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Chrissy Goethel is site director for the Fox Valley Community Table.

Photo by Patti Lee

## Tax district review notes gains

### City's TIF areas continue to spark more value

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council discussed tax and business improvement districts earlier this month during a Committee of the Whole meeting that confirmed the city's successful use of the development tool.

Tax incremental financing (TIF) is an economic development program used by municipalities. The community administers the tax incremental district (TID), which is composed of parcels in need of development or redevelopment.

Overlapping taxing entities – the city, school district, county and technical college district – collect tax revenue on the base value of the properties within the TID and the surplus tax revenue that is accrued goes to a TID fund rather than to the overlapping taxing jurisdictions.

To better explain how TIFs work, the Neenah website uses the example of a large open property that is assessed at \$100,000. The city invests \$1 million in roads, sewers and development to facilitate commercial development with an assessed value of \$10 million.

The property taxes paid on the \$10 million new increment is used to pay off the city's initial \$1 million investment. After the borrowing costs, the taxes generated are shared with the school district, county and technical college.

Baird managing director Bradley Viegut outlined the 2022 Tax Incremental District Analyses and Report at the meeting.

Neenah has eight existing TIDs, with

SEE **Community table** ON PAGE 7

SEE **TIF district** ON PAGE 14

## INSIDE



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## Meal programs serve community in big way

By Patti Lee  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

It has often been said that there's no such thing as a free lunch. That's definitely not the case in the Neenah-Menasha area.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers, corporations and local churches, area residents have access to hot, nutritious food and the warmth of fellowship and conversation.

Founded in 1991, the Fox Valley Community Table (FVCT) is housed – since

1997 – in St. Paul Lutheran Church at 200 N. Commercial St.

"It was a great place for us to land," said board member Helen Kurka.

That would be an understatement, since the facility includes a huge commercial kitchen sandwiched between two dining areas, and a second kitchen with even more stoves, creating the ability to serve as many meals as are needed. It even has an elevator in the back for those

## Passion for playing fuels local guitarist's long career

### Bobby Evans celebrates music, family balance

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

On most nights, you can hear Bobby Evans' gravelly voice, accompanied by the twang of his guitar, at any number of local dives in the Fox Valley and beyond.

He grew up around music. His dad was president of the musician's union. Evans wanted to be a priest, until one day in fourth grade he was watching "The Ed Sullivan Show" when The Beatles came on.

"I saw the Beatles and I thought, 'Oh boy, that's it,'" he said. "Then I got a guitar two weeks later and played my first gig between sixth and seventh grade and played every weekend through junior high and high school. It's what I always did."

He was repeatedly told that he couldn't

make a living as a musician. His high school guidance counselor told him his goal was not realistic.

"I said, 'Thousands of people do that in the world. You hear music everywhere you go. On the radio, on TV, in commercials and everywhere,'" Evans said.

"That's for a few," his counselor responded, to which Evans replied, "There's no reason I can't."

And he did; carving himself a career as a musician who has played thousands of shows, including Summerfest, Lambeau Field, Oktoberfest in Appleton and fairs in 49 Wisconsin counties.

Evans had a union job as a music page turner at a strip club while in high school, mainly because none of the other guys' wives would let them work at the club.

When Evans was 17, he attended a rock



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Bobby Evans (right) performs with other musicians last week at Lucky Dog's in Neenah.

SEE **Bobby Evans** ON PAGE 7

# Neenah News

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

### Publisher

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

### Editor

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

### Corrections

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

### About the newspaper

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# County purchases youth shelter

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved purchasing property for a shelter for troubled youth at its meeting Tuesday.

The property, at 2831 Harrison St. in Oshkosh, is currently owned by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and being operated as Winnebago County Shelter Care. It is listed for sale and the county was given the first option to purchase.

Last November, shelter services were temporarily suspended and the youth and staff had to go to Outagamie County. Shelter services have temporarily been restored but the county has until Jan. 1 to establish its own facility and program.

Human Resources director Bill Topel said if the county doesn't purchase the property, there will be no youth shelter care available. He said there are no other entities or counties willing to provide shelter care services to the county.

The county currently rents the building from LSS and has been in informal negotiations to purchase it. It is properly zoned, licensed and passed city inspection. The appraised value of the 9,320-square-foot, 16-bed property is \$850,000.

Topel wrote in an agenda item report that the building needs about \$150,000 of repairs to the roof, siding, parking lot and garage, and another \$150,000 to bring the building up to code as a public building. He worked with LSS to bring the asking price to \$700,000.

The total cost for the youth shelter with repairs is \$1 million. The board unanimously approved the purchase.

Topel said the property acquisition will allow the county to run the shelter care program for many years to come.

In other action, the board:

- Discussed authorizing a transfer of \$175,000 to the county executive's office for assistance with strategic planning and priority-based budgeting. According to the resolution, the county lacks direction on how to allocate and spend resources, with specific mention of American Rescue Plan Act funds. The board voted 25-10 in favor of approving the funds to be used for planning, consultants and other expenses.

- Appointed county coroner Cheryl Brehmer to be the first leader of the new medical examiner's office, which will be created Jan. 9.

- Voted to delay approving a social media policy for county employees based on the request of Supervisor Paul Eisen. Eisen asked that a special orders meeting be held to educate the board on the policy, followed by a vote.

- Voted to continue COVID hazard pay for employees at Park View Health Center in 2023 at a reduced rate. The staff is currently paid an additional \$10 per hour to maintain a safe environment for the residents. The board voted against a motion brought by Eisen to keep the COVID hazard pay rate at \$10 per hour in 2023, and instead passed a motion to reduce the rate to \$5 per hour starting Jan. 1.

- Voted 27-6 with two abstentions to add a county supervisor role description to the board's rules. The supervisor is required to participate in the process of debating and voting on proposed ordi-

nances, resolutions and motions, provide direction to the county's management, be responsive to the needs of the constituency and establish priorities for the delivery of county services through the annual budget and tax levy.

- Passed a resolution requesting the state review and revise its policy on foreign ownership of farmland. Wisconsin law currently allows for ownership of up to 640 acres of agricultural or forestry land per foreign company or foreign individual. According to the resolution, the board is asking the state to further limit the amount of state land foreign entities may own because they "routinely abuse human rights, violate international trade law and labor standards and seek to upend fair markets through state owned enterprises, monopolization or means that otherwise threaten food security and the Wisconsin family farming tradition."

- Approved a resolution brought by District 16 Supervisor Jacob Floam to ask the state to review and revise the entry-level compensation rate for assistant district attorneys in order to remain competitive with similar positions around the country and keep up with the rate of inflation. The entry-level compensation rate for assistant DAs is about \$55,000 per year, which is not competitive in today's workforce, accelerates staff turnover and endangers the public, according to the resolution. Floam wrote that the shortage of assistant DAs creates backups in the justice system, which can lengthen cases, create more pressure on existing staff and delay or deny justice to individuals party to these cases.

## Stormwater signs promote best practices

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance recently provided area private businesses throughout northeast Wisconsin with free educational stormwater signs for installation at stormwater ponds or biofilters on their properties.

The funding for the signs and accompanying stormwater education was provided to Fox-Wolf through a state Department of Natural Resources river planning grant. Stormwater ponds, sometimes referred

to as wet ponds or detention basins, help capture stormwater runoff, slow it down, allow sediment and pollution to settle out of the water, and then cleaner water is released into nearby lakes, rivers and streams. These ponds help reduce flooding, clean waterways and reduce erosion downstream caused by fast-moving runoff.

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance and Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium work to bring education and awareness to the public.

This project aims to build connections among municipalities, private stormwater Best Management Practice owners and the public. The signs were designed to educate residents on how these efforts function and how they work to send cleaner water to nearby lakes and rivers.



Submitted photo

Educational signs with information have been provided for ponds.

## NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Neenah, Wisconsin

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held in the Neenah Joint School District on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. The following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term of office for each school board member is three (3) years beginning on Monday, April 24, 2023.

The incumbents are: Tom Hanby  
Amy Morrissey  
Deborah Watry

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy, must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, in the office of the school district clerk. The office is located at 410 S. Commercial Street, Neenah, Wisconsin. Nomination papers may be circulated not sooner than December 1, 2022. Papers are available in the District Administrator's Office at the address listed above during regular office hours with the exception of those dates when the offices are closed because of the holiday season.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

A description of the school district boundaries may be accessed on the District's website at: [neenah.k12.wi.us](http://neenah.k12.wi.us)

Dated this 18th day of November, 2022.

Deborah Watry, Clerk  
Board of Education

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#### Classified Ad Deadline

Wed., 11/16 3pm

#### Obituary Deadline

Fri., 11/18 Noon

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### Neenah News Nov. 25th issue

#### Display Ad Deadline

Mon., 11/21 Noon

#### Classified Ad Deadline

Mon., 11/21 3pm

#### Obituary Deadline

Tues., 11/22 10am

124 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 090B  
920-486-1616

# Scrapped car still at issue in lawsuit against police

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A court trial next month will determine whether the Neenah Police Department is responsible for paying damages to a woman whose stolen vehicle ended up at a scrap yard.

The small claims lawsuit stems from a 2020 stolen vehicle report made by Jessica Williams of Oshkosh. Williams claims her husband purchased a 2004 Chrysler Pacifica that was stolen and sold while it was being repaired by a private party in Neenah.

