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GOP candidates take state seats

Cabral-Guevara joins Senate; Gustafson wins Assembly

Neenah News

Assembly Rep. Rachael Cabral-Guevara won her race against Appleton council member Kristin Alfheim to fill Sen. Roger Roth's vacated 19th Senate District seat in Tuesday's general election that included incumbent victories for Gov. Tony Evers and U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson.

In the other contested Neenah area state legislative race, Winnebago County Board member Nate Gustafson defeated Stefanie Holt for Cabral-Guevara's open 55th Assembly District seat.

"I'm proud to continue to represent the Fox Valley and surrounding areas," Cabral-Guevara stated on her Facebook page. "I look forward to working together with great future policy to move Wisconsin forward. It's time to listen, communicate and work together."

Cabral-Guevara, a 46-year-old nurse practitioner in her first term representing her Assembly district, defeated Alfheim, 51, taking about 55% of the vote, 18,443 to 15,068. The district includes Neenah,



Cabral-Guevara

Fox Crossing, much of the Appleton area and west Menasha. Neenah city voters cast 6,010 votes for Alfheim to 5,864 for Cabral-Guevara.

Roth did not seek re-election after seven years in the Senate as he unsuccessfully pursued the lieutenant governor position that paired him with Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim Michels. Evers' re-election to a second term included bringing on a new lieutenant governor in Sara Rodriguez.

Gustafson, 27, is serving his first term representing Winnebago County's Dis-

trict 28 and was campaign manager for Cabral-Guevara's run for the Assembly seat he will now assume. He is a system analyst with an associate degree in cyber security from Fox Valley Technical College and lives in Fox Crossing.

He defeated Holt, 56, a strategy consultant and former Neenah Board of Education member, with about 55% percent of the vote, 13,553 to 11,078. Neenah city voters gave 6,175 votes for Holt and 5,705 to Gustafson.

The 55th District in northern Winnebago County includes parts of Neenah, Fox Crossing, Town of Neenah, Town of Oshkosh, Clayton, Vinland, Winchester, Wolf River, Allenville and Larsen.

Gustafson recently founded the political group Winnebago County for Freedom that promotes upholding constitutional rights with a goal "to form a community of liberty-focused individuals."

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Photo by David Hill

Jewelers Park path

Fall scenery graces the recently completed Jewelers Park Drive Trail that crosses Neenah Creek in the city.

District attorney ranks depleted, stalling justice

Assistant positions remain unfilled in county

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

An underfunded system is leading to a shortage of prosecutors and public defenders both locally and statewide, causing a delay in at least one county case and potentially violating defendants' constitutional rights.

The right to a speedy trial and the right to an attorney is guaranteed under the Sixth Amendment. If a defendant cannot afford

an attorney, a state public defender (SPD) is appointed to represent them. The SPD may either be a staff attorney or a private sector attorney certified to take public defender appointments.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reports that four out of five criminal defendants require a public defender. With a statewide backlog of about 15,000 cases, the SPD office cannot keep up; and with a



Sparr

shortage of prosecutors, the issues are affecting Winnebago County.

Mandel Roy, who is accused of killing 22-year-old Roger Ridgeway near Gord's Pub in Neenah in April 2021, has been without an attorney since his SPD-appointed attorney stopped representing him in June. Roy's accomplice, Terran Colwell, was sentenced in September.

The SPD office made 262 contacts in an attempt to find representation for Roy, without success. At the current rate, it may be more than two years after Ridgeway's death before Roy enters a plea or faces sentencing. After repeated delays, the court ordered a

Dean appointment for Roy on Nov. 1.

Under the 1991 case of State v. Dean, individuals who do not qualify for a SPD but are unable to afford legal representation are appointed an attorney at county expense.

In recent years, there has been an increase in cases where courts have used Dean appointments for individuals who do qualify for a public defender, but have not been appointed one, to mitigate the amount of time indigent defendants spend without representation.

The court appointed attorney Scott Ce-

SEE **Court troubles** ON PAGE 7

Neenah News

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Beekeeper recovers from tough year

Neenah News

Neenah beekeeper Rance Bennett reported a “phenomenal” 2022 season with his initial eight colonies growing to 14 through splitting hives for swarm prevention and capturing other swarms.

After yellow jacket wasps destroyed all 10 of his hives last year, he rebounded with strong honey production and was able to send 12 strong colonies to Florida to help pollinate orange groves before returning in May.

The other two colonies are overwintering here at Bennett’s apiaries.

Bennett, who started beekeeping as a hobby about three years ago, sets up apiaries at several privately owned locations in a mutually beneficial arrangement. The property owners, some of whom even join in on the beekeeping, benefit by increased pollination of their fruit trees, gardens and flowers while Bennett benefits by producing honey.

A queen honeybee has an average productive lifespan of two to three years, during which she can lay up to 2,000 eggs daily.

Over her lifetime, she can produce more than 1 million offspring. A healthy colony of honeybees can be up to 80,000 strong with the average at peak of 60,000.

Bennett’s Nature’s Finest Wildflower Honey is raw and unfiltered with vitamins and minerals.

He said any proceeds go directly into expenses related to maintaining the hives.

Bennett also operates a Facebook group called This Old Hive that is dedicated to helping new beekeepers.



Submitted photo

Rance Bennett works with bee apiaries in the Neenah area with the cooperation of neighbors who gain pollinators for their garden areas.

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District approves sale of Jacobsen Road land

Neenah News

The Neenah Joint School District at a school board meeting last week agreed to sell about 16 acres of land on Jacobsen Road in Fox Crossing.

The land was originally purchased by the district in 1971 for \$30,000. Situated between Spring Road Elementary and Clayton Elementary, it was considered as a potential future site for an elementary school.

The district listed the land for sale at \$550,550; about \$35,000 per acre. Sivakumar Rajarathinam put in an offer to purchase. The board agreed to sell the land to Rajarathinam as is for \$460,000. The land includes just over three acres of wetlands.

The district also owns about 58 acres of land at West American Drive and Irish Road in Fox Crossing that it has been leasing for farming. The property was purchased for \$600,000 in 1996 and the district has listed it for sale for \$3.95 million.

Roosevelt School at 215 E. Forest Ave was sold last month for \$1 million and in July the district sold Shattuck Middle School at 600 Elm St. for \$500,000.

The property sales come as the district prepares to open a new high school in Fox Crossing next fall. The middle school will move to the current high school site. Roosevelt and Wilson Elementary students will move to Horace Mann and Alliance Charter School will move to Wilson.



Photo by David Hall

Art activity day

The Bergstrum-Mahler Museum of Glass offered art-making sessions last weekend for children. Members of Fox Valley Literacy are teaching paper folding to young visitors. Fox Valley Literacy also recently started offering Hmong lessons to the community.

Vets Ready awards go to local businesses

The Departments of Workforce Development and Veteran Affairs honored regional employers with Vets Ready Employer Initiative Awards last Friday in Green Bay.

Among those honored with Gold Awards were Children's Products LLC and Kimberly-Clark Corp. in Neenah.

The Vets Ready Initiative elevates employers who go above and beyond to support veterans and their families and encourages employers to build a support system within their workplace, hire and retain more veterans, and connect to veterans in the community.

Downtown transit center moves amid safety issues

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The downtown Neenah Transit Center site is temporarily being relocated starting Monday to deal with traffic safety concerns after Common Council approval.

The bus station is currently situated on the east side of South Church Street near Greene's Pour House at 134 W. Wisconsin Ave. Greene's owner Bobby Greene spoke in favor of moving the bus shelter at a Public Services & Safety meeting last month.

Greene said that because his business is in close proximity to the bus shelter it attracts a large number of bus riders for various reasons. He said over the past 10 years there have been times when his employees have had to witness unpleasant situations. Greene encouraged the committee to support relocating the shelter.

The city has been collaborating with Valley Transit to identify a potential relocation option. Valley Transit general manager Ron McDonald said the relocation is the result of an analysis of a Transit Development Plan.

