

ASK ME!
KIDS HAVE QUESTIONS. VISIT OUR
SITE FOR RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

www.breakwaterwi.org
Prevent & Reduce Youth and Adult Substance Use

**WE HELP IS ONE CALL
OR TEXT AWAY!
CALL 2-1-1 OR TEXT
YOUR ZIP
YOU CODE TO 898211**

INSIDE



Zephyrs roll
Offensive balance,
defensive pressure key win
Page 10

Shattuck School
More time needed
to decide site's future
Page 3

Cat takes unintended road trip

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Automotive technicians at Bergstrom in Neenah had quite a surprise Dec. 19 when they found a live cat under the hood of a car they were servicing.

Todd Nennig posted on social media that he drove his wife's car about 15 miles from their home in Sherwood to Neenah, traveling about 70 miles per hour, to have the vehicle repaired at Bergstrom.

About an hour after dropping the car off, he received a call from a Bergstrom service adviser who asked if he was missing a cat.

"Somehow or another this little guy crawled under the hood for shelter," Nennig said, adding that the cat is not his.

Neenah Animal Shelter executive director Cindy Flauager said that during colder months outdoor cats may crawl under the hood of a vehicle, seeking warmth from the engine. The location becomes unsafe when the vehicle is operating.

"I don't know how that cat stayed in that

SEE **Cat trip** ON PAGE 8

Special assessment criteria updated

Parcels to be reviewed instead of foot count

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council took action at its meeting Dec. 21 to change the way it assesses properties under construction in new subdivisions.

Under state law, cities may charge the cost of installing or constructing public works or improvements to the property that benefits from the improvement, us-

ing an assessment.

Under the previous ordinance, all special assessments for street improvements were levied against the abutting property based on a centerline foot basis, determined by the ratio of each owner's number of assessable feet, fronting upon the improvement, to the entire number of feet assessable for the improvement.

Public Works Director Gerry Kaiser proposed revising the municipal code to provide the Common Council with the ability to impose special assessments

for new street construction based on the unit method, where parcels are of a comparable size and use.

Under the unit method, all parcels within the benefited area are assessed equally for improvements.

The revision also eliminates assessing both sides of a corner property and changes the thickness of asphalt to 4 inches.

"It does give the council the option to take a different approach to assessment

SEE **Assessments** ON PAGE 7



Submitted photo

Neenah High School alum Vienna Behnke (9) has been playing professional soccer in Iceland since 2017.

Neenah's Behnke living out dream

Former Rocket thriving in Iceland pro soccer league

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Believe. It's a word Vienna Behnke lives by.

She always had confidence in her soccer skills and believed she could play the game at the professional level.

Her special journey has taken her halfway across the globe to a different continent and presented her with multiple challenges – like dealing with a new culture and language, a harsh climate and two painful injuries that required surgeries.

But Behnke has accomplished what she set out to do as a kid kicking a soccer ball in her backyard in Neenah.

Behnke is home for the holidays and resting up before launching another season of professional soccer. She has played in Iceland since 2017 and is currently a

midfielder for Fylkir, based in the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik.

The squad plays in the 10-team Lengjudeildin League – commonly known in Iceland as the "first division" – with an 18-game regular-season schedule followed by the Women's League Cup series. The Icelandic season starts with preseason play in March and extends through October.

Dreaming about playing professional sports is something practically every youth athlete experiences.

The 29-year-old Behnke is one of the few from the Fox Cities who made it happen.

"When you dream of becoming a pro futbol player, you have this idea in your mind of what it's going to be like," Behnke said. "Some of it has been exactly how I thought it was going to be and other

things have been completely different.

"But I've loved it. I wouldn't keep going back to Iceland if I didn't. It's good quality soccer, the standard of living is high, and women's equality and women's rights are very progressive. That bodes well for women's soccer there. Other than the weather, which I can handle, it's the best job in the world."