Williams and her husband had not yet retitled the vehicle and it was still titled under the previous owner's name. On Dec. 20, 2020, authorities located the vehicle in a parking lot in Wisconsin Rapids. It was towed and impounded by Garry Wiskerchen of Garry's Towing.

According to the Wisconsin Towing

Association, tow yards must notify the owner of an impounded vehicle within 30 days. If the vehicle is not claimed, on day 61 the tow yard must send notice that they plan to sell the vehicle. On day 81, the vehicle may be sold at public or private sale.

Wiskerchen said he held the vehicle and sent two certified letters notifying the legal owner of the abandoned vehicle, but since the legal owner was the person Williams' husband purchased it from, the letters were mailed to that person.

After the waiting period, the vehicle was transported to a scrap yard. Wiskerchen estimated the scrap yard paid him about \$100 for it.

Williams sued Neenah police in small claims court, stating that she obtained a court order dated April 1, 2021, to have the vehicle released to her or her husband. She said when she called Garry's Towing to arrange to pick up the vehicle, she was

told that it was demolished. She is suing for just over \$9,000.

The case was scheduled for a Sept. 7 hearing. Court records indicate Williams, the Neenah Police Department and City Attorney David Rashid were not in court. Court Commissioner Eric Heywood entered a default judgment in favor of Williams.

Two days later, Heywood vacated the default judgment, noting that Neenah police submitted a written answer to the complaint, which was labeled wrong. The case was reopened and a mediation hearing was held Nov. 1.

The mediation hearing was unsuccessful and the parties were unable to come to an agreement. A trial conducted by a court commissioner is scheduled for Dec. 7.

Wiskerchen said the issue is that the vehicle was never legally titled in Williams' name.

"If anyone should be suing, it should be

the actual legal registered owner," he said. "I don't know how you sue someone for doing damage to someone's car when it wasn't even legally in her name."

Williams said Wiskerchen gave her a different story and told her that Neenah police were at fault because the vehicle was supposed to be held for evidence. She said Wiskerchen told her that Neenah police called and told him they weren't picking up the vehicle.

"You can't just demolish vehicles," she said. "You can't just say, 'We're not going to pick up the car anymore.'"

Wiskerchen said police do not collect and return stolen vehicles from other counties, they contact the legal owner who is responsible for recovering it.

"It's not their responsibility to go and get a vehicle," he said. "It's not like it was in a bank robbery and they have to go dust it for prints or something."

## Mentors honored with Bigs of Year awards

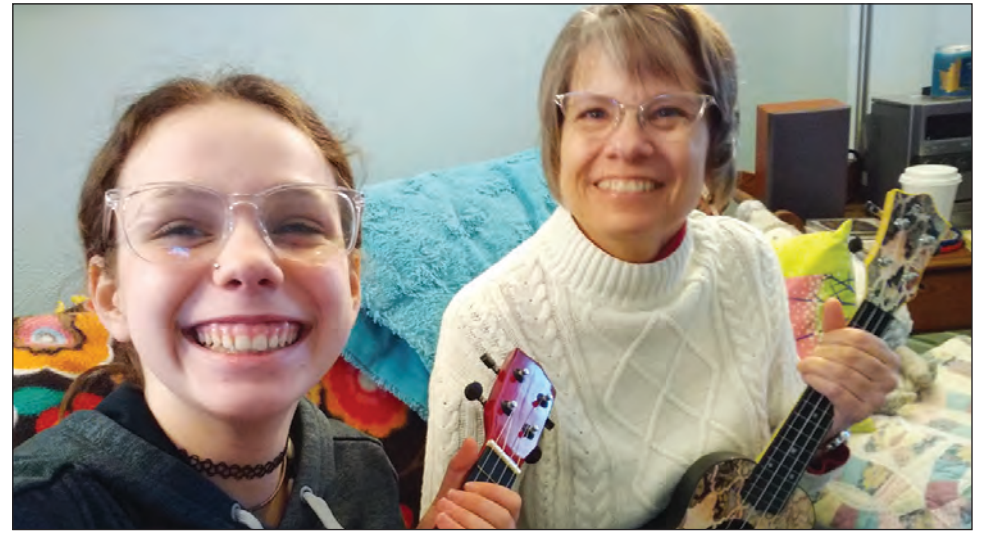
Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin (BBBS) recently announced 2022 Bigs of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award at its Dream Big Gala, including three volunteer mentors selected out of hundreds in the community.

The criteria used to select winners include an examination into their consistency, dedication and investment into the program. Honorees are nominated by BBBS staff members, and the winners are chosen by members of the BBBS board of directors.

Stan Redlin was given the Lifetime Achievement Award winner. He has mentored eight children and consistently lived out the BBBS mission to inspire, ignite and empower youth.

Anne Patterson was selected Big Sister of the Year. She has spent almost every Saturday for the past 10 years hanging out with her Little Sister Kaleah. Over the years their relationship grew to become one of caring and giving for one another and for others. Together they always are looking for ways to give back and brighten other people's days.

Rick Dennis was selected Big Brother of the Year. Matched for more than six years, he has been Ty's biggest fan and greatest supporter. Rick has always encouraged Ty to take school seriously and try new things, like joining an athletic team at school. Today, Ty plays on his school's football team and plans to attend college.



Submitted photo

Anne Patterson (right) has been hanging out with her Little Sister Kaleah for the past 10 years, where together they look for ways to give back and brighten others lives.

# Calendar of events

**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

**Thursday, Nov. 24**  
Thanksgiving Day meal, 11 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 S. Park Ave.

**Saturday, Nov. 26**  
Small Business Saturday

**Sunday, Nov. 27**  
Sunday Concert Series with Stuck on Blue, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

**Friday, Dec. 2**  
First Friday Concert Series with Erin Krebs and Jeff Johnston, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library  
A Very Neenah Christmas, 6 p.m., downtown Neenah

**Saturday, Dec. 3**  
Holiday Vendor & Craft Fair, 8 a.m., DoubleTree Neenah  
The Grinch Family Breakfast, 9 a.m., Washington Park shelter  
Museum Open House, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

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# FVTC driving student reflects on time in pro sports

By Carmelyn Daley-Hinkens  
FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

One can never predict where a conversation will lead while a truck driving student and a driver trainer are logging hundreds of miles behind the wheel.

"I never saw this coming," said Two Featherz Rake, Fox Valley Technical College driver trainer. "For the life of me, I would never have imagined learning this about one of our students here."

Who threw TwoFeatherz and her husband/fellow trainer, Keith Rake, for such a curveball? Meet Tommy Hawk, a student in the truck driving program and former MLB draft pick for the Milwaukee Brewers.

Hawk was sent to FVTC by his employer to train and obtain a Class B commercial driver's license (CDL), which was a requirement for his position with the city of Neenah. As part of this two-week full-time program, students drive more than 700 miles for their behind-the-wheel practice.

"When we're in the truck together, we know our students are nervous so we'll ask questions about their hobbies or what kind of work they did in the past," TwoFeatherz said. "We use the conversation to keep them calm while they practice their driving skills."

During one of those instructor prompts, Tommy shared a glimpse into his former life. In spring 2003, ready to graduate from a high school about 50 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, Calif., the Brewers organization took a shine to his pitching.

"I got drafted by the Brewers in the 17th round and I was picked 489th overall," Hawk said. "I already had a scholarship lined up to play in college so I had to decide



FVTC photo

Neenah city employee Tommy Hawk was a student in the FVTC truck driving program.

whether to play professional ball or play college ball and get a degree. I decided to play professional baseball because that is every boy's dream; it's everyone's goal to get to this point and I just wanted to get my foot in the door."

Once he signed a contract, Hawk knew there would be many hurdles as he tried to work his way through the five levels of the minors. While at extended spring training in 2004, the Beloit Snappers called his coach, looking for a pitcher and Hawk stepped foot in Wisconsin for the first time.

It was an exciting but brief stint for Hawk. While taking the mound for the Snappers, he suffered a serious elbow injury that re-

quired what is commonly known as Tommy John surgery. The goal of the procedure is to repair a torn ligament inside the elbow and rehabilitation from it usually takes about a year.

"It was 12 months of physical therapy before I could even throw a ball and unfortunately, the surgery did not work for me," Hawk explained. "Many players who have the surgery come back throwing even harder, but after I got healthy and started throwing again, my velocity was down and

I never fully recovered. There was nothing more I could have done. It happens."

Hawk returned to California, but family commitments brought him back to Wisconsin in 2015. He lives in Kaukauna and is raising his three children while he works for the city of Neenah. With one requirement of his job being to obtain a Class B CDL, Hawk completed his program at FVTC in late summer.

"I had never been to FVTC before and the experience was great," Hawk said. "I think I had five different instructors, plus the tester, and everyone was very knowledgeable. They would let you know when you were doing something wrong and how to do it right. They were just very knowledgeable in their field and knew how to teach others."

"We know that if we bring up a conversation about something they are passionate about, it will keep the student calm behind the wheel," TwoFeatherz shared. "It is very much part of the training process."

Little did Hawk know that in addition to hundreds of miles of driving, a trip down memory lane was also part of the program.

"I never lost interest in my past but it has been 20 years since I played, so it was nice to bring it back to light with the instructors," he said. "I don't think about it as much anymore, but then when I walk downstairs at home and I see my baseball jersey in the frame, it reminds me that it was a pretty cool experience."