"We worked closely with the city to ensure a change that would impact riders as minimally as possible," he said.

The city and Valley Transit agreed to temporarily relocate the site to the south side of East Doty Avenue adjacent to City Hall and Red Parking Lot C.

Transit users will have access to public bathrooms in City Hall. The city will incur \$134 per month for bathroom cleaning. The city did not determine what will happen to the existing bus transfer station.

The relocation will generate fewer disturbances to transit operations caused by special events and is considered safer. The downside to the temporary relocation is that the new shelter will not be heated.

Valley Transit is supplying the shelter. The total estimated cost for preparing the new location is \$8,300, which includes assembling and installing the shelter, installing a concrete pad, extending an asphalt terrace, installing a solar powered light unit, adding a wireless camera and installing traffic signs.

To accommodate the temporary relocation, parking regulations will also be changed. Portions of Doty Avenue and Walnut Street will be changed from three-hour parking to bus loading and passenger loading zones. The entire block of the east side of South Church Street, which was formerly a bus loading zone, will now be two-hour parking from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, excluding weekends and holidays.

The committee noted that segment of Doty Avenue is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2024 under the 5-Year Capital Improvement Program. Relocating the shelter now will provide time to observe and evaluate the site before committing to a permanent relocation.

Valley Transit and East Central Regional Planning are also working on a route analysis study with results expected in spring.

The affected routes include route 30 (Neenah-Menasha), route 31 (East Neenah), route 32 (West Neenah), route 41 (West Fox Valley) and route 10 (Neenah-Oshkosh operated by GO Transit).



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Civil War veterans

This 1930 photo features Neenah's surviving Civil War veterans. A tribute to Thad Sheerin can be found on Soldiers Rock behind the tennis courts in Doty Park. Shown are (first row, from left) Joseph Faas and John Nagel, (back row) Robert Law, Thad Sheerin and Murray McCallum.



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New city staff salary plan approved by council

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Common Council last week approved the city's new salary plan, effective Jan. 1, which places Neenah at the 62.5% placement in the market.

The placement indicates that 37.5% of communities have pay structures higher than Neenah's and 62.5% are lower.

Comparable municipalities are undergoing salary reviews and once their new pay structures are in place it is estimated Neenah will be closer to the middle of job market placement.

The highest paid position will be the city attorney, with an annual salary between \$103,000 and \$147,000. Police chief, fire chief and other leadership positions will pay \$93,000-\$132,000 per year. On the low end of the spectrum, various clerical positions will pay between \$40,000-\$57,000.

Other takeaways from the Nov. 2 meeting:

K9 supporters

The Neenah Police K9 Unit accepted a \$500 donation from Hawley-Dieckhoff American Legion Post 33 at the meeting to support K9 Bobby.

Officer Zachary Mulroy and K9 Bobby accepted the donation from Neenah-Menasha Honor Guard commander Dave Mix and second-in-command Bob Borchert.

Honor Guard is primarily made up of honorably discharged veterans who perform flag ceremonies and honor veterans at funerals. Mix said the state pays Honor Guard a small stipend to perform at funerals. According to the state Department of Veterans Affairs, the stipend cannot exceed \$50 for each honor service performed.

"Instead of keeping it and not knowing what we're going to do with it, we think it's best to give back to the community," Mix said.

Conduit placement

The Council approved reallocating funds to the Commercial Street and Bell Street traffic signal capital improvement program (CIP) and approved a proposal to install electrical conduit under two legs of the intersection at a cost of \$22,000.

Traffic engineer James Merten said at a meeting last month that the city budgeted \$25,000 in the 2022 CIP to replace the existing microwave detection with video detection at Commercial and Bell. He said staff discovered that the existing steel conduit under the south leg of the intersection has been damaged and needs to be repaired before the work can be done.

Two electrical conduit runs will also be installed at Industrial Drive and Bell Street, at a cost of \$16,500, using CIP funds.

City crews are completing traffic signal upgrades at that intersection as part of the Southview Industrial Park Gateway Enhancement CIP. Merten said the current task is to re-cable the intersection and install video detection.

The electrician working on the project expressed concerns regarding the size and condition of the existing steel conduit and recommended boring new conduit. The conduit will be replaced in conjunction with the proposed boring work at the intersection.

Traffic signal detection

The Council approved purchase of backup traffic signal detection equipment after



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler
Officer Zachary Mulroy (from left), Bob Borchert and Dave Mix stand with K9 Bobby at the council meeting where a donation was made to the program.

a recent knockdown at Cecil and Commercial street. The city did not have a backup supply of traffic signal detection equipment and had to install an old camera that could no longer connect to the city's control boxes.

The city will purchase one camera for the intersection of Commercial and Cecil streets and one backup camera at a cost of \$1,888 per camera. It will also purchase a backup microwave sensor at a cost of \$4,648, a backup interface card for \$514 and an ethernet backup extender for \$600. The funds will come from the Traffic Signal Re-Cabling CIP, with the total not to exceed \$10,000.

Bypass pump purchase

The city will purchase a 4-inch bypass pump from Lincoln Contractors Supply in Oshkosh for \$44,167, with the funds coming from the 2022 capital equipment budget and reserve.

Bypass pumps are used to pump fluid around construction or work areas without stopping the flow. The dewatering pump is designed for use in construction, municipal, industrial and emergency response applications.

City Hall security

While researching surveillance options

Well abandonment projects gain funding

Neenah News

The first grant awards for a new state program to help well owners support replacement, treatment or abandonment projects were announced last week, including for two private well abandonments in Winnebago County.

Gov. Tony Evers and the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced five grants to improve drinking water quality in Winnebago, Marathon and Portage counties, including two well compensation grants totaling \$30,791 and three well abandonment grants totaling \$4,144.

Two grants for Winnebago County residents totaling \$3,354 will be used to fill and seal unused wells at undisclosed loca-

Luminary Night welcomes downtown holiday

Downtown Neenah is hosting the fifth annual Luminary Night from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 where downtown streets will be lined with a special holiday glow of hundreds of luminary bags.

The district will also be hosting a Cookie Crawl sponsored by J.J. Keller & Associates during this time. With a passport

for the new temporary location for the Neenah Transit Center, which will be in use near City Hall on Nov. 14, it was discovered that the surveillance of City Hall's exterior doors and surrounding area was lacking and should be dealt with, according to a memorandum from Mayor Jane Lang.

The recommendation is to replace the outdated interior analog cameras in the council chambers and finance department and the external cameras mounted on the north side of City Hall.

New cameras will be installed at the Walnut Street entrance, Columbian Avenue entrance, Finance Department drive-thru and on the maintenance garage.

"We feel this will rectify previous oversights and provide adequate coverage," Lang wrote in the memo.

The Council approved an agreement with One Source Technologies to install and upgrade the cameras at a cost of up to \$17,000, funded by the 2022 IS Capital Equipment Smart Cities budget.

New Arrowhead plan

The Mayor's Arrowhead Task Force proposed that a new plan for Arrowhead Park be created. The current plan was established in 2016 at a cost of \$45,525.

Lang said the task force has been unable to recommend elements to Arrowhead without taking into consideration what was already planned for the site.

"This site and the surrounding area have truly changed and transformed in the five years since that time, necessitating another look at the site," she said.

The council approved a proposal by RDG Planning and Design to research, design and create a new plan for Arrowhead at a cost of \$45,000, with funding from Parks and Recreation carry-forward dollars that were designated to fund the design of the activity building at the park.

The new plan will be used to evaluate the opportunities for the space in light of the changes that have occurred downtown over the past five years. The goal is to create a plan that enhances the connectivity and synergy between the downtown and the Arrowhead district, Lang wrote in a memo.

"This is an opportunity for a fresh start and a fresh look," she said. "We owe it to ourselves and to the future citizens of Neenah to get this right."

tions, according to grant program manager Sandy Chancellor.