A former prep standout with the Neenah Rockets, Behnke was a three-year starter at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee before launching her pro career in 2016 by playing a year with the Chicago Red Stars Reserves. She hired an agent and sought opportunities overseas before heading to Iceland in 2017 to play for Haukar in the Pepsi-deildin (now called Besta-deildin) League where she quickly became a starter.

"I feel like I fit in better with the European game than I do with the American

SEE **Soccer star** ON PAGE 8



Behnke

Neenah News

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

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

General information/customer service: Jennifer Grunwald
admin@neenahnewsnow.com
Phone: 920-486-1616
Website: www.neenahnewsnow.com

News tips and story ideas
submit@neenahnewsnow.com

Support the Neenah News

Subscribe

\$70/year - print edition and E-edition delivery
\$60/year - E-edition.
\$5/month - Monthly access to E-editions.

Go to www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe or call 920-486-1616.

Deadline to subscribe for the next issue is Monday by 10 a.m.

Advertising

advertising@neenahnewsnow.com
920-486-1616

Classified advertising

classifieds@neenahnewsnow.com
920-486-1616

All advertisements are subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from our Advertising Department. All ads are subject to approval before publication. Neenah News reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, classify or cancel any ad at any time. Errors must be reported in the first day of publication. The Neenah News shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from an error in or omission of an advertisement. No refunds will be given for early cancellation of an order.

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

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

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

Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.



Submitted photo

A candlelit skiing, snowshoeing and hiking event is set for Winnebago County Community Park to launch the BAGO program.

BAGO wants to see you outside at the park

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

Children and families are encouraged to step into the outdoor activities of BAGO (Be Active. Go Outside), a collaborative program based at Winnebago County Community Park north of Oshkosh, starting with a candlelit event at the park.

The Winnebago County Parks Department, Oshkosh Recreation Department and the sports activity organization pds-FUSION are creating the yearlong program to “tap into the adventurous spirit of children” by offering monthly themed events and activities geared toward individuals and families. Dates will vary depending on the monthly events.

County parks program coordinator Justin DeJager said the initiative is based on the global movement 1,000 Hours Outside with a twist that plays on the region’s area code.

The local program theme is 920 Hours Outside, with the groups working together to help move the needle on inactivity and obesity and reduce the amount of time spent on video screens.

Participants are encouraged to use the 920 Hours Outside Activity Tracker over the course of the year. It can be found at winnebagocountywi.gov/parks/bago. The tracking sheets will be collected

during the last week of 2023 and prizes will be awarded.

“We encourage people to spend that many hours outside during the year,” DeJager said. “We not only encourage people to spend the time outside and use the tracker sheet that we have but also come to the events that we have that are designed to get people outside and active.”

He said pdsFUSION executive director Stephanie Pereira da Silva brought the BAGO idea to parks staff and the Oshkosh Recreation Department as something the three groups, who all encourage outdoor activities, could collaborate on.

“We hope it adds a little bit to what we are doing with these programs already,” DeJager said.

Oshkosh Recreation Department director Kabel Helmbrecht added his praise for the program collaboration.

“I know that the individuals who have been working together to plan these events have come up with an awesome array of events and activities that will get families outside and active,” he said. “When you have multiple organizations with a variety of resources, talents, and ideas working together, only good things will happen for our community.”

Pereira da Silva said the amount of time children and adults spend outdoors cor-

relates to physical and mental health.

“As a community, we are working to move the needle on inactivity and obesity and reduce the amount of time our residents are on screens,” she said. “The glorious part about nature play is that it is for everyone, no matter the age or stage of life. We guarantee, you will not regret committing 2023 to making memories outside.”

Most of the BAGO activities will be free with any funds collected going back into the program. Lapham-Hickey Steel has funded this year’s programming with the help of other sponsors including GEMS (Giving Empowers My Sisters).