Submitted photo

## Workplace praise

United Way Fox Cities has been certified as a 2022 Silver-level Employee Friendly Workplace by the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce. Silver certified employers demonstrate a significant commitment to offering and expanding benefits and policies that support the work/life needs of employees. At the United Way, this includes a 37.5-hour work week, paid family leave, flexibility to work when and where needed, and benefits that support employees.

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TUESDAYS
<p><b>3:00 - 5:00 p.m.</b> Fox Crossing Fire Department (1326 Cold Spring Rd, Neenah)</p>
WEDNESDAYS - CLOSED NOV. 23
<p><b>3:00 - 6:00 p.m.</b> Sunnyview Expo Center (500 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh)</p>
THURSDAYS - CLOSED NOV. 24
<p><b>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</b> Oshkosh Public Library (106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-registration recommended. Please call 844-684-1064.</li> <li>• Offering Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax and Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccines.</li> </ul>

## WINNEBAGO COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINE TOUR

<p><b>WINCHESTER TOWN HALL</b> Thursday, Nov 17, 8:30am - 10:30am 8522 Parkway Ln, Larsen</p>	<p><b>RUSHFORD TOWN HALL</b> Thursday, Dec 1, 3pm - 5pm 3413 County Rd K, Eureka</p>
<p><b>NEENAH TOWN HALL</b> Thursday, Nov 17, 1pm - 3pm 1600 Breezewood Ln, Neenah</p>	<p><b>NEPEUSKUN TOWN HALL</b> Tuesday, Dec 6, 11am - 1pm 1475 County Rd E, Ripon</p>

WWW.WCVACCINE.ORG/COUNTYTOUR

920-232-3026

# ThedaCare expands care to expectant mothers, babies

ThedaCare is creating an Obstetrical Emergency Department (OB-ED) and Hospitalist Program, a hospital-based women's services for expectant mothers and babies in northeast and central Wisconsin.

"This program has the potential to impact not only our generation, but generations to come," said Lynn Detterman, senior vice president of the ThedaCare South Region. "The commitment to implementing the OB-ED and Hospitalist Program can lead to healthier mothers and babies."

The new program is set to begin in late summer 2023.

Typically situated in a labor and delivery unit, providers in the OB-ED can care

for pregnant women who come to the hospital for obstetrical concerns such as abdominal pain or bleeding. The program would operate around the clock and be staffed by physician specialists.

"The OB-ED and hospitalist program can redefine the standard of women's care in the hospital setting to help continue safe patient care," said Dr. Eric Eberts, department chair of obstetrics. "Because a trained physician evaluates every patient, our goal is that expectant mothers can leave the hospital with peace of mind, focusing on the health and well-being of their family."

Women who are more than 16 weeks pregnant would bypass the emergency department and go directly to an ob-

stetrical triage area in the Family Birth Center at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. This program will supplement the care of a woman's OB provider. Her doctor will continue to provide care in the facility.

"The OB-ED and hospitalist program can help ensure that expectant mothers continue to receive timely, specialized care for themselves and their babies," Eberts said. "We will have providers with the patient, ready to step in to provide care and help improve outcomes and peace of mind."

Eberts noted that the program aims to provide support for ThedaCare's other hospitals, including those in rural communities. For example, providers can deliver

telehealth consultations alongside providers at other campuses.

In 2022, ThedaCare announced a \$100 million investment to enhance and expand services at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. As a part of the Modernization Project, the Family Birth Center at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah will be updated, which will include the addition of triage beds for the OB-ED.

Before her sudden passing at age 32 in 1903, just three days after giving birth to her only child, Theda Clark Peters directed a significant portion of her estate to be used to build a hospital in Neenah so that people in the community would have local access to medical care.

## McMahon names new associates

Engineering and architectural firm McMahon has announced that Ben Hamblin, municipal and civil engineer; Phil Kleman, municipal and water resources engineer; Scott Manteuffel, construction services project manager; Andy Schmidt, municipal and water resources engineer; and Corey Schuh, transportation engineer, have been named associates of the company.

Hamblin has more than 25 years of experience in the civil engineering and construction industry and has experience in design and project management.

Kleman's professional registrations include certified professional in erosion and sediment control, certified erosion

and sediment and stormwater inspector and registered engineer-in-training in Wisconsin.

Manteuffel has 30 years of construction experience and has worked in all facets of construction management including commercial, industrial, water treatment and agriculture facilities.

Schmidt is a licensed municipal and water resources engineer with 18 years of experience. He specializes in municipal planning, design engineering and construction observation.

Schuh has more than 17 years of experience in design engineering, construction engineering and public works engineering.

Photo from Neenah Historical Society

## It's basketball season

The 1929 Neenah team won the District Championship after beating Kaukauna in a nail-biter game. Members shown are (front row, from left) Lowbert Bell, Jack Hewitt, John Schneller, Mitchell Johnson, Gordon Ehlers, Howard Stacker and Phil Hall; (middle row) E. Thomson, Herb Thermanson, Pete Grogan, James Shea, Leonard Neubauer and Howard Schmidt; (back row) George Blohm, Fritz Olson, Carl Gertner, Ole Jorgenson and H. Pautz.



### PHYSICAL THERAPIST. RUNNER. WELL-BEING ADVOCATE.

Combining his interests in health care, education and fitness, JP Larson felt called to his career as a physical therapist. Now he makes a difference in peoples' lives by listening to, understanding and supporting their goals. Inspired by those who overcome challenges to pursue their passion, JP also supports the Pacesetters organization, helping people improve their fitness at any stage of life.

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# Beer can be star of meals this holiday season

While cooking, people often reach for wine or broth (even liquor or juice) to heighten particular flavors in their culinary delights, but why not beer?

Beer has been used for cooking since its inception — both the ancient Egyptians and Sumerians chose to cook foods in beer — and for millennia it's been a safer choice than water. In her 1955 book, "Beer and Vittles," Elizabeth Craig lamented her contemporaries abandoning tried-and-true beer as a cooking liquid. Her co-author husband, Arthur E. Mann, added:

"There is a unique quality about beer, in that it both soothes and stimulates. In its infinite variety, from the lightest of the light lagers through the noblest of bitters and stouts to the heaviest of ales, a choice can be made which will please any palate, suit any climate, fit any occasion, and blend with any dish."

Indeed, with myriad styles and ingredients available today, modern craft beers provide a dizzying array of choices that would make any historic chef jealous. With the exception of hoppy IPAs (which, upon reduction, can impart too much bitterness), most any beer can be used. Most of us are familiar with beer bread or boiling brats in beer, but those are the low-hanging fruit.

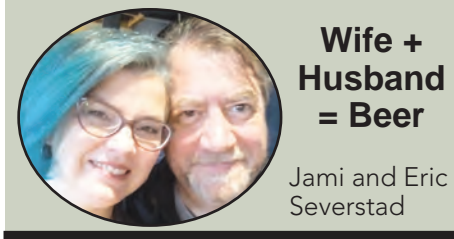
Need to braise a cut of meat? Want to deepen the flavor of a chili or soup? Basting a roast bird? Deglazing a pan? Any opportunity you would reach for a wine or stock, choose a beer instead!

This isn't limited to savory dishes, either. Beers are an excellent choice for baking: Their natural yeasts add extra loft and fluffiness to the final product; their grains heighten the flavor of baked goods; and rich, dark beers such as stouts, porters and doppelbocks add deep notes of coffee, chocolate, malt and more, perfect for decadent desserts (served with a side pint of the same!) Then consider fruit beers. Boundless possibilities await the adventurous cook.

Given the upcoming winter holidays and their accompanying feasts, we're sharing three recipes that may offer a change from your routine and give you an idea of the creative options available. Each recipe features a beer from a local brewery, with each celebrating an anniversary this month: Barrel 41 (4 years old on Nov. 5), Oshkosh's Fifth Ward (5 years old on Nov. 11), and Lion's Tail (7 years old on Nov. 19).

## Cranberry Dream Sauce

1 bag fresh or frozen cranberries



**Wife +  
Husband  
= Beer**

Jami and Eric  
Severstad

¾ cup sugar (white or brown both work)

1 orange citrus fruit (orange, clementine, tangerine, mandarin, etc.), zested, and flesh chopped

1 cup citrus-noted beer: try Tangerine Dream Frootenanny by Fifth Ward

1 cinnamon stick

pinch of salt

Add all ingredients to a medium saucepan and stir to mix. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently to avoid burning, until cranberries pop and mixture becomes jammy (about 10 minutes). Remove from heat and let cool. Discard cinnamon stick. Refrigerate if desired. Mixture will thicken as it cools.

## Beer-Glazed Veggie Stuffing

4 Tbsp olive oil or butter

1 yellow or sweet onion, diced large

1 celery stick, finely diced

1 carrot, peeled and finely diced

½ parsnip, peeled and finely diced

¼ cup malty beer: try Mile of Munich Dunkel by Lion's Tail

12-16 oz bag unseasoned bread cubes

1 tsp rubbed sage

1 tsp marjoram

1 tsp rosemary

½-1 tsp salt (to taste)

½ tsp thyme

2 cups liquid (see notes below)

1. Heat oil/butter in large non-stick skillet over medium-low heat. Add vegetables and saute until very soft and onions are translucent and starting to brown, stirring often. Be patient; this could take more than 30 minutes. Add beer and continue cooking until beer reduces to just coating the veggies.