"Clean water shouldn't be a luxury, it's a necessity – but too often the cost of cleaning up contaminated wells can be expensive, burdensome and unattainable for so many folks across our state," Evers said in a statement.

The new programs, made possible by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, are a \$10 million commitment to improve drinking water quality for private well owners. It is estimated the programs could help deal with contamination in more than 1,030 wells statewide.

DNR began accepting applications for the programs Oct. 3.

purchase, eight different holiday cookies can be sampled at eight different stops.

The cost is \$10 per person and tickets can be purchased at neenah.org. Businesses will remain open until 7:30 p.m. and time-release tickets will limit the number of people per starting time. Only 300 passports are available.

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From LWV of Winnebago County

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An impartial judiciary is critical to fair and legally sound decisions at every level in the court system. In theory, judicial elections are supposed to be nonpartisan. But in reality there are outside influences, such as campaign financing and partisan politics, that impact all judicial elections. So, how can the voter have confidence that a vote for a judge or justice promotes judicial impartiality and integrity?

In April, Wisconsin residents will go to the polls to elect local and state judicial positions including a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice. The Wisconsin League of

Women Voters is sponsoring two presentations that will assist the voter in understanding the structure of the Wisconsin court system and the outside influences that can affect judges at every level.

Mark your calendars and join us for the following presentations:

Part I: "Understanding the Structure of our Wisconsin Court System" sponsored by the Appleton/ Fox Valley League of Women Voters. Part I will be held at UW Oshkosh Menasha, 1478 Midway Road, in Room 1338 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 21. Presenters will be retired Outagamie County Judge Nancy Krueger and attorney LaKeisha Haase, former Winnebago County judge.

Part II: "Outside Influences on Our Courts," sponsored by the LWV of Winnebago County, will be held at the Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Y, Oshkosh, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 5. Presenter will be attorney Joseph Troy, former Outagamie County judge.

ATV helmet, seatbelt use promoted

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) urges ATV/UTV riders and passengers to wear helmets and seatbelts while out on the trails this fall.

So far this year, 17 people have died in ATV/UTV crashes statewide. Most of the victims were not wearing seat belts or helmets. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 71% of fatally injured ATV riders were killed in

crashes involving no other vehicles in 2020.

"ATVs are popular for work and recreational purposes such as trail riding and hunting," said Major April Dombrowski, DNR Recreational Safety Section chief. "Protect yourself and loved ones by always wearing a helmet. It's the single most important piece of protection an ATV or UTV rider can wear."



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Sheriff's officers sued over man's 6-month detention

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Four Winnebago County sheriff's officers are named in a lawsuit in federal court alleging a Neenah man was detained for six months for violating bond conditions for a drunken driving case that was later dismissed.

Mark Petersen initially brought the lawsuit against the Neenah Police Department, two Neenah officers and four Winnebago sheriff's officers. In late June he dropped the Neenah Police Department and the two Neenah officers from the suit.

Documents indicate sheriff's deputy Stefanie Pedersen responded to a call that a car had crashed into a lawn on County JJ in Neenah on Dec. 27, 2018. When she arrived at the accident site she found tire marks leading from the roadway and Petersen changing a tire.

Petersen was reportedly unsteady on his feet and smelled of intoxicants. He told the deputy his daughter was driving the vehicle. Documents indicate the deputy knew Petersen was estranged from his daughter. She called Petersen's mother, who said she would be surprised if his daughter was with him.

Documents say the deputy interacted with Petersen in the past and because he was uncooperative, she did not administer

field sobriety tests.

"It should be noted that every single time I have dealt with Mark, I have physically fought with him, so before it got to that level tonight, I decided to place Mark under arrest for the OWI before doing field sobriety tests," she wrote in the criminal complaint.

Petersen has three prior OWI convictions from 2004, 2005 and 2013. Court records indicate no deputies witnessed Petersen operating his vehicle, causing a collision or causing any damage.

Petersen was arrested, handcuffed and taken to Theda Care Medical Center where he was forced to submit to a blood draw. Documents indicate he physically resisted officers and medical staff, and engaged in a physical altercation in an attempt to avoid having his blood drawn, requiring the assistance of Winnebago deputies Christopher Last and David Roth. Deputy Matthew Weisse is also named in the lawsuit.

Petersen was charged with fourth-offense driving under the influence and transported to the Winnebago County Jail. As part of his bond conditions, he was required to submit to blood draws and treatment for alcohol abuse through the county's 24/7 monitoring program. Petersen violated the bond terms and subsequently spent six months in jail because

he was unable to make bail.

On Oct. 6, 2021, Judge Teresa Basiliere dismissed the case against him on Assistant District Attorney Adam Levin's motion. The court found insufficient probable cause for the arrest to proceed with charges.

Petersen alleges that he suffered lost wages as the result of incarceration and that the officers purposelessly and maliciously violated his rights under the Fourth and 14th amendments.

The detention, arrest, blood draw and mandatory treatment resulted in Petersen's loss of liberty, his attorney argued. He

is asking for an unspecified award of compensatory and punitive damages along with attorney's fees and costs.

An attorney for the four deputies named in the suit argues that any injuries sustained by Petersen were caused by his own acts or omissions and failure to mitigate. Documents indicate the deputies are immune from the lawsuit due to qualified and discretionary immunity and Petersen is not entitled to damages. The defendants' attorney asked the judge to dismiss the lawsuit.

The parties' next court date was a scheduling conference this Thursday.

Alta buys Colombian solutions provider

Alta Resources Corp. has acquired BRM, a Colombia-based business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions provider, which will expand its capabilities in South America for customer-related outsourcing.

Founded in 2005, BRM is a leading provider of digital marketing services based in Bogota. BRM's senior leadership, including founders Juan Pablo Serrano and Pilar Jaramillo, will remain with the company and provide continuity of leadership, Neenah-based Alta said in its announcement.

"This is an organization that has a culture that aligns with ours and a proven track record of prioritizing employee engagement, excellence in serving clients, and innovative service and solutions," said Jim Bere, Alta chairman and chief executive.

"I know that our two organizations

are going to be an excellent fit. By joining forces, we will offer an expanded geographic footprint, 8,000-plus associates, as well as enriched technology and capabilities. Our vision is to be a global leader and this South American coverage is an important step on that journey."

Alta Resources is based in Neenah with additional locations in Brea, Calif.; Fort Myers, Fla.; Pasig City, Philippines; and Belize City, Belize. Formed in 1995, privately held Alta provides customer-management business-process outsourcing for brands in a variety of industries, including retail, consumer-packaged goods, health care, entertainment, automotive and sports apparel.

To learn more about the two companies, visit AltaResources.com or brm.com.co

Pumpkin dropoff offered at county landfill

Winnebago County Solid Waste is accepting pumpkins at its yard waste drop site at 100 W. County Y.

"After learning that 1 billion pounds of pumpkins are landfilled every year, I knew we had to offer a way for our residents to help reduce that number," Solid Waste associate Edith Tews said of her inspiration for the program.

The program is free for county residents bringing in up to six clean pumpkins with no candles, plastic, glitter or painted deco-

rations. The facility is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Visitors who only have pumpkins may use the middle lane between the scales and come inside to the scale office to be directed where to drop them off.

A free landfill disposal option is also available for deer carcasses from county residents who process their own deer. Kathy Hutter, solid waste operations manager, said it is part of a statewide effort to reduce the spread of CWD.

J. J. Keller Founders Excellence Award presented

J. J. Keller & Associates announced that Tom Ditzler, portfolio director in the company's R&D division, is the recipient of the 2022 J. J. Keller Founders Excellence Award that honors the legacy of John J. "Jack" Keller, who began the company in 1953.



Ditzler

The award recognizes the qualities that J. J. Keller Chairman Robert Keller and Vice Chairman James Keller have recognized over their careers

as exemplifying leadership.

As James Keller shared during the award presentation, "Tom was nominated by a member of his team, who credits Tom with essentially 'writing the book' on servant leadership. He is known for being highly inclusive and always taking the time to ensure all impacted stakeholders have a voice in product ideation, selection and execution."