Among the planned activities:

Jan. 20-22: Candlelight cross-country ski/snowshoe/hike (limited equipment available)

February: Love is in the Air

March: Lucky Leprechauns Hunt

April: After Dark Eggs in the Park

May: Hit the Trails

June: Field Day

July: Pilates in the Park

August: Dirty Ninja

September: Back to School Picnic

October: Haunted Hustle 5k

November: Plank You

December: Snow Creature Building Competition

Fireworks convention seeks county site

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Just a few days after the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance to amend the county code to allow fireworks to be used on county property, the Pyrotechnics Guild International (PGI) announced plans to hold an international fireworks festival at Sunnyview Expo Center on Aug. 12-18.

PGI initially planned to hold the event at Wisconsin International Raceway (WIR) in Buchanan, two weeks sooner than the Oshkosh area date. The convention was held at that location on three other occasions. The fireworks show received some pushback from area residents.

Ted Erdmann of Appleton stated at a town meeting that when PGI was at WIR in 2010 there were hundreds of complaints and noise until 2:00 a.m.

“There are about five times more homes in the area and complaints will only increase,” he said.

In November, PGI posted on its website that it cannot commit to holding its 2023 convention at WIR. PGI also submitted a request for a permit with the city of Oshkosh that month, which was approved.

The county board took action Dec. 20 to amend county code to allow entities to use fireworks on county property. The entity must obtain a local fireworks permit and sufficient insurance coverage. The entity must also obtain approval from the county executive. The amendment specifically mentioned the Winnebago County Fair and Lifest.

PGI issued a press release Dec. 23, stating that it intended to hold the 2023 event at Sunnyview.

“All parties are working on final approvals and we are optimistic that we can finalize this deal in the coming weeks,” PGI wrote.

The event would include on-site camping and all the festival events would be held at the location.

Sunnyview’s location is in both the city and Town of Oshkosh, indicating PGI must obtain approval from both entities to use fireworks at the location.

The Town of Oshkosh tabled the discussion for two weeks at its Monday meeting. Oshkosh Town Chair Jim Erdman will make the final decision.

District 13 Supervisor Steven Binder suggested annexing the location into the city to get around approval from the town.

“I’d hate to see us lose the event because Erdman doesn’t want to give us a permit,” he said.

Concerns about the location of the Oshkosh Area Humane Society, which is about two miles away, were discussed at both the County Board meeting last week and at a county Parks and Recreation committee meeting this week.

Winnebago County Parks director Adam Breest said there are several other fireworks shows that are hosted in the area.

“We’re definitely going to contact residents, all adjacent property owners, to let them know,” he said.

PGI will also need to obtain permission to enter neighboring properties for cleanup. Breest said the specific details and a site plan will be outlined in a contract, which is in the works.

Fox Valley School Of Music

FIRST PIANO LESSON IS FREE
IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL

920-232-5408

Call or text for details
Ages 4 to Senior Citizens

foxvalleyschoolofmusic.com

Middle school site future given more review time

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Could the Shattuck Middle School site still be turned into moderate-income apartments and single-family homes after the Neenah Common Council voted against rezoning earlier this month?

The answer is maybe, after a Board of Education meeting last week extended the deadline for Andy Dumke of Northpointe Development to obtain the necessary zoning permits to move forward with the purchase and development of the 27-acre property.

Shattuck Middle School, at 600 Elm St., will be vacant next fall with the completion of the new Neenah High School. The middle school will move to the current high school site off Tullar Road.

The Neenah Joint School District (NJSD), which estimated it would cost about \$2 million to raze the building, listed the property for sale about two years ago and in July agreed to sell it to Northpointe, with the sale contingent on the city approving the rezoning.

Developer's proposal

Dumke said he planned to preserve the historic 94-year-old school and turn it into moderate-income apartments. He would spend about \$30 million renovating the Shattuck building, which includes about \$1 million in asbestos abatement.

Northpointe initially planned to construct duplexes, townhomes and single-family homes at the site, but eliminated the duplexes and townhomes due to heavy opposition from neighboring residents.

The final plan was to build 89 apart-



Neenah News

Shattuck Middle School, which will be closed down after this school year, is the ongoing topic of discussion for development options.

ments inside the Shattuck building and construct 49 single family homes at the site. Four acres of green space would be donated to the city to be made into a park.