2. Heat liquid to boiling on stove top or in microwave.

3. Place bread cubes and herbs into a large bowl. Add glazed veggies and mix. Pour in hot liquid and toss to coat all cubes.

4. Set aside for several minutes so the bread cubes can absorb all liquid.

Notes: Cooking liquid can be broth or water, or a mix of these with a medium-to-dark-style beer (Scottish ale, porter, stout, doppelbock; something not hoppy). Optional: Add some pure maple syrup to the beer when glazing the vegetables for a sweeter flavor, or add a



Submitted photo

Cranberry Dream Sauce is one of the beer-inspired recipes to consider on the holiday menu.

chopped apple to the cooking veggies.

## Chocolate Ale Cake

2 cups very dark ale: try Cinnamon

Roll Crunch Milk Porter by Barrel 41

2 cups (4 sticks) unsalted butter

1 ½ cups unsweetened, dark cocoa

powder

4 cups all-purpose flour

4 cups sugar

1 Tbsp baking soda

1 ½ tsps salt

4 large eggs

1 ½ cups sour cream

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Choose cake pans (three 9-inch round lined with greased parchment paper) or cupcake tins with papers.

2. Melt butter with beer in large saucepan over medium heat. Add cocoa powder and whisk until smooth. Cool to room temperature.

3. Whisk flour, sugar, baking soda and salt together in large bowl.

4. In another bowl, blend eggs and sour cream.

5. Add beer/butter mix to egg mixture and beat. Add flour mixture and beat briefly on slow.

6. Using rubber spatula, fold batter until completely combined. Divide batter

equally among prepared pans. Bake cakes until tester inserted into cakes comes out clean, about 35 minutes (20 minutes for cupcakes).

7. Transfer cakes to rack; cool 10 minutes.

Notes: Rich beer, sour cream and dark cocoa ganache produce a moist, decadent cake. Many varieties of stout or porter work in this recipe — just make sure to use the deepest, most flavorful one you can find. Cooling the chocolate ganache completely is key before adding to the eggs and sour cream. Cake layers freeze well when wrapped in waxed paper and then cling wrap.

Bonus recipes: Don't throw away that partial pint you couldn't finish the night before — use it to make a batch of pancakes the next morning. Also, the classic King Arthur Baking Co. beer bread recipe is a can't-miss; try a hefeweizen or oatmeal stout ... yum!

For more ideas, check out these sites:

- [Beerinstitute.org/news-media/additional-beer-resources/cooking-with-beer](https://Beerinstitute.org/news-media/additional-beer-resources/cooking-with-beer)
- [Craftbeering.com/cooking-with-beer](https://Craftbeering.com/cooking-with-beer)

Connect with Wife + Husband = Beer! Tell us what Neenah beer-lovers need to know, and we'll cover it. It's a sacrifice we make for you, dear readers. Email: [wife.husband.beer@gmail.com](mailto:wife.husband.beer@gmail.com)

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Submitted photo

Bobby Evans has been performing with his band in clubs statewide for decades.

## Bobby Evans

FROM PAGE 1

festival that was shut down by police before it even started. He had a truck with a public address system, so he turned it on and played for a crowd of 17,000 while the Grateful Dead and James Gang sat inside their tour buses.

He has played at wild fraternity club parties in Madison, and for senators, governors, doctors and lawyers.

Evans plays covers of country, rock, blues, punk and show bands. His brother, Evil, has been playing with him for 46 years as the Bobby Evans Band. He also plays with other groups.

Evans has two albums of his own music that he has written and recorded.

"When I play them, if they go over I say that's one of mine; if they don't go over, I say that's by Journey or Toby Keith or something like that," he said.

He plays five or six nights a week, sometimes double shifts on the weekends. It's a lot of work, but he wouldn't trade it for the world.

"It's been fun," he said. "I didn't get rich or anything, but we always had cars and a house."

Evans has lived all over the United States. In 1983, his first wife passed away due to medical complications she experienced while pregnant. The baby died a few months later.

Evans met his second wife, Sue Nelson, while playing a show at the now-closed Automatic Slims in Neenah.

"I was playing, I saw this girl walk in, and I immediately looked at my brother and said, 'Let's take a break,'" he said. "I put my guitar down and started walking that way and she started walking to me. I just wanted to talk to her immediately."

Evans and Nelson were together thereafter, living in Neenah since 1999.

"I was the luckiest man in the world," he said. "The 20 years that I lived in Neenah were easily the best years of my life. I have all these memories and it's like, what a good life it was there, and for some reason when I moved to Neenah everybody treated me so nicely and I got treated like a local right away."

The Fox Valley is a welcoming place for local musicians, with a variety of resorts and other venues to play within easy driving distance.

"People who come here are always surprised," he said. "They can't believe the amount of music and some of the talent they see here."

Nelson was diagnosed with cancer in 2015. A few years back, Evans sold their home and belongings, purchased an RV and traveled with her for a year.

When the pair returned to Wisconsin, they settled on the water in Menasha. It was close to Nelson's medical appointments and situated downtown, so Evans could occasionally socialize at the local establish-

ments in the evenings while still being close enough to return to Nelson at a moment's notice.

Nelson passed away in early 2020. In her obituary, she wrote of her love for Evans.

"Enough can't be said about his thoughtfulness, companionship and his deep love for me and my family," she wrote. "Living behind the music scene with him has been extremely interesting and fun."

The morning of Nelson's celebration of life, Evans went out to his car and found that someone had stolen his guitar – a heartless act on a heartbreaking day.

He made a post on social media, asking locals to keep an eye out for it.

He never did get the stolen guitar back, but it didn't matter, because Gary Shaw of Neenah showed up at the celebration of life and gifted Evans a custom guitar made by Bruce Lee Rose, a local man who makes stringed instruments with his wife.

Shaw was a well-known local musician, starting with his band in Shattuck Middle School, Guilford Forgery. He played in other bands and was employed at Henri's Music and later Island Music.

"He gives me this very expensive guitar that was handmade in Neenah, with handmade pickups, all custom," Evans said. "He said, 'Here Bobby, I want you to have this.' And he had grown up next to my wife, so it's got a real sentimental, emotional attachment."

Shaw had recently been diagnosed with cancer. He passed away six months later. Evans and others are working on a benefit for a scholarship fund in Shaw's name.

Over the years, Evans has been around many guitars, yet none hold the same significance. He played it during a gig at Lucky Dog's on Green Bay Road last week in front of a lively and appreciative audience.

Evans is the type of musician who acknowledges each member of the crowd and makes them feel like he's singing directly to them. His electric energy drew people to the dance floor, with the bright lights and loudspeakers a sharp contrast to the dreary weather outside.

Evans moved to Oshkosh last year, where he lives a quiet life on the water. He splits his time between Beaver Dam, where his girlfriend lives, and the Fox Valley, where he has eight granddaughters and two great-grandsons that he helped raise and considers his own.

He acknowledged that a musician's lifestyle isn't always the easiest, but he's tried to do his best to take care of himself.

"We did roll hard, but for every time I did something that wasn't good for me, the next day I did two things that were," he said, adding that he's up every morning doing yoga, walking, lifting weights or doing martial arts.

At 67, he's not sure he will ever retire. You retire from digging holes in the ground or welding, he said, not from something you love.

"God willing or the universe willing, as long as you can still step up onto the stage and strap your guitar on, you play."

## Community table

FROM PAGE 1

who can't navigate the stairs.

"We do have some things of our own," Kurka said. "We have our own refrigerator, our own freezer, and we purchased a warming oven as well as a commercial dishwasher that's used by all."

Site director Chrissy Goethel describes Fox Valley Community Table as "a beautiful group of different churches and others. Everyone is welcome. Companies can form a group, organizations can form a group, individuals – virtually anyone can form a group and participate."

"A Group" is how the operation works. Dedicated volunteers provide the meal, serve the meal and clean up afterward. There is a calendar of rotating groups who come to provide meals every Tuesday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"We, as a site, coordinate the meals, make sure that our guests are cared for, that the meal is happening correctly, and that our needs are being met," she said. "We have a lot of donations of different food products and items. Great Harvest Breads donates its 'day olds.' They are so generous and it's wonderful. The public library is doing a food drive for us right now, an elementary school will be doing one this winter, and Essity provides all paper products."

As to guests, Goethel stresses the inclusiveness of the program. "Everyone is welcome. No one has to prove residence or income; there is no paperwork. It's an open community where you're welcome to come and join in. We have regulars and we have others who come sporadically."

There are always new faces and people come for the food but also for all the other reasons people gather.

"There was a gentleman who came in a few weeks ago," Goethel related. "He was new so I welcomed him right away. He said he'd heard the food was good but he'd also heard that here he could talk to people. He was a vet and right away he connected to another guest, also a vet. They sat down and had the meal together and it was really lovely to see the support of one to another, having that time together."

"There are people who have become good friends because of the meals here. They go on to have relationships and support one another outside of lunch. It's community helping community and it's fantastic."

In addition to the meals, FVCT tries to give a donation to the guests at every meal. Items on the table range from Great Harvest offerings to laundry and hand soap, cereal, fresh fruits and vegetables.

"These additional items are important, especially with everything being so expensive these days," she said. "We know our guests appreciate it."