As the award recipient, Ditzler was able to direct a total of \$2,500 in grants from the foundation to nonprofits of his choice. He selected Leaven and World Central Kitchen.

Business news roundup

Gym35 Fitness is now open at 1526 South Commercial St. With a motto of "Better Body, Better Brain, Better You," its focus is on functional movement exercises in a safe manner that incorporates brain fitness activities. Gym owner is Nita Diaz, an ACE certified group fitness instructor and retired occupational therapist. Morning class times are set Monday through Friday. Go to www.gym35fitness.com for details.

Volatus Infrastructure, PromoDrone, Global Aerial Management Group (GAMG) and Valqari have formed the **Constellation Alliance Group (CAG)**. The Neenah-based consortium partnership will focus on humanitarian efforts in the advanced air mobility and unmanned aircraft systems sectors. The CAG has a partnership goal to design, establish and

integrate a scalable community-based sustainable rapid-response infrastructure including drone and electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) emergency operations for deployment in cities, towns and municipalities beginning with testing in the United States in 2023.

The **Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center** in Neenah was recognized with the brand's highest honor, the M.K. Guertin Award, at Best Western's 2022 Convention held recently. Hotels that receive the award best represent the vision of Best Western's founder and demonstrate exceptional levels of quality, guest satisfaction and dedication to the brand. The Bridgewood location was one of only 49 hotels out of 2,400 properties in North America to receive the award.

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Court troubles

FROM PAGE 1

man to represent Roy. Ceman was a Winnebago County prosecutor for 12 years before resigning in 2019, citing low wages in a resignation letter he addressed to Gov. Tony Evers and other officials. Ceman said at that time that his earnings as deputy DA for 2018 were around \$69,000. The issues that Ceman outlined in his resignation letter have not improved.

Prosecutor shortage

District Attorney Eric Sparr has been a prosecutor for 17 years, taking over the lead position in May after the resignation of Christian Gossett. Sparr said the primary issue his office faces in keeping prosecutors is the low pay.

Winnebago County has lost three assistant DAs in the past six months. In May, Nerrissa Dyett resigned to relocate to California. In September, David Rashid resigned to accept a position as the Neenah city attorney and Margaret Struve resigned to accept a position as the Menasha city attorney.

Both Rashid and Struve's new positions came with significant pay increases, with the city attorney positions offering wages of up to \$110,000 per year based on experience, about twice as much as starting assistant DAs are paid.

The Winnebago County DA's office includes the DA, deputy DA, and 10 assistant DAs. The county currently has two open full-time assistant positions.

Earlier this year the state announced \$5.7 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds would be going toward filling assistant DA positions, about 30 positions statewide. The funds are allocated based on caseload and estimated backlog.

Winnebago was awarded one part-time position.

Sparr said the state positions are for a two-year term and many of the positions across the state have remained unfilled. He said it's difficult to fill full-time permanent positions and even harder to fill a temporary part-time position.

The DA's office has not received any applicants for the part-time ARPA-funded position. When the DA's office posted a job listing for a full-time assistant DA position in May, they also had no applicants.

"I have never seen anything like this in Winnebago, where our turnover is lower than prosecutor turnover statewide," Sparr said.

Sparr said the situation isn't ideal, but his office has been able to keep up with the caseload. He said the goal is for the county to make a charging decision on all cases within 30 days. In the past few years, the average number of cases with no charging decision after 30 days was about 50. That number has increased to about 100.

"That's still a pretty small number but I'd rather have it at zero or something close to that," he said.

In other counties, the problem is worse.

Oconto County was without a DA from September through late October after the resignation of Edward Burke Jr. Waupaca County will be without a DA in December with the resignation of Veronica Isherwood. Langlade County DA Elizabeth Gerbert is resigning as of Jan. 1.

"This has been a problem for a long time in the state," Sparr said. "It has reached the next level at this point where it's become absolutely a crisis and we're feeling it, too."

Sparr stressed the importance of having experienced prosecutors in the office.

"Making decisions even on lower-level cases – those are things that have tremendous impact on the lives of offenders and of victims," he said. "If we have people that don't have experience that are put in the position to be making those decisions and they're not doing a good job with it, that impacts everyone in the community."

Public defender shortage

The problems plaguing prosecutors mirror those of the SPD office. Earlier this year, state public defender Kelli Thompson told WisPolitics that the state had a backlog of about 35,000 cases that will take years to get through due to the shortage of public defenders. SPD legislative liaison Adam Plotkin estimated the backlog is about 15,000 cases.

Plotkin said that pre-pandemic, the statewide turnover for public defenders was about 10% to 12%. That turnover has now jumped to about 20%. There are also fewer private attorneys accepting cases for the SPD, he said.

The office has created a centralized unit to help make appointment calls to private bar attorneys. They've hired temporary support staff to make calls and help attorneys prepare their cases.

"At this point everyone in the agency, including the state public defender herself, is making calls to try and find private bar attorneys," Plotkin said.

The office is also moving positions around the state to deal with particular problem areas, but there are limitations to that.

"You're sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul, so you may fix a problem in one part of the state but create a problem in another," Plotkin said.

When the prosecutors office received ARPA funds from the state earlier this year, the SPD office also received \$5.5 million for the statewide public defender shortage. Plotkin said the increased resources are a step in the right direction, but the office is still having a difficult time hiring attorneys.

"We have been able to make use of the resources, so that's helping, and we're starting to see some of the glimmers of the first signs of things going the other way," he said.

Even still, he said the only way to truly deal with the shortage is for the state Legislature to fund pay increases for public defenders.

Follow the money

County prosecutors and public defenders are employees of Wisconsin, with sala-

ries set by the state. Both public defender and assistant district attorney positions in Wisconsin start at \$26.70 per hour, which is about \$55,000 per year based on a 52-week work year.

Although there have been times when the state prosecutors and public defenders offices have authorized hiring at a wage greater than the minimum, they often don't have the funding to do it. The low entry wages are considered a barrier to attracting and keeping prosecutors and public defenders, who are often saddled with hefty law school debt.

In advance of the state budget next year, both the prosecutors and SPD offices are requesting an increase in resources. Both agencies are asking for starting attorney and prosecutor pay to be increased to \$35 per hour, along with an increase in current employees' pay at or above that level. The agencies are also requesting full funding of a merit pay system to increase attorney and prosecutor pay.

The SPD compensates private bar attorneys at \$70 per hour to represent indigent defendants, which Plotkin said is far below the market rate.

The federal public defenders office pays private bar attorneys about \$150 per hour. Court appointed attorneys are paid \$100 per hour. The SPD is asking for the private attorney rate to be raised to \$100 for out-of-court work and \$125 per hour for time spent in court.

Justice denied

A lawsuit filed in Brown County earlier this year on behalf of eight parties challenges whether it's constitutional for legal aid to be delayed for low-income defendants. Five of the parties have been incarcerated for up to a year while awaiting a court-appointed attorney.

Sparr said the delays in the state's criminal justice system become even more problematic when they impact people who are ultimately not guilty or incarcerated on less serious offenses.

"The system has failed to provide representation for people that are supposed to have it and they're entitled to it, and it's resulted in them staying in jail when they shouldn't," he said.

Plotkin said even short stays in custody pretrial affect the defendant, their family and the community.

"The system-wide lack of resources has a direct impact on public safety and the work that we're doing here is a core constitutional responsibility of the state government," he said.

When it comes to local impact, Sparr said the Roy murder case is a perfect example of a system that isn't adequately funded.

"There's the saying that justice delayed is justice denied and there's a lot of truth to that," he said. "The longer it takes to get cases into the system, the less effective the system is."

Election results

FROM PAGE 1

Winnebago County voters also confirmed another term for Sheriff John Matz, who ran unopposed as a Republican.