The apartments would only be available to people making between \$45,000 to \$53,000 per year. Background checks would be conducted yearly and those with drug or sex offense convictions would be denied.

Under the agreement, the NJSD Health and Wellness Center would remain in place, saving the district about \$600,000 in relocation fees.

Neighborhood concerns

Hundreds of residents called, emailed and wrote council members to urge them to oppose the rezoning. Locals spoke at several public meetings, signed petitions and put up yard signs that said, "Don't rezone. Leave R1 alone."

Chief among residents' concerns was their fear that the proposed apartments

would bring crime to the neighborhood, and that drug addicts and sex offenders would be housed there.

Although the proposed development received tremendous pushback from the community, some residents spoke in support of it, stating that the local effort to deny the rezoning was an attempt to exclude low- and moderate-income people from living in Neenah.

"These comments make broad, unfair assumptions about people like me who need affordable housing," resident Warren Bergmann said at a November council meeting. "Should I not be allowed to live here? Am I a threat to your community?"

Tamara Hasz, of Neenah, told the council at its December meeting that there are unanswered questions about Northpointe's proposed development.

"Please don't destroy this wonderful community, because once you open the floodgate on this property there will be more calls for service," she said. "There

will be more crime; I don't want that."

Hasz offered to purchase Shattuck, offering the same terms as the Northpointe sale, but without a rezoning contingency.

What's next for Shattuck

The council voted 5-4 to reject the rezoning request Dec. 7. Dumke said he would walk away from the Shattuck property as a result, with the contract giving him until Dec. 15 to make a final decision.

Last week, the Board of Education and Common Council each met in closed session to discuss the Shattuck site. The council's discussion centered around tax incremental financing and the possible investment of public funds into the property; while the school board discussed next steps for the property.

NJSD communication director Jim Strick wrote in a press release that during the closed session the school board took no action on Hasz's offer to purchase the property and requested that she provide more specific details about her development plans, particularly due to NJSD maintaining its Health and Wellness Center in the building.

Strick said the board approved an extension to the purchase offer from Northpointe, with the new deadline set for Jan. 31.

At that time Dumke will have the option of extending the deadline for another 90 days. The extension will provide Northpointe more time to work with the city in further developing a plan for the property, he noted.

If Dumke is able to secure council approval for rezoning, development would begin in late 2023 or 2024.

New Year's Eve

Northside
Bar & Grill

FREE
Safe Ride
Home
Available

Couple \$90

Single \$45

—MUSIC—

SCOTT & TAMMY (from One Track Mind)

9PM-1AM

—FOOD & DRINKS—

—FRIDAY FISH FRY—

ALL YOU CAN EAT • DINE IN ONLY

with Drink Purchase

Choice of: • Haddock • Pike/Perch • Bluegill

Comes with side of coleslaw, choice of potato and marbled rye.

2126 Algoma Blvd • Oshkosh Wi 54901

920-233-2400 • Serving 11am-8pm

For our complete menu please visit us on Facebook or check us out at
Northsidebarngrill.com

Memory Care Respite

in Neenah and Oshkosh

A safe and engaging activity for people with memory loss. A chance to rejuvenate for their care partners.

- Two hours of respite
- Care provided by Valley VNA Senior Care staff
- Volunteer-led program includes activities, music, and snacks
- Care partners can participate or take time for themselves
- FREE

Neenah Respite

First and Second Monday
of each month
1:30-3:30 p.m.
St. Paul Lutheran Church
200 N. Commercial Street, Neenah

Call 920-383-1180 to Pre-register

Oshkosh Respite

Fourth Tuesday of each month
1:30-3:30 p.m.
Christ Our Savior Lutheran
Church,
1860 Wisconsin Street, Oshkosh

Call 920-727-5555 to Pre-register

Brought to you by Valley VNA Senior Care in
collaboration with Memory Care Respite
Partners. Call 920-727-5555 to learn more.