As to how people find out about the meals, FVCT has flyers at the public library, school counselors, churches, bulletins and other soup kitchens. They work cooperatively with Double Portion inside St. Thomas Church in Menasha. Double Portion is a soup kitchen and pantry, serving lunch every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Many guests eat lunch at both sites, according to Goethel.

"We make sure we're serving on different days and we've met several times to share ideas as to how we can better serve the community," she said. "It's a wonderful program."

According to Julie Last, Double Portion board member, treasurer, volunteer coordinator and lead cook, the program

feeds about 50 people per meal, with an additional 20 to 30 meals sent home to residents.

"We have regular volunteer cooks, a different one for each service day generally, plus a crew of six to 10 people to help with setup, service and cleanup," Last explained. "Most volunteers come the same day each week, so we tend to have a Monday, a Wednesday and a Thursday team. We also have some volunteers who come when they can and a few who come multiple times per week."

Double Portion welcomes all. There are no income restrictions and no identifying info is required except for a first name to use the pantry. This ensures a proper head count of individuals served for grant purposes only.

Dine-in meals are served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and take-home meals are allowed from 12:15 to 12:30 for anyone unable or uncomfortable dining in person. Dine-in guests are also allowed to take a meal home after 12:15.

Closed on Thanksgiving, Double Portion will be serving both Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, which are the Christmas and New Year federal holidays.

Leading into the holidays, Uniting Faiths to Feed His Flock Community Christmas Dinner will take place Dec. 10 for the 14th year.

"It's a giant cooperative effort and it's a beautiful meal," Goethel said.

"It is going to be beautiful," agreed Kurka, co-chair of the event. "Our day begins at 10:30 a.m. in the St. Paul church sanctuary with a healing service of Christmas hymns and prayers. This is followed by the meal, served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This dinner is a cooperative of volunteers from 11 churches in Neenah-Menasha, along with Fox Valley Community Table."

"They grill tenderloin and chicken. People are seated in the bigger dining room behind the kitchen. Guests receive a menu card and they get to pick their entree, and they can even pick both."

After choosing their options, the plated meal is served to them. "It's a festive holiday atmosphere. It's different than coming through the line," Kurka said.

In addition to the meal, attendees receive the gift of a hygiene bag containing deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and soap. They are also welcome to choose from additional articles such as gloves, scarves, hats and socks.

During the pandemic, Uniting Faiths served carry-out meals.

"We're so glad to be back in-house," Kurka said. "The collaborative has historically served over 300 meals with each of the participating churches also delivering meals to their homebound members, which is about 100 extra meals."

Donations come from a variety of places. United Faiths partners with Essity, which donates paper towels, tissues and toilet paper for the gift bags. Each church then collects the other needed items, and additional donations come from grants, churches and generous individuals.

From top to bottom, these endeavors succeed because, as expressed by Goethel, "We can do big things when we work as one. We are all in it together. We're in this community together. We need to help each other out. This is how it works."

For more information on Fox Valley Community Table or the Uniting Faiths Christmas dinner, contact the office at St. Paul: 920-725-3961. For Double Portion information or to volunteer, email [doubleportionsoupkitchen@gmail.com](mailto:doubleportionsoupkitchen@gmail.com) or visit [doubleportionsoupkitchen.com](http://doubleportionsoupkitchen.com).

# PACT Act aids veterans with burn pit-related illnesses

By Dan Roherty  
NEENAH NEWS

The PACT Act, a new law expanding Veterans Administration health care and benefits for those exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances, has the potential to impact many of the estimated 12,000 veterans in Winnebago County.

The PACT Act signed in August by President Biden adds to the list of health conditions presumed to be caused by exposure to these substances and helps provide generations of veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they have earned, according to Kevin Jurgella, Winnebago County veterans benefit specialist.

“If you are a veteran that lives in Winnebago County, the county Veterans Services Office is standing by to assist you with filing VA paperwork or answering any questions you may have related to the 2022 VA Pact Act,” he said.

Burn pits were used in Iraq, Afghanistan and other overseas locations until the mid-2010s to dispose of waste collected

on military bases, including items that produced dangerous toxic smoke when burned: plastics, rubber, chemical mixtures and medical waste.

When Oshkosh resident and business owner Austin Phillips returned from Afghanistan more than a decade ago, he had



Phillips

a letter in hand stating he and fellow service members had been exposed to some of the worst air quality in the world. A visit to the VA for a pulmonary exam found he had moderate to severe asthma.

“There were multiple times I hacked up black tar overseas, and I was not a smoker,” he said.

Since military enlistees suffering from asthma are usually disqualified, Phillips thought the service connection to the ailment would be clear as he left the VA with inhalers in hand – but it was initially denied.

Phillips said the Winnebago Veterans Services office took up his appeal and the paperwork, which a year and a half later was again denied. The office recommended another appeal to a review board, which eventually approved it.

“Remembering this process, I think it took between 5.5 and 6.5 years to conclude, but the CVSO did all the legwork for me. I would have given up after the first one if it wasn’t for them,” he said, noting that at the time it was unusual for veterans to get service connected for asthma due to exposure.

Veterans Services officer Jeff Bucholtz and his staff have two locations open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Oshkosh, 220 Washington Ave. (third floor) and Neenah, 211 N. Commercial St. Call 920-232-3400 in Oshkosh and 920-729-4820 in Neenah with questions or to make an appointment to complete paperwork and apply for benefits.

The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act is one of the largest health care and benefit expansions in VA history, adding eligibility for VA health

care for veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras.

More than 20 presumptive conditions have been added for burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic exposures with more locations, and the VA is now required to provide a toxic exposure screening to every enrolled veteran.

“I am glad they are doing something, but I am disappointed it took this long to be addressed,” Phillips said. “It is also very indicative of our ‘representative’ democracy that it was blocked due to our contentious political atmosphere and their need (both Democrats and Republicans) to use groups of people as political footballs.”

To get a VA disability rating, the disability must connect to military service but for some conditions it is assumed the service caused the condition. Those “presumptive conditions” are ones established by law or regulation, which the PACT Act falls under.

Another source of information is by calling the VA’s direct number at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711).

## Scholarship named for regional planner

A scholarship has been established in the name of Trish Dobbert Nau, who was considered instrumental in parks and recreation throughout the Fox Valley, after her untimely death in a Calumet County car crash Sept. 27.

The 52-year-old Neenah resident was parks and recreation planner for East Central WI Regional Planning Commission for 26 years, completing open space plans, which are mandatory for a municipality

to receive certain funds as well as grants from the state.

The \$1,000 Trish Dobbert Nau Memorial Scholarship will be given annually to a New London High School graduating senior that plans on pursuing an education in parks & recreation, municipal planning or natural resources.

Nau was assistant planner in the Village of Harrison since April. The crash occurred near the Harrison Village Hall.

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# Dorschner wrapping up stellar career for Eagles

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Josh Dorschner had plenty of options to continue his playing career coming out of Neenah High School.

There were the NCAA Division II programs in Minnesota that were interested in his abilities on the defensive line, while the top teams in the always talent-rich WIAC were also knocking at his door.

Dorschner landed at a different spot. One, that even he admits, wasn't high on his list – or actually even on the list – when his recruitment began. But six years later, he's glad he gave the Eagles a chance.

"To be honest, La Crosse wasn't even on my radar. They had been struggling when I was in high school and I didn't really know much about them," Dorschner said in a recent phone interview. "I didn't get the best vibe from the D2 schools in Minnesota on visits and I wasn't sure if I even wanted to play football in college because I had a pretty good career (at Neenah).

"Then I talked to (former) head coach Mike Schmidt and the way he talked about it, the culture there and what he wanted to build, it all just kind of clicked for me."

Dorschner is winding down an impressive career with the Eagles having spent the last six years at UW-La Crosse.

After gray-shirting his first year on campus, Dorschner has played in 41 of a possible 42 games over the course of four seasons. This year, he is one of the leaders on the defense for the nationally ranked Eagles, who will face Wartburg in the first round of the NCAA Division III playoffs on Saturday.

"I just want to win. I want to get that national championship," Dorschner said. "I think I'm having a pretty good season but I'm just here to help the team anyway

I can."

Dorschner has certainly been an asset for the Eagles defense. Despite missing one game, he ranks fifth on the team in tackles and second in assisted tackles. He also has 2.5 tackles-for-loss, has an interception and a fumble recovery and has posted 11 quarterback hits.

Yet, he didn't get his first sack until the final game of the regular season and even



Dorschner

that was shared with teammate Jack Kelly. That's from someone who had registered eight sacks in his first three seasons.

"Maybe it's a little frustrating, but I have had opportunities and maybe if I had done something different,

I would have gotten a sack," Dorschner said. "I'm getting there and I know I'm getting there. Other teams notice I'm getting there. It's affecting the game and how the quarterback reacts. I know he is thinking about me when he's back there."

Dorschner's play has certainly been something to get him noticed but there's another reason he stands out on the football field this season – especially for those who remember his days as a Rocket.

After wearing the No. 96 jersey for his first three seasons, Dorschner switched to the No. 4 entering the 2022 campaign. It's the number he wore in Neenah and it's a special feeling to be donning it again.

The number had previously been worn by defensive standout Rusty Murphy, who graduated after the 2021 season.