Republican U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman won his fifth term representing the 6th Dis-

trict in Congress with no Democratic opposition. In other statewide races, Attorney General Josh Kaul and Secretary of State Doug La Follette both narrowly retained their seats as Democrats while Republican candidate John Leiber edged Aaron Richardson to win the state treasurer position vacated by Sarah Godlewski, a Democrat who had pursued the nomination for governor.

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Calendar of events

Friday, Nov. 11

- Veterans Day commemoration, 10:30 a.m., Shattuck Park
- Veterans Day celebration, 1:30 p.m., Neenah High School's Pickard Auditorium
- Meditation sessions with Zen River

Sangha, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Bollywood Dance After Dark, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Sunday, Nov. 20

Red Door Mercantile Fresh Christmas Greens Pop Up, 10 a.m., Red Door Mercantile, 130 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Wednesday, Nov. 23

Thanksgiving Eve, 5 p.m., Ground Round Grill and Bar

Sunday, Nov. 27

Sunday Concert Series with Stuck on Blue, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Neenah sending six events to state swim meet

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

There is a tradition of producing talented swimmers and divers at Neenah High School, so when the Rockets qualified just one relay for last year's state meet, it was definitely an unusual occurrence.

Things are more normal this season.

Neenah will be sending seven swimmers in six events – four individual events and two relays – to compete Saturday at the Waukesha South Natatorium as the Rockets once again showcase just what type of a program they have.

"My sister used to be a Rocket, so I grew up around (the program). I watched them as a little kid and now I'm experiencing it," said junior Naomi Cortina. "(Coach Carrie) Raeth always talks about the Rockets who came before us and being like them, so it's really cool to be a part (of that tradition)."

Junior Emma Bottensek, who swam on Neenah's state relay last year along with Cortina, Rylie Bauman and Alliyah Lima, agreed that it's a much better feeling being able to take more swimmers and compete in more events.

"We have a big group going, more than we usually do, and more events than we usually do, so we will see what we can do," Bottensek said. "It feels good. I'm very proud of my team."

Raeth was certainly pleased with her team's performance at the sectional meet last Saturday in Neenah, which produced the qualifiers.

The Rockets finished second overall – trailing only state powerhouse Appleton North – after placing fifth at the same



The contingent heading to the WIAA Division 1 state swim meet this Saturday from Neenah consists of (front, from left) Emma Bottensek, Naomi Cortina, Rylie Bauman; (back, from left) Rachel Frank, Alliyah Lima, Anna Mulroy and Kacie Stamm.

meet last season.

"We were very happy with the way sectionals ended up and to get to advance two relays down there and then four individual races is great," Raeth said. "We are very excited to have a lot of races and see what we can do with a lot of races."

Cortina headlines the group, having posted a pair of sectional titles to advance in two individual events. She will swim in the 200-yard freestyle first before later taking to the pool in the 100-yard freestyle.

Many swimmers would have their confidence boosted by a pair of sectional

wins, but Cortina said she is trying to stay humble and not rely on how she swam last Saturday.

"It was really nice at sectionals, but I'm not really taking it with me or carrying it with me going to state," Cortina said. "I don't want to come off too confident and not be ready to go. I just want to do my best."

Unlike many swimmers this time of year who are tapering down their yardage during practice, with two individual races and two relays on Saturday, Cortina said she plans to amp things up a little bit in order to get prepared.

"I think I will have to increase my yardage so I don't get out of shape over the next week," Cortina said. "Last year, how I did wasn't as big of a deal. I was still trying to do my best and do my best for my team, but I was just trying to enjoy the experience and enjoy the moment. I definitely want to do that this year, too, because state is such a cool environment, but I think there will be a little more pressure on the swimming side."

Bottensek and Bauman also will be competing as individuals, with Bottensek swimming the 100-yard backstroke and Bauman having qualified in the 50-yard freestyle.

Bottensek finished second at the sectional meet – less than two-tenths of a second behind the winner – and had to wait to find out if she was one of the at-large qualifiers. Now that she is going, it's just a matter of how high she can climb in the standings.

"I was pretty sure that I would make it when I saw my time," Bottensek said. "I'm real excited for it. I can't wait to see what I can do."

Bauman also had to wait to find out for sure, but after finishing second at sectionals she was a strong contender to advance.

The runner-up finish at sectionals was not a surprise for the sophomore – that's

where she was seeded entering the race – but she was happy to finish ahead of some top competitors to earn the spot and advance to state.

"I beat a couple of people I wasn't expecting to, so I was really proud of myself," Bauman said. "I'm hoping to still drop some more time this weekend."

The 50-yard freestyle is the shortest race of a swim meet and can create wild finishes as swimmers are often touching the wall to end the race at the same time.

Among the 28 qualifiers in the Division 1 50-yard freestyle, the entire field is separated by a little more than two seconds. The final 16 qualifiers, which includes Bauman, have a span of nine-tenths of a second among their sectional times.

"It is real competitive. Everyone is right with you the whole way so anything you can do to just get that little bit faster, everything helps. It's kind of exhilarating," Bauman said. "For me, it's just to do my best, maybe drop a little more time and then be there for my teammates. Make sure we are having a good time while we are there."

Neenah will be swimming in both the 200-yard freestyle relay and 400-yard freestyle relay, after the Rockets finished third at sectionals in each event.

Bauman, Bottensek, sophomore Kacie Stamm and Cortina made up the 200-yard freestyle relay at sectionals, while Cortina, freshman Anna Mulroy, Lima and Bottensek were on the 400-yard freestyle team.

Raeth said she was confident the teams would advance after seeing how they finished but she wasn't absolutely sure until all of the sectional results were in.

"We did know what times went last year so we had some idea, but it is still a little nerve-racking. We were counting a lot of races on Saturday and we are happy to have the two advance," Raeth said. "Our goal would be to finish in the top 16 – that scores points at state – so that would be huge."

In addition to the state qualifiers, Neenah had a number of other strong finishes at the sectional meet.

Bottensek narrowly missed advancing in a second individual event after taking third in the 100-yard butterfly, while the Neenah 200-yard medley relay team of Lima, Bauman, Stamm and Mulroy finished fourth at the sectional.

Adding fifth-place finishes were Bauman in the 100-yard freestyle and Lima in the 100-yard backstroke, while Stamm was sixth in the 100-yard backstroke and Hannah Slabbert took sixth in the diving competition.

Other top-10 finishes for the Rockets were Cecilia Pirwitz, eighth in diving; Mulroy, eighth in the 50-yard freestyle and ninth in the 100-yard freestyle; Lima, eighth in the 100-yard butterfly; Rachel Frank, 10th in the 200-yard freestyle; and Stamm, 10th in the 100-yard butterfly.

The Division 1 state meet will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with the diving competition, while the swimming portion of the state meet is slated to start at 2:30 p.m.

Spring Road students win marathon challenge

Spring Road Elementary School won the Fox Cities Marathon School Challenge for medium-sized schools for the number of students participating in the Fox Cities 5K event in September. The school received \$750 from race director Julie Johnson that will be used toward health and wellness activities.

About 25 students participated in the school's running club this year with most taking part in the 5K event. Awards are

presented to schools in the Fox Cities with the highest number of participants in the events.

Additionally, the Neenah Joint School District placed third in the Amcor Business Challenge for the number of staff members who participated in the weekend events.

The district was part of Division 2 for all organizations with between 500 and 1,000 employees.

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Neenah, St. Mary Catholic again eye successful seasons

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

It's the first thing that comes up when the topic of Neenah High School girls basketball is broached.

Allie Ziebell is darn good.

The junior is one of the top girls basketball players in the nation after averaging more than 30 points per game last season, while shooting 55 percent from the floor and nearly 47 percent from 3-point range. She also led the Rockets

Girls basketball PREVIEW

in assists and steals and was second in rebounding. As impressive as all of those numbers are, head coach Andy Braunel expects his star wing player to be even better this season.