Mastering the music is passion of Neenah native

Perkins takes on top talent as Madison studio chief

By Jim Lundstrom
FOR NEENAH NEWS

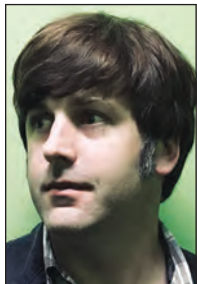
Justin Perkins has very good ears.

That's why you'll find the Neenah native's name on recent albums such as G. Love's "Philadelphia Mississippi" and the Grammy-nominated "Set Sail" by the North Mississippi All Stars, and as a performer and engineer with Tommy Stinson's Bash & Pop.

Perkins grew up in Neenah playing in bands – Yesterday's Kids and The Obsoletes – while also helping to record other young bands in the Fox Valley producing original music.

Today, he lives in Madison and owns Mystery Room Mastering, where he practices the fine art of mastering, or making the final audio adjustments to a recording before it is released.

"That just came about pretty organically," he said about moving from performer to studio expert. "I was a person in a band first



Perkins

and owning a studio came out of necessity because there were only a handful of studios in the area. They were fairly expensive and they were actually busy. So they didn't want some middle school kids coming in to record.

"We tried to get into a place in Neenah. I forget the name of it now. We dropped off the tape and never heard back. So I got into recording by necessity. Over time, more bands would call me to record their stuff."

And those bands calling him were all top original acts in the area at the time, including Cory Chisel & The Wandering Sons, Andy's Automatics and The Blueheels, who he also played bass with for several years.

Perkins revealed an important detail about how those Fox Valley bands banded. It wasn't just about the original and different-from-each-other music they were making.

"I think the other thing that brought all those bands together in the early 2000s like Cory Chisel, Blue Heels, Andy's Automatics, Obsoletes, was a mutual appreciation for Tom Petty," he said. "I think we could all meet at that point."

The Obsoletes was a great trio with Perkins on bass, Tim Schweiger on guitar and Jon Phillips on drums. The band recorded one CD in 2004 – "Is This Progress?" – on 145 Records, and then disbanded a year later.



Submitted photo

Justin Perkins is based in Madison with his Mystery Room Mastering studio.

er. However, their popularity was enough that when "Is This Progress?" was remastered (by Perkins) and released on vinyl for the first time, on Jon Phillips' Good Land Records, in 2020, it sold out.

"We did play a lot, but we didn't move to LA or take it to the next level," he said. "I just got to realize that making a living off touring is probably not a reality. But, luckily, people are calling me to do recording and make records. So it was a very slow shift from playing a lot of shows and recording some of the bands to eventually recording a lot of bands and only playing some shows."

Eventually he realized playing gigs was taking away from studio time.

"Playing just started to get in the way of recording," he said. "I remember playing shows on a Friday night to bar close, then having to drive through the night to get back to Madison and record a weekend session. The Blueheels were getting some pretty good-paying gigs and staying busy. I was thinking ahead like, 'Yeah, I can't do this forever.'"

Before opening his own mastering studio, he worked at the now closed but highly

influential Smart Studio in Madison. His first studio gig was at Simple Studios in Green Bay, where he says the education of his ears really began.

"It was everything from polka to punk rock, metal to Americana, so you really want to open your ears," he said.

He also quickly learned that having been in a band made him able to communicate better with the musicians.

"I actually can't read music, but I've been around long enough where I can sort of speak the language and have empathy for what they are doing," he said. "It helps me understand how to speak to musicians, to say could you just play it this way? Let's try it. Let's try to do it another way."

"Because I know a few engineers that are not musicians, and they're good engineers, but I would find it hard to communicate certain things, you know, certain ideas. And I got pretty good at just recognizing chord progressions. When you play that F sharp minor chord, it sounds a little odd, and I think you're bending the G string a little out of tune or something."

His recent projects are all from word-

of-mouth on other projects, which began when a good friend of his became Tommy Stinson's manager. Knowing of Justin's love for The Replacements, the friend did his best to connect Perkins with Stinson.