"I just went to (Coach Janus) and asked about it and he was fine with it," Dorschner said. "From a long time ago, I've always loved No. 4. It's my favorite number at this point."

Dorschner said that the story behind wearing the No. 4 jersey was something that he started in high school following the lead of Jason Mettlach and Trevor Thompson as defensive ends who wore the No. 4.

"I don't know if there were others before them but they were wearing No. 4 on the defensive line so it was kind of like a small tradition there," Dorschner said. "I got it my junior year and I just kind of liked it. It really stuck with me so I had to kind of stick with it."

Playing at Neenah and in the Fox Valley Association is something that Dorschner credits for preparing him to play for the Eagles.

"We played a lot of really good teams in high school. Fond du Lac, SPASH, Kimberly were really good. It's similar to the WIAC where you are playing good teams every week," Dorschner said. "In high school, I played against Logan Bruss and he's in the NFL. There are a bunch of guys out there who were really good players and I got the chance to go against them."

He also still gets to see many of them – including former Neenah alums as well – as the FVA does send plenty of players into the WIAC.

"It's really cool seeing people from the FVA and guys I played against and guys I played with in all-star games and stuff, seeing them and talking to them is really cool," Dorschner said. "It's also always fun to beat them and get to have those bragging rights."

The season before Dorschner arrived in La Crosse, the Eagles posted a 5-5 record.

Since then, UW-La Crosse has posted a winning record every season that has been played and has qualified for the Division III playoffs the last two seasons. Last year, the Eagles beat Albion in the

first round before losing to No. 1-ranked North Central College.

"I think last year really helped to show we were meant to be there. We belonged there," Dorschner said. "Playing Albion and winning in the first round just showed that we are among the top 32 teams in the country."

And it's nice to have UW-La Crosse – which finished 9-1 in the regular season, with its only loss a three-point defeat to UW-Whitewater – back in a prominent role in Division III, where the Eagles have two national titles to their credit.

"La Crosse was historically great and then had fallen down to some tough times and then we have helped to build it back to where it should be," Dorschner said. "I never wanted to just join the best team and keep doing it. I always had the great idea of building something up. That's just been a mindset of mine."

Whatever the next few weeks holds for the Eagles, it will likely mark the end of Dorschner's playing career.

Although he said he would certainly look into any opportunities to keep playing that came up, he's also OK with taking off that helmet a final time.

"If you asked me a couple of years ago maybe it would be tough to see my career end, but I've had a gray-shirt year, I've had a COVID year, I've spent a lot of time out here. I think I can hang up the cleats and I know I have given it my all," said Dorschner, a sports management major. "I think I have a lot of avenues I can go down. Once I graduate, I will be able to figure it out."

And there would be no better way to walk off a college field for the final time as a national champion.

"I think that's the goal of any senior – walking off as a champion," Dorschner said. "What better way to finish your career than as a champion."

## Zephyrs' Todd headlines area all-state, all-region selections

Four members of the powerhouse St. Mary Catholic/Valley Christian football team received 8-Player All-State recognition by the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association recently.

Heading the list was senior defensive end Sam Todd, who was one of 14 players to receive top all-state honors.

Todd registered a whopping 38 tackles-for-loss and 14.5 sacks in being named the Defensive Player of the Year in the Ridge & Valley East Conference.

He finished second on the team in total tackles with 86, while also racking up two fumble recoveries, one forced fumble and one interception which he returned for a touchdown.

Three Zephyrs received honorable mention all-state honors led by the team's talented backfield.

Senior quarterback Danny Griffith completed better than 63 percent of his passes this season for 1,153 yards and 23 touchdowns to just three interceptions.

Junior running back Ashton Post, the conference's Offensive Player of the Year, ran for 1,155 yards and 21 touchdowns, while averaging 11.1 yards per carry this season.

Rounding out the all-state honorable mention honorees was senior defensive back Charlie Nackers, who finished with 52 tackles and an interception. He also had a punt return and kickoff return for a touchdown.

That foursome also collected all-Re-

gion honors and was joined by a number of area players.

Senior offensive lineman Nick Berg joined the four all-State Zephyrs on the all-Region.

Fox Valley Association champion Neenah also had three players named to the all-Region list.

Senior running back Jase Jenkins, senior offensive lineman Blake Dietzen and senior outside linebacker Darius Jones Jr. were the Rockets to receive the honors.

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**WREATH FACTORY**

# Defending state champion Rockets eye another big year

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Neenah is coming off a memorable season having posted a Fox Valley Association title, a 29-1 overall record and, most notably, the WIAA Division 1 state championship, which was the program's first title in more than 40 years.

This year will feature a different crew but the goals remain the same for the Rockets, who are hoping its not another 40-year wait for a state title.

"We are going to compete and get better every day like we did last season, and the seasons before last year," Rabas said. "We focus on process and not end results. If you focus on improvement and playing the right way, the other stuff takes care of itself. This is a different team and a new season."

This season's team will once again be led by a bevy of seniors who can take the game over and score at any time.

Jackson Schломann, Sam Coulthard, and Elliot Swanson all saw time last year and will have increased roles this year, while junior Brady Corso returns after playing a key role in the Rockets' march to a title.

Other kids who will contribute throughout the year are seniors Nolan Juckem, Josh Armstrong and Coy Rajotte, as well as a strong junior class

that will have plenty of talented players looking to make their mark.

Senior Cal Klesmit will also return to the squad this season after missing all of last year with an injury. Rabas is extremely happy to have him back in the mix knowing what he brings to the table for this team.

"We are just excited for him to get back out on the court and play," he said. "He brings so much to the table in terms of what he can do. Some games he may have to be a scorer and others a facilitator. We will lean on him to be not just a productive player, but a leader on and off the court as well."

Repeating as FVA champions will not be easy with the likes of Oshkosh North, Kimberly, Kaukauna and Appleton East, and the groups each of those schools bring back, but winning another crown is something Rabas believes this team can accomplish.

"We will have to play better defense than we did a year ago," Rabas said. "We will need to be better technically when it comes to rebounding. We will need to shoot the basketball with greater consistency. We as a staff need to do a great job of putting all the pieces of the puzzle together."

## Loaded Zephyrs looking for big things in 2022-23

The St. Mary Catholic boys basketball team is coming off a strong showing in the 2021-22 season. The Zephyrs finished 17-10 before bowing out in

## Boys basketball PREVIEW

the sectional semifinal to eventual state champion Manitowoc Roncalli.

Unlike many teams that need to replace a strong cast from a season ago, the Zephyrs have nearly their entire roster back, including all five starters from last year.

Despite being a loaded team on paper, the Zephyrs know that in order to reach the expectations they have put on themselves they need to step up, especially defensively.

"Expectations should be high for us this year but honestly I don't put much weight into the state rankings. We haven't played a game yet this year and we need to earn our way through the season day by day," head coach Paul Bradshaw said. "I believe that every team is different. We will develop this team one day at a time. Our expectation is to be prepared to compete in every game and to not get caught looking ahead."

Returning senior starters Cole Uhlenbrauck, Danny Griffith, Charlie Nackers, and Michael Fairweather highlight the Zephyrs' veteran group. Uhlenbrauck was a first-team all-conference performer last season, while Griffith was a second-team honoree.

Uhlenbrauck, a St. Norbert recruit, was the leading scorer on the team with just under 20 points per game, while connecting on 43% of his 3-point

attempts.

Bradshaw expects him to be one of the leaders on this team and poised for a great season.

"Cole is a tremendous shooter and he has great range, last year he shot over 42% from 3 and he was one of the top shooters in the state," he said. "He is definitely a leader for us on the floor and I expect to see him do more for us this year inside and on defense. He has developed good skills around the basket and he has also become a really good rebounder for us. Cole has recently announced that he is going to attend St. Norbert College next year and continue with his basketball career. I am really excited for him."

Also figuring into the St. Mary Catholic rotation are junior Fisher MacKenzie and sophomore Preston Fields.

In a year where St. Mary Catholic is going to be one of the Big East conference favorites along with Howards Grove and Reedsville, it may come down to the Zephyrs having the most experience of anyone in the conference.