"Defense," Braunel said about where Ziebell has improved the most entering this year. "As a freshman, we knew she could score and handle the ball but we had to hide her at times on defense. Last year, we didn't have to hide her but we had to watch her matchup because we needed her on the floor. And this year, she wants to guard the other team's best player."

Braunel said Ziebell has also worked on moving without the ball as opponents continue to focus on getting the ball out of her hands.

"She has really embraced the need to work off the ball to get open," Braunel said. "Teams aren't going to let her just bring the ball up and make a play. We will have to get her moving off the ball a lot more."

With a player of Ziebell's talent, Braunel is also conscience of the team relying

too much on their star player as well as Ziebell trying to do too much at times.

Although that can be an issue with some standout players, neither was an issue for the Rockets last year and Braunel doesn't believe it will affect this year's squad either.

"They were very good about looking for Allie, but not forcing to Allie," Braunel said. "Throughout the year, if you look at the games where we played well, we had a good balance of that. And Allie is so unselfish, she makes it easy."

As good as Ziebell is, she is hardly the only weapon the Rockets will feature.

Senior Ava Kok will be a backcourt mate to Ziebell after a strong junior season. Kok averaged nearly 11 points per game and took some big shots for the Rockets when called upon.

"She doesn't back away from the moment. That girl has no fear," Braunel said. "She is a very good shooter who can also get to the basket off the dribble and she is a solid defender as well."

Another key returning player will be junior Amaya Jones, who put up seven points per game a year ago, while leading the conference in rebounding.

Despite her success, Jones struggled finishing near the basket in traffic last year, according to Braunel, but that is something the 6-foot-1 player should be improved on this season.

"She's a kid we are going to look to for big things this year," Braunel said. "She knows that she has to improve on that and that's something we have been working on. If she can finish more, that's going to be tough on defenses. When you have that inside presence with the shooters we have, that can be tough."

That trio will form the foundation the Rockets will build upon this season while Neenah welcomes a new member that will likely join the starting group.

Sammie Buss averaged 11 points per game a year ago while leading Xavier to a Bay Conference title and is expected to fill one of the starting spots.

The remaining starting position was slated to go to senior Shelby Roth, but a summer knee injury will sideline her for the season, leaving the door open for someone to step in. Braunel just isn't sure who that will be just yet.

"We are looking at 16 or 17 varsity players. Deciding on the roster is going to be tough and it's not from a lack of talent," Braunel said. "It's a good problem to have but it means you do have a problem."

Zephyrs once again look to be good

It's not the goal to be competitive in a traditionally strong conference or to finish among the top teams in the league.

For Jeff Chew and the St. Mary Catholic girls basketball team, it's about collecting all the hardware it can every year, and entering the 2022-23 season, the Zephyrs' focus isn't about to change.

"We have the goal every year to win conference and to move on to be regional and sectional champs," Chew said. "Our goals haven't really changed and we're looking to meet those goals again this year."

And the target that lands on the backs of the defending champion? Chew said to just leave it there.

"We enjoy having that target," Chew said. "I think it's an expectation that's

been set here and they buy into it. It's not cockiness, just the expectation of being good and having the understanding of what it takes in putting in time and effort toward getting better."

The Zephyrs certainly enter the season with plenty to build around.

Leading the way is senior Chloe Vogel, who was the second-leading scorer in the conference last season averaging 16 points per game. The returning first-team all-conference selection also led the team in rebounding, ranked second in steals and third in assists.

Chew said that as much as Vogel will again be able to showcase her skills on the court, he is also excited about an added role she has taken on.

"The biggest thing is that she has taken on the leadership role. She has stepped up and is leading the team, not only by example, but by helping and coaching and getting new people to understand what we are trying to accomplish," Chew said. "Along with Sienna Anderson and Audrey Norville, those three have done a good job with the younger players."

Both Norville – an honorable mention all-conference selection last year – and Anderson were starters for the Zephyrs last season and are expected to return to the starting lineup this season. Sophomore Emily Vogel, who played a key role off the bench last season, is also expected to join the starting group.

Rounding out the Zephyrs' top five – as well as who will be getting key minutes off the bench – is something Chew has yet to figure out.

"We have four talented players coming

SEE **Girls basketball** ON PAGE 11



Girls Varsity Basketball

Winter 2022-2023 Schedule





ST. MARY CATHOLIC

Nov 15	@ Bonduel	7:15pm
Nov 17	Winneconne	7:15pm
Nov 22	@ Mishicot	7:15pm
Nov 28	@ Pacelli	7:15pm
Dec 1	Ozaukee	7:15pm
Dec 6	@ Oostburg	7:15pm
Dec 9	ElkhartLake/Glenbeulah	7:15pm
Dec 13	Hilbert	7:15pm
Dec 16	@ Manitowoc Lutheran	7:15pm
Dec 20	Howards Grove	7:15pm
Dec 29	Coleman	7:00pm
Jan 3	@ Reedsville	6:30pm
Jan 10	Sheboygan Christian	7:15pm
Jan 13	Mishicot	7:15pm
Jan 17	Lourdes Academy	7:15pm
Jan 19	@ Elkhart Lake/Glenbeulah	7:15pm
Jan 24	@ Cedar Grove/ Belgium	7:15pm
Jan 27	@ Random Lake	7:15pm
Jan 31	Sheboygan Area Lutheran	7:15pm
Feb 3	@ Howards Grove	7:15pm
Feb 7	@ Kohler	7:15pm
Feb 9	Manitowoc Lutheran	7:15pm
Feb 13	Reedsville	6:30pm
Feb 16	@ Hilbert	7:15pm



NEENAH

Nov 18	@ Stevens Point	7:15pm
Nov 22	@ Wausau West	7:15pm
Nov 29	@ Fond du Lac	7:30pm
Dec 2	Appleton East	7:30pm
Dec 9	@ Appleton North	7:30pm
Dec 8	@ Hortonville	7:30pm
Dec 13	@ Appleton West	7:30pm
Dec 16	Oshkosh West	7:30pm
Dec 20	Bay Port	7:30pm
Dec 23	@ Hortonville	7:30pm
Dec 29	Green Bay Southwest	7:30pm
Jan 3	Kimberly	7:30pm
Jan 6	@ Oshkosh North	7:30pm
Jan 10	@ Kaukauna	7:30pm
Jan 13	Fond du Lac	7:30pm
Jan 17	Marshfield	7:30pm
Jan 20	@ Appleton East	7:30pm
Jan 24	Kaukauna	7:30pm
Jan 27	Appleton North	7:30pm
Jan 31	@ Oshkosh West	7:30pm
Feb 2	Appleton West	7:30pm
Feb 7	@ Kimberly	7:30pm
Feb 10	Hortonville	7:30pm
Feb 16	Oshkosh North	7:30pm

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All conference roundup

FOOTBALL

Four Rockets earn first-team all-FVA honors

Four members of the Fox Valley Association co-champion Neenah High School football team garnered first-team all-conference honors, it was announced by the league.

Three Rockets were named to the first-team offense, including a pair of unanimous selections in senior running back Jase Jenkins and senior offensive lineman Blake Dietzen. Jenkins, who rushed for nearly 1,500 yards this season, was named to the first team for the second straight season.

Junior tight end Luke Keller joined the duo on the first team as the lone tight end on the first team.

Defensively, senior Darius Jones Jr., the Rockets' second-leading tackler, was named to the first-team defense at the outside linebacker position.

Head coach Steve Jung was also honored by the conference earning Coach of the Year honors in the league.

Neenah had seven players garner second-team honors.

On offense, sophomore quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven and junior offensive lineman Nate Cleveland were tabbed to the second team, while the defense had senior defensive lineman Eric Schaufelberger, senior inside linebacker Trevor McGinnis and senior cornerback Coy Rajotte.

Jones at punter and sophomore Grant Dean as a return specialist rounded out the second-team selections.

Earning honorable recognition for the Rockets were senior offensive lineman Lawrence Riehl, senior receiver Jackson Schломann, senior defensive lineman Kyle Schultz, junior outside linebacker Connor Briones, senior cornerback Jack Zemlock and Dean at safety.

