

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:



bowl of water



highlighters



bubble solution



black light

Have a parent help you open the highlighter pen. Pull out the felt and place it in a small amount of water. Let it soak for a few minutes and then discard the felt. Add a small amount of bubble solution to the bowl. Your mixture should be half highlighter water and half bubble solution.

Turn on your black light and blow bubbles. Describe what happens:

The phosphorescent chemicals in the highlighter ink are made visible by the ultraviolet in a black light.

Only two of the jack o'lanterns below are exactly the same. Can you find them? If you get stuck, do the math. The two even-numbered pumpkins are the matching pair.

| | | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| 2 + 3 | 9 + 2 | 6 + 4 | 4 + 3 | 9 - 2 |
| 5 + 4 | 6 - 3 | 4 + 9 | 13 - 6 | 11 - 2 |
| 1 + 2 | 14 - 7 | 6 + 6 | | |
| 9 + 8 | 16 - 3 | 8 + 5 | | |
| 3 + 8 | 19 - 4 | 3 + 2 | | |

Extra! Extra! Halloween Hunt

- Look through the newspaper to find:
- a pumpkin
 - a ghost
 - a skeleton
 - a costume
 - a spider
 - a black cat
 - a spooky house

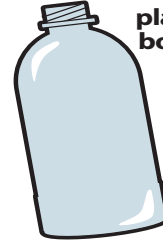
Standards Link: Research: use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Together: THE BUBBLY, BAFFLING BALLOON EXPERIMENT

Can you inflate a balloon with liquid? What do you think?

Try this experiment with a lab assistant (a parent) and see what happens.

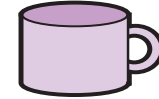
STUFF YOU'LL NEED:



plastic bottle



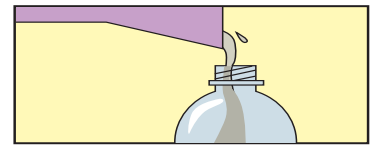
balloon



1 cup vinegar



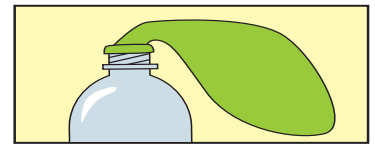
1 tbsp baking soda



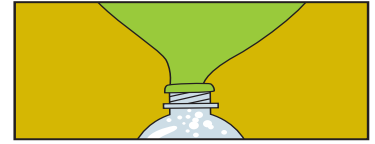
1. Pour the vinegar into the plastic bottle.



2. Carefully pour a tablespoon of baking soda into the balloon.



3. Stretch the neck of the balloon over the bottle opening.



4. Slightly lift the balloon from the top so that the baking soda falls into the vinegar. Watch out!

Explanation: Baking soda added to vinegar creates a chemical reaction that makes carbon dioxide. This gas rises upwards into the balloon, inflating it.

Standards Link: Science Investigation: Conduct simple experiments.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How do you learn more about Dracula?

Use the code to solve this riddle.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| A | B | C | F | G | H | I |
| | | | | | | |
| J | L | M | N | O | S | U |

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

HALLOWEEN
EXPERIMENT
SKELETON
PUMPKINS
BUBBLES
SPORES
SPIDER
BLACK
MOLDS
SEEDS
JACK
SOAK
GLOW
DAMP
ROT

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | N | O | T | E | L | E | K | S | S |
| T | N | E | M | I | R | E | P | X | E |
| S | M | P | E | O | A | U | K | E | L |
| R | O | M | T | W | M | O | N | B | |
| E | L | A | S | P | O | R | E | S | B |
| D | D | D | K | C | A | L | B | G | U |
| I | S | I | S | C | T | E | L | R | B |
| P | N | M | A | S | A | O | H | A | R |
| S | D | E | E | S | W | J | O | T | H |

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

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