"The key to our success this year will be a combination of developing strong teamwork, depth in our lineup, and developing more defensive intensity," Bradshaw said. "We have a really strong senior class, some great underclassmen, and a number of players that will be competing for significant minutes on the floor. This is a really special group of players and I cannot wait to get started, it's going to be a fun season"



Rabas

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## ST. MARY CATHOLIC

Nov 26 @ The Prairie	4:00pm	Jan 20 @ Mishicot	7:15pm
Nov 29 Mishicot	7:15pm	Jan 24 Cedar Grove/Belgium	7:15pm
Dec 2 @ Ozaukee	7:15pm	Jan 26 Elkhart Lake/Glenbeulah	7:15pm
Dec 6 Oostburg	7:15pm	Jan 30 @ Sheboygan Lutheran	7:15pm
Dec 8 @ Elkhart Lake/Glenbeulah	7:15pm	Feb 2 Random Lake	7:15pm
Dec 15 @ Hilbert	7:15pm	Feb 7 Kohler	7:15pm
Dec 19 Manitowoc Lutheran	7:15pm	Feb 10 Howards Grove	7:15pm
Jan 3 @ Menasha	7:00pm	Feb 14 Manitowoc Lutheran	7:15pm
Jan 6 @ Howards Grove	7:15pm	Feb 17 @ Reedsville	7:15pm
Jan 12 Reedsville	7:15pm	Feb 23 Hilbert	7:15pm
Jan 17 @ Sheboygan Christian	7:15pm		



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Nov 29 Stevens Point	7:15pm	Jan 20 Appleton East	7:30pm
Dec 2 @ Appleton East	7:30pm	Jan 24 @ Kaukauna	7:30pm
Dec 6 Wisconsin Lutheran	7:00pm	Jan 27 Appleton North	7:30pm
Dec 9 Appleton North	7:30pm	Jan 31 Oshkosh West	7:30pm
Dec 13 Appleton West	7:30pm	Feb 3 Fond du Lac	7:30pm
Dec 23 Hortonville	7:30pm	Feb 10 @ Hortonville	7:30pm
Jan 3 @ Kimberly	7:30pm	Feb 14 @ Appleton West	7:30pm
Jan 6 Oshkosh North	7:30pm	Feb 17 Kimberly	7:30pm
Jan 10 Kaukauna	7:30pm	Feb 21 @ Oshkosh West	7:30pm
Jan 13 @ Fond du Lac	7:30pm	Feb 23 @ Oshkosh North	7:30pm
Jan 14 @ Brookfield East	6:00pm		

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# Bottensek scores top 10 finish to lead Neenah swimmers at state

Neenah News

Junior Emma Bottensek registered a top-10 finish to lead the way for Neenah at the WIAA Division 1 State Swimming and Diving Meet held last Saturday in Waukesha.

Bottensek finished 10th in the 100-yard butterfly, shaving nearly six-tenths of a second off of her sectional time to post a mark of 58.05 seconds. Bottensek was the first Neenah swimmer to qualify in the 100-yard backstroke since 2016, when Kiki Rice took

sixth in the event.

“Being top 10 was a goal of hers so that was fun,” Neenah head coach Carrie Raeth said.

The Rockets also scored points in two other events at the state meet, finishing 16th in both the 200-yard freestyle relay and 400-yard freestyle relay.

Junior Naomi Cortina, sophomores Rylie Bauman and Kacie Stamm and freshman Anna Mulroy swam on the 200-yard free-

style relay team, while the 400-yard freestyle relay foursome consisted of Cortina, Mulroy, junior Alliyah Lima and Bottensek

“Our relays placed 16th, which was moving up and then everyone on the team participated getting points,” Raeth said. “Everyone did personal best times so that was great because they had just set them a week before and to go a week later and do it again was very exciting.

Also competing at state for the Rockets

was Bauman, who finished 21st in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 24.62 seconds. She was about a half-second out of a top-10 finish.

Cortina also competed as an individual, placing 21st in the 200-yard freestyle and 24th in the 100-yard freestyle.

“Overall, just a really good effort. Good team chemistry,” Raeth said. “Putting in a lot of hard work over the course of the season helped us have a really good state meet.”

# Rockets retool roster, still look to contend in Badgerland

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha co-op hockey team had a very good season in 2021-22, finishing 18-6 overall, tying for first place in the Badgerland Conference standings and reaching the sectional final in the WIAA Division 1 hockey tournament.

## Boys hockey PREVIEW

Along with that, the Rockets had their best scoring output in program

history as the team torched the net for 153 goals.

Even with much of the scoring having graduated, there is plenty of talent returning to this season’s group which is why expectations are high yet again.

“We are not looking in the rearview for this season’s team, but instead are ready to focus on the season ahead,” head coach Jeff Lindemann said. “We always want to be the best players we can be and to do that we need to surrender the outcome and be where our feet are. That means we need to come to practice every day with a mindset

and dedication to push our teammates to every single day. If we do that consistently the rest of it will take care of itself. It is a long season.”

The Rockets have plenty of talented upperclassmen ready to make their own mark on the program.

John Kriz finished with 27 goals and 22 assists a year ago and is expected to be back, along with Luke Sutton, who will return as captain this season after picking up 13 goals and 10 assists last year. Mason Hart and Beckett Davidson are expected to take on a bigger role with the team.

One of the biggest question marks is on defense where the Rockets will be without senior captain Thomas Burns. He had 9 goals and 22 assists last season and will miss all of this season with an injury.

Stepping in to replace him will be Ben Kitowski and Richie Bernice, who combined for 12 points a season ago and will now have an opportunity to lead a young group of blue line players.

If there is one positive to take from that situation, Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha

will be having one of the best goalies in the league returning as Caleb Moore returns to the pipes. Moore landed second team all-conference honors as he allowed just 1.69 goals per contest while posting a near 93% save percentage.

Lindemann knows that all these players are crucial to their success.

“When it comes to the Badgerland Conference this season, you have to look right at Springs and expect them to be the favorites,” Lindemann said. “They have a strong team returning this season and have always had exceptional play between the pipes. I expect us and Fond du Lac to be right up there with them as it will be a challenging season to say the least.”

## Larabell aiming for improvement in year two

Things didn’t go as planned for Erik Larabell in his first year as the Fox Cities Stars head coach, as the team struggled to win games and finished just 2-20-2 on the season. However, both of those wins came in conference play and the overall play for

the Stars improved as the season went on.

Now in his second year leading the Stars, which includes one player from St. Mary Catholic, Larabell expects a lot more from his group. He has put a plan in place that he expects his team to follow and that should lead to more wins in 2022-23.

“With last year being my first year taking over the program I played every one on varsity regularly and did not shorten the bench,” Larabell said. “This year we will work hard, play for your teams, play within our system, and we will be a successful team.”

When you consider that the Stars only graduated six players from last year’s team, they could be in a great position to climb up the Badgerland standings.

For that to happen, it will be up to the sophomore and junior classes to make significant leaps forward. If that happens, Fox Cities could be one of those darkhorse teams this season.

“We need to compete every day, keep the game simple, and play within our systems,” Larabell said. “If we can do that, I like our chances this season.”

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# Watershed Alliance finishes seasonal work against invasives

Neenah News

While the weather trends cooler, the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance closed out its season of boat inspections, logging more than 1,600 hours of efforts to curb invasive species in area waterways.

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is state-run by the DNR. It's been coordinated locally since 2017.

FWWA's Boater Education staff inspected more than 5,000 boats and contacted over 9,000 people to expand awareness of aquatic invasives during boating season.

Last year, FWWA Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff contacted 11,400 people and inspected more than 6,000 boats.

Lake Winnebago and the pool lakes have a variety of aquatic invasive species present already. Some that people might recognize are zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, phragmites, and purple loosestrife, according to Alyssa Reinke, FWWA Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium coordinator.

"In August a newly verified population



Submitted photo

A Clean Boats, Clean Waters program worker rakes vegetation at Nagy Park.

of Brittle Naiad (*Naias minor*) was found in Lake Butte des Morts by Fox-Wolf Watershed staff," Reinke said. "This is the first finding of this species in the Winnebago

waterways area and the ninth verified occurrence in Wisconsin."

Reinke said the people FWWA staff work with are aware of the risks aquatic in-

vasives bring to the environment, humans and the economy.

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program helps reduce the risk of new invasive species being introduced into the Winnebago lakes by educating boaters and other recreational users on prevention methods such as:

- Inspect boats, trailers, push poles, anchors, and other equipment for attached aquatic plants or animals.
- Remove all attached plants or animals.
- Drain all water from boats, motors, live-wells and other equipment.
- Never move live fish away from a waterbody.
- Never release aquarium plants or animals into your local waterways.

"While our Clean Boats Clean Waters staff have finished for the year, we ask water recreationists to be extra vigilant checking their equipment to ensure they don't accidentally spread aquatic invasive species," FWWA said in an announcement. "Help protect your lakes and rivers throughout the year by taking two minutes before leaving the launch."

Reinke said one of the main issues stemming from aquatic invasives is that they tend to "outcompete" native species. Invasives typically will not have a natural predator or one in the area that can prey on it enough to properly manage its population.

Most invasive species reproduce often, Reinke added, which means they impact areas by outcompeting for food and shelter. In addition, invasives impact water quality. Reinke said, for example, zebra mussels are selective filter feeders, which in turn can increase the presence of blue-green algae. Furthermore, they can also pose a higher risk of making waterways and bodies of water less navigable for humans and wildlife.

"While our Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff have finished for the year, we ask water recreationists to be extra vigilant checking their equipment to ensure they don't accidentally spread aquatic invasive species," Reinke said.

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# Kid Scoop

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## Thanksgiving Around the World



People around the world are grateful for a good harvest. A good harvest in the fall means there will be plenty of food for all.

### Ancient Greece

Thanksgiving celebrations go back thousands of years in some parts of the world.

In ancient Greek mythology, baby Zeus was fed by a goat foster-mother named Amalthea. One day, he broke off one of her horns. Food began to pour out of the horn. This is the story of the "horn of plenty," a familiar symbol of Thanksgiving in the U.S.A. today.

Circle every other letter to discover another name for the "horn of plenty."

B O T O H R Y  
N B U L C N  
O M P S I F A  
C O



### China: Moon Festival

China's harvest celebration is called the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Moon Festival or the Mooncake Festival.

Families gather to eat different kinds of round foods that symbolize the moon. These include eggs and mooncakes. Tea is served in round cups.



Mooncakes are round pastries that are filled with a sweet filling.