Kaukauna senior Noah Hoffman was named the Offensive Player of the Year

and the Offensive Back of the Year. The other offensive honors went to Kimberly senior Ethan Criter as Receiver of the Year and senior Ben Youngworth as Offensive Lineman of the Year.

The league named co-Defensive Players of the Year in Appleton North junior Brock Arndt and Kimberly senior Ethan Doucette and both shared Linebacker of the Year honors as well. Appleton North senior Cal Hansen was named Defensive Lineman of the year and teammate Brock Salm, a senior, was named the Defensive Back of the Year.

Zephyrs fill 13 first-team all-league spots

Sam Todd and Ashton Post each garnered top honors from the Ridge & Valley East Conference as conference champion St. Mary Catholic dominated all-conference teams, filling 13 of the 24 first-team spots.

Todd was named Player of the Year in the conference, while also picking up Defensive Player of the Year honors, after posting 14.5 sacks, 38 tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries and an interception this season. Post, who ran for 1,155 yards and 21 touchdowns this season, was named the league's Offensive Player of the Year.

Senior Charlie Nackers was the lone player named to multiple first-team positions earning the nod as an offensive utility player and as a defensive back.

Senior quarterback Danny Griffin earned his second straight first-team nod at quarterback and was joined on the offense by Post, senior center Dane Anderson and senior offensive linemen Nick Berg and John Romnek.

On defense, Todd, senior defensive end Dylan Harness, senior linebacker Owen Swanstrom, junior linebacker John Schulz and senior defensive back Jason Kroll were all first-team selections.

Junior kicker AJ Groppe was also selected to the first team.

Earning second-team honors for the Zephyrs were senior wide receiver Atticus Johnson and senior defensive lineman Conner Riehl.

Swanstrom and senior Nick Berg were named to the conference's All-Sportsmanship Team.

Oakfield's Noah Holzman was named the Lineman of the Year, while the Oaks had the Coach of the Year in Corey Rickett and Assistant Coach of the Year in Aaron Schepp.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Merizon, Corso honored by FVA

A pair of Neenah Rockets earned all-conference recognition from the Fox Valley Association.

Senior Marissa Corso and junior Claudia Merizon each landed on the honorable mention list for the all-conference teams. Corso led the Rockets with 204 kills this season, while Merizon ranked second on the team in assists (341) and aces (59) and was third on the team in kills (135).

Appleton North junior Ella Demetrian was named the conference's Player of the Year and Kimberly's Nate Leitermann was named Coach of the Year.

Five Zephyrs garner all-Big East honors

Five members of the St. Mary Catholic volleyball team were named on the all-conference lists for the Big East Red Division.

Leading the way for the Zephyrs were junior Lauren Fischer and sophomore Eliana Brenn, who were both unanimous first-team selections. Fisher led the team in kills (170) and digs (162), while Brenn was second on the team in kills (123) and led the team in blocks (27).

Second-team honors went to juniors Audrey Norville and Rhiannon Reichenbacher, while senior Katie Laemmrich

was named to the honorable mention list.

Saige Damrow of Howards Grove was named Player of the Year in the conference.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Harmon headlines quartet of honorees

Senior middle blocker Noah Harmon led four Neenah players on the all-conference lists by landing on the first team. Harmon led the Rockets with 240 kills and 80 blocks this season.

The other three Neenah players recognized were all on the honorable mention list. Seniors Chip Calcaterra, Luke Abing and JJ Schalk each picked up the honors. Calcaterra is a middle blocker, while Abing was the team's libero and Schalk was a defensive specialist.

Appleton North middle blocker Gavin Tate was named the league's Player of the Year.

SOCCER

Six Rockets garner all-FVA recognition

A total of six members of the Neenah High School soccer team received all-conference recognition from the Fox Valley Association, including three who landed on the first team.

Senior defender Nolan Hessenthaler topped the list by being named to the first team as a unanimous selection. Fellow senior defender Joe Kaiser and junior forward Blake Rhodes also earned spots on the first team.

Senior midfielders Sawyer Hopfensperger and Ethan Fraser were named to the second team, while junior midfielder Alex Thayer earned honorable mention honors.

Oshkosh West's Camden Herlihy was named Player of the Year in the conference, while the Wildcats' Matt Callahan was named Coach of the Year.

SEE **All conference** ON PAGE 11

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All conference

FROM PAGE 10

Groppe leads Zephyrs' Big East selections

Junior AJ Groppe was a unanimous first-team selection on the all Big-East soccer team, leading a quartet of honorees from St. Mary Catholic. Groppe, one of two juniors named to the 11-member first team, finished with 16 goals and 14 assists.

The Zephyrs had a pair of second-team selections in junior Will Lawniczak and sophomore Kieran Barrientos, while senior Emiliano Romero was an honorable mention selection.

Sheboygan Christian/Lutheran's Caleb Hendrikse was named the Offensive Player of the Year, while teammate Tony Schmitz was named Defensive Player of the Year.

CROSS COUNTRY

Rockets well represented on all-FVA teams

Neenah had the majority of both its girls and boys teams garner all-FVA recognition. The honors were based on the results of the conference meet.

For the girls, the Rockets had three runners earn first-team accolades in sophomore Mazie Olkowski, senior Lauren Tears and freshman Natalie Willes. Junior Lexi Dorner rounded out the honorees for the Rocket girls by earning a spot on the second team.

On the boys, seniors Jack Dorner, Carson Timm and Ian Cowell all earned first-team honors for the Rockets, while senior Drew Gentile, junior Wyatt Armock and sophomore Braedy Klawikowski garnered second-team accolades.

Kaukauna sophomore McKenna Lowe was the Runner of the Year in the conference, while the Ghosts' Kelly Kinas was the Coach of the Year for the girls. Kaukauna senior Aaron Schimke was the Boys Runner of the Year, while Neenah's John Morgen was the Boys Coach of the Year.

Dinka, Marti lead Zephyr runners on All-Big East list

Addison Dinka and Maria Marti each earned a spot on the all-Big East Conference first team to lead the the Zephyrs.

Katharine Schoeni also earned accolades, finishing on the second team.

For the boys, four runners received honorable mention honors in Ben Schoeni, AJ Groppe, Nathan Seiske and Ian Albino.

SWIMMING

Neenah led by four first-team honorees

The Rockets had swimmers first-team

honors in three events on the FVA's all-conference lists.

Junior Emma Bottensek in the 100-yard backstroke and Rylie Bauman in the 50-yard freestyle, while Bottensek, juniors Naomi Cortina and Alliyah Lima and freshman Anna Mulroy were honored for the 40-yard freestyle relay.

Second-team honors went to Bottensek in the 100-yard butterfly, Cortina in the 100-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle relay foursome of Bauman, Bottensek, Cortina and sophomore Kacie Stamm.

For honorable mention, Bauman and Lima earned the honors for the 100-yard butterfly, while Bauman, Lima, Mulroy and Stamm earned honorable mention honors for the 200-yard freestyle.

Senior Emily Ostermann of Appleton West/Kimberly was the Diver of the Year in the conference, while Appleton North junior Allison Greenway was Swimmer of the Year. The Lightning's Jamie Schnurer was named Coach of the Year.

TENNIS

Rockets help fill out all-conference teams

Three singles players and a pair of doubles teams were honored by the FVA.

Sophomore Izzy Murray at No. 2 singles and freshmen Ava Motto and Celia Alexander at No. 3 doubles were part of the first team, while sophomore Meredith Werner at No. 3 singles and seniors Gabby Hackbarth and Sophie Hodek at No. 2 doubles were on the second team.

Sophomore Norah Spanbauer at No. 4 singles was on the honorable mention list.

Zephyrs land six flights on all-conference teams

St. Mary Catholic's conference-championship tennis team was well represented on the all-conference list.

State qualifiers Adel Schneider and the doubles team of Eva Schneider and Olivia Bergstrom were the Zephyrs first-team representatives.