All but one of these mooncakes has an identical twin. Can you find the unique mooncake?



Hold this page up to a mirror to read this paragraph!

mobpniK bətinU  
In the United Kingdom, people celebrate the Harvest Festival each year. They bring food to schools and sing together. Children learn words from their parents.

### Which Country?

On the first full moon in autumn, people in this country celebrate a thanksgiving holiday. Families get together to share food and give thanks for the harvest. In the evening, they take walks to enjoy the beauty of the full harvest moon. They call the holiday Chuseok.

Unscramble the letters to discover which country celebrates Chuseok.

H U S T O  
A E R K O

O R

### Canadian Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day in Canada is celebrated on the second Monday in October. It was originally celebrated by an English explorer, Sir Martin Frobisher. When his ship reached Canada, he gave thanks for a safe arrival.

What year did Sir Martin Frobisher reach Canada? Complete this math problem to reveal the year.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1039 \\ + 539 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

### Japan: Labor Thanksgiving Day

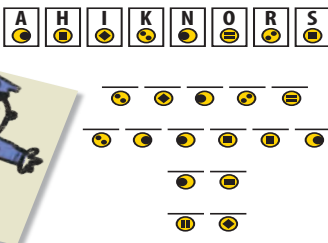
Long ago, people in Japan celebrated the harvest. As time went on, their day of giving thanks became a time to thank the workers who grew and harvested their food.



Today, Japan celebrates a Labor Thanksgiving Day. It's a day to show gratitude for the workers in the community. School children make colorful thank you cards and gifts for the police, firefighters and hospital workers.



Use the code to discover what the Japanese call their special thanksgiving celebration.



### Extra! Extra! Thank the Helpers

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper thanking the community helpers such as police, firefighters, teachers, hospital workers and more.

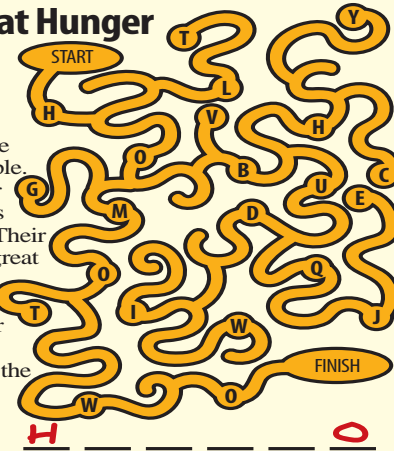
Standards Link: Language Arts: Communicate ideas in letter format.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Ghana: Hooting at Hunger

In parts of Ghana, people celebrate a festival called Hooting at Hunger.

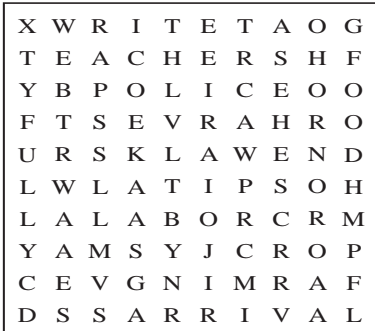
Years ago, a severe famine broke out among the people. The people put all of their energy into growing yams and soon had a big crop. Their hunger ended, and, with great joy, they "hooted at hunger." This is the meaning of their name for their day of thanksgiving. Write down the letters on the correct path of the maze to the celebration's name.



### Double Double Word Search

- ARRIVAL
- CROP
- FARMING
- FOOD
- FULL
- GOAT
- HARVEST
- HORN
- HOSPITAL
- LABOR
- POLICE
- TEACHERS
- WALKS
- WRITE
- YAMS

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



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

### Kid Scoop Together

## How Wheat Becomes Bread

Work with a family member to number the pictures in order to show how wheat grows from a seed to become bread. It takes workers at every step to get the bread to people.

1. Seeds are planted.
2. Wheat grows from seed.
3. Grain is removed from the plant.
4. Wheat grains are ground into flour.
5. Flour is made into bread.



### Erntedankfest

Germany calls its Thanksgiving Erntedankfest. People take to the streets in parades. Some carry harvest crowns made of grains, fruit and flowers.

### Write On!

## I'm Thankful!

Think back on things that have happened since last Thanksgiving. What are you thankful for that happened this past year?



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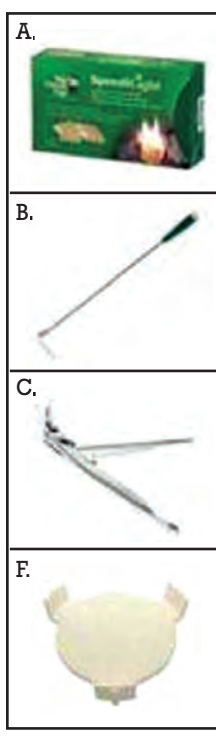
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## More funding available for winter heating bills

An additional \$16.6 million is being made available to help Wisconsin families keep their energy and heat on throughout the fall and winter months.

The investment will be managed by the state Department of Administration (DOA) and includes \$13.6 million for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) for heating assistance and \$3 million for the Keep Wisconsin Warm/Cool Fund for crisis energy assistance.

Energy assistance benefits are available for individuals and households

through WHEAP from Oct. 1 until May 15. This heating season, the average heating benefit is expected to be \$372 and the average electric benefit is expected to be \$210.

Residents can apply for energy assistance through county social and human service offices, and private nonprofit agencies, at [energybenefit.wi.gov](http://energybenefit.wi.gov), or at 800-506-5596.

Eligibility is based on household income, household size, and the home's energy costs. More information is available at [energyandhousing.wi.gov](http://energyandhousing.wi.gov).

Neenah has routinely outperformed budget expectations and has consistently maintained strong reserves. The report further noted the city has good financial policies and weak debt.

A potential environmental risk noted is the possibility of flooding due to Neenah's proximity to Lake Winnebago. The report said no major flood events have occurred in recent years and the Fox River and Winnebago are dam-controlled, which mitigates those risks.

The city's tax base has grown steadily in recent years, increasing 22% since 2017 to \$2.5 billion in 2021, with the expectation that this trend will continue based on a competitive housing market and plans for several large apartment complexes and a mixed-use commercial/residential complex in the downtown area.

Viegut noted that significant development and redevelopment have been fostered by the use of TIDs.

"Neenah's elected and appointed officials are highly sophisticated in their monitoring and analysis of the city's tax incremental districts," he said.

## TIF district

FROM PAGE 1

the oldest established in 1993 and the newest in 2022. They include the Downtown Business District, Southpark Industrial Center, Westside Business Corridor, Doty Island Business District, I-41 South Industrial Redevelopment District, Downtown Gateway Redevelopment District, Pendleton Development Area and Bridgewood Redevelopment.

The value growth, or the increase in equalized property values within the existing TIDs, is more than \$274 million. In a report presented at the meeting, it was noted that without TIDs it is highly unlikely the expanded employment base and increased vibrancy of Neenah's downtown would have occurred.

TIDs do not increase or decrease residents' taxes. The surplus funds are used for municipal projects and to develop commercial and industrial parcels and expand employment opportunities.

According to a rating report reviewed,

## Obituaries

### Brian Brandl

Brian Brandl, 55, died peacefully on Sunday, November 13, 2022, at the Wisconsin Regional Vent Center in Chippewa Falls.



Brian was born in Neenah, WI, Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 1967, to Raymond & Ellie (Bednaroski) Brandl. Brian was an International Special Olympic medalist.

He worked at ARC in Boonville, IN, for 30 years. He loved bowling, golfing, swimming, and country music. Brian participated in local Special Olympics for 30 years. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Church in Newburgh, IN, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Brian was an avid fan of Cincinnati Bengals & Cincinnati Reds.

Brian is survived by sisters, Amy (Bill) Clifford and Lori (Don) Whittle; brother, Chris (Mary Beth) Brandl; aunt, Blanche Smith; nieces and nephews, Nick (Tracy) Helander, Olivia (Brett) Marcis, Stephanie (Josh) Barnard, Ryan (Alexis) Brandl, Jacqueline Whittle, and John Whittle, Brandon (Fiancée, Allison DeBoer) Thayer and Grant (Courtney) Thayer; along with many other loving relatives and friends.

er and Grant (Courtney) Thayer; along with many other loving relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Ellie Brandl; and brother, Timothy.

The funeral service will be at 3 p.m. on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, 712 Market Street Marathon, WI 54448, with a visitation one hour prior to the Mass at church. Fr. Joseph Diermeier will be officiating. The interment will be at a later date in St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Newburgh, IN.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. Croix Hospice, 1280 W. Clairemont Ave #4, Eau Claire, WI 54701 or to the Wisconsin Regional Vent Center, 2815 County HWY I, Chippewa Falls WI, 54729.

Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel & Cremation Services, Chippewa Falls is serving the family. Please share your memories and condolences online at [pedersonvolker.com](http://pedersonvolker.com).



To advertise in the Neenah News, call us at 920-486-1616

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**Free community meal November 21st** at River Valley Church, Oshkosh. Everyone is invited to attend. We serve from 5pm - 6pm. 1331 High Avenue. Questions, please call 920-379-3371.

**HOLIDAY (Massive) MARKET Gifts \* Crafts \* Collectibles Sat. Nov. 26 (8am-5pm) 500+ Vendors FREE PARKING RESCH EXPO/Green Bay holidaygiftandcraftshow.com 715-526-9769 (WCAN)**

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