Singles players Vanessa Thiede and Kassadi Clames earned spots on the second team, while the doubles teams of Chloe and Emily Vogel and Lily Hansen and Bryn Korth garnered honorable mention honors.

GOLF

Anderson, Buss lead Rockets' honorees

Seniors Dawson Anderson and Emma Buss each earned honors on the second team on the all-FVA lists.

The Rockets also had three honorable mention honorees in juniors Natalie Quella, Aubrey Oitzinger and senior Amber Miller.

The all-conference teams were based on points accumulated during the season.

St. Mary Catholic averaged nearly 67 points per game last year and scored at least 70 points 11 times. Chew believes this group will again have the potential to have that kind of production.

"We attack the basket well and this year I'm expecting us to shoot the 3-ball well again," he said. "We have aggressive players going to the hoop, attacking the basket, and then hopefully we will make that one extra pass when needed or finish off the drives."

Waterfowl hunting tips offered as season opens

With more than 74,000 waterfowl hunters expected on waterways this year, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is promoting best safety practices as they hit the water. Wisconsin has had 17 boating accident deaths so far this year, according to DNR records.

Here are some safety tips:

- Be aware that water temperatures are rapidly cooling at this time of year. A fall overboard can turn dangerous quickly as hypothermia sets in. Wearing a life jacket can keep individuals on the surface and allow energy to be used to keep warm rather than to stay above the water.

- Remember to protect canine companions on the water – they need life jackets, too.

- Never overload the boat. If hunting on a large river or lake, use a boat that is big enough to handle rough water.

- Balance the boat evenly and keep weight low for stability.

- Be on the lookout for elements outside of your control, such as changing weather, or a slightly submerged stump, rock, sandbar or floating debris.

- If in a boat or canoe with a hunting partner, establish and communicate a safe fire zone; do not stand to shoot if a partner is shooting from a seated position.

- Always carry a cellphone so communication can happen in case of an emergency.

"With hunting dogs on board or other weather-related challenges, a boat can capsize, and things can take a turn for the worse quickly," said Lt. Darren Kuhn, DNR boating safety administrator. "No matter the skill level or years of hunting, waterfowl hunters should always wear their life jackets."

Obituaries

Kimberly A. Vander Wyst

September 3, 1985 ~ October 30, 2022 (age 37)



Kimberly A. Vander Wyst age 37 of Neenah passed away unexpectedly at home October 30th, 2022. She was born September 3rd, 1985, to Dianne Wittwer and Leonard Vander Wyst. Kim grew up in Appleton and graduated from Appleton West Class of 2004. Kim was employed by the City of Neenah, working in the Park and Recs Department since 2009.

Kim had a great love for her pets. Her cats Marley, Nemo, Monkey, and the recent addition to the pet family a rescue

dog named Mable.

Kim was a loving daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece and friend. Kim is survived by the love of her life David Meinke. Mother Dianne, Father Leonard (Alice), brother Justin (Abby) and their children Annie, Lucy, and Maggie. Stepsister Alissa (Steve) Walsh and their children Hannah, Ruthie, and Jacob. Stepbrother Landon (Morgan) Leitzke. Grandmother Susan Wittwer along with many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Kim lived a simple life. To know her was to love her. A Memorial Service for Kim will be held November 12th, 2022, at Valley Funeral Home 2211 N Richmond St, Appleton. Visitation will be from 12:00pm to 3:00pm with a short service to follow.

A Memorial Fund has been established.

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Girls basketball

FROM PAGE 9

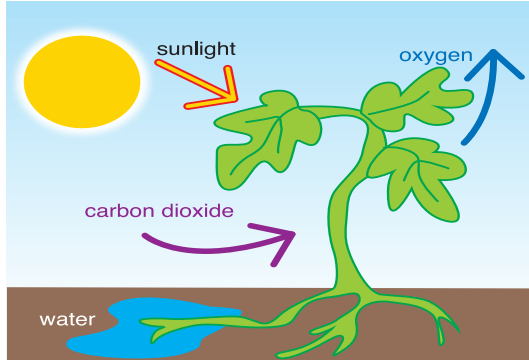
back from last year and so right now we are looking for the next four," Chew said. "We have a lot of talented sophomores in the mix and so we will be looking at those people to step into important roles."

One of the keys to the Zephyrs success has been their ability to succeed on the offensive end.

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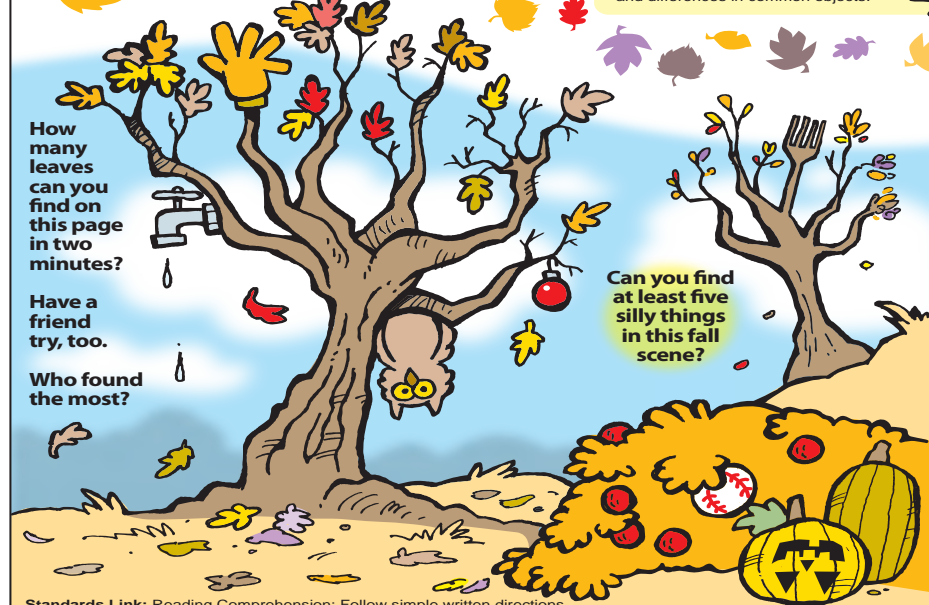
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 R Why do leaves change color in the fall? D
 J L



It's Not Easy Staying Green
 Plants make food in a process called **photosynthesis**. During summer, plants take water up from their roots to their leaves. They absorb **carbon dioxide** from the air. These combine to make **chlorophyll** which makes plant leaves green.
 Photosynthesis slows in fall as winter approaches. Trees and plants live off their stored food. The green chlorophyll disappears leaving red, orange and yellow leaves. The dry, brittle leaves soon drop from trees with the help of crisp autumn breezes.

When the rain comes down, what goes up?
 Find the answer in the fall leaf border! Start here. Then read every other letter as you move clockwise around the border.
 Y

Lookalike Leaves
 All of the leaves at right have an identical twin—**except one**. Can you find it?
 Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.



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Fall Syllables
 Find words in the newspaper that have the same number of syllables as the fall words below. Paste each word on the picture with the matching number of syllables.
 Leaf Acorn
 Harvested Jack o' lantern
 Standards Link: Decoding and Word Recognition: Decode regular multi-syllabic words.

Kid Scoop Puzzler
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 Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search
 Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?
 LEAVES WATER SYLLABLES CARBON SEASON WINTER SCENE BORDER CRISP ACORN GREEN DISAPPEAR ROOTS FALL DAYS
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 Y S E L B A L L Y S
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 G O O F V T A N C T
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 E N E C S W G E R I
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 N R A E P P A S I D
 Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together: FALL WORD GAME
 Each row of squares below has the letters of a word that can be found on this page. Read today's *Kid Scoop* page and then try to unscramble them all.
 1 - 3: Junior Hiker
 4 - 7: Botanist
 8 - 10: Dendrologist (Tree scientist)

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 G R O N E A
 T H U S L I G N
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 M U A U N T
 Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level words correctly.

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