"It just happened organically," Perkins said. "We got to back him up for some shows. That was cool. And that led to him needing some studio work. It's just all these weird things. We can't really plan it. You sort of have to be in the right place at the right time and be ready for it. That's how those things come about."

So here's how it came about that Perkins was chosen to master the "Set Sail" album by NMA, nominated for a Grammy for contemporary blues album of the year.

Cody and Luther Dickinson of the North Mississippi All Stars liked Perkins' work so much that they asked him to master "Set Sail," which may be the most pristine recording I have heard in a long while. Luther then produced G. Love's "Philadelphia Mississippi" and asked Perkins to master that as well.

Jim Lundstrom is editor of *The Reader* in Duluth.

AUTO ACCIDENT?

Surgery may be overkill, while physical therapy may not be enough. The doctors of Strong Chiropractic Office can offer guidance on auto injury treatments for people in the Oshkosh, Neenah, and Appleton areas of Wisconsin.

Treatments are custom suited towards a particular injury and may include spinal adjustments, laser therapy, and therapeutic exercise.



www.strongchiropractic.com

OSHKOSH OFFICE
2100 Omro Road STE. B
Oshkosh, WI 54904
(920) 426-9898

NEENAH OFFICE
1426 S. Commercial St
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 725-0800

APPLETON OFFICE
1801 N. Richmond St
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 831-4110

Christmas tree

In the 1930s, the city Christmas tree was displayed at the corner of Commercial Street and Wisconsin Avenue. National Manufacturers Bank and First National Bank can be seen in the background.



NEENAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Deputy going to trial over 2018 drunken driving arrest

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A judge set a jury trial date to determine whether a Winnebago County sheriff's officer violated a man's constitutional rights when she arrested him and he spent six months in jail for a drunken driving charge that was later dismissed.

Mark Petersen, 41, of Neenah, initially brought the lawsuit in Wisconsin Eastern District Court against the Neenah Police Department, two Neenah officers and four Winnebago sheriff's officers earlier this year. All of the parties have been dismissed from the lawsuit except for the arresting officer, deputy Stefanie Pedersen.

Pedersen responded to a call that a car 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.

According to the criminal complaint, Petersen was unsteady on his feet and smelled of intoxicants. He told the deputy his daughter was driving the vehicle. Deputy Pedersen had interacted with Petersen in the past and knew he was estranged from his daughter. She contacted Petersen's mother, who said she would be surprised if his daughter was with him.

"Due to Mark being extremely uncooperative as he kept trying to walk away from me, I did not attempt field sobriety tests," Pedersen wrote in the complaint, adding that every time she has interacted with Petersen in the past she physically fought with him.

Court records indicate that no deputies witnessed Petersen operating his vehicle, causing a collision or causing any damage. He had three prior operating while intoxicated (OWI) convictions from 2004, 2005

and 2013.

Pedersen placed him under arrest without administering field sobriety tests. He was taken to Theda Clark Medical Center where he was forced to submit to a blood draw. When he resisted, officers and medical staff engaged in a physical altercation with him.

Petersen was charged with fourth-offense OWI 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 on several occasions and subsequently spent six months in jail because he was unable to make bail.

In October 2021, Judge Teresa Basiliere dismissed the case against him, citing insufficient probable cause for the arrest.

Petersen's attorney argues that the arrest, blood draw and detention were a violation of his Fourth Amendment rights, which protect against unreasonable search and seizure, and of his due process rights under the 14th Amendment.

Petersen contends that because Pedersen did not see him operating a vehicle she did not have probable cause to arrest him and she maliciously violated his rights.

As a result of the arrest and incarceration, he suffered lost wages, pain and suffering, documents contend. He's asking for an unspecified award of compensatory and punitive damages and an award of attorney's fees and costs.

Deputy Pedersen's attorney denied any wrongdoing or improper conduct or that she violated Petersen's rights.

"Pedersen was at all times acting pursuant to Wisconsin law, custom, and statutes," documents state.

Judge William Griesbach set a trial date for Oct. 30.



Sheriff's Department photo

Shelter support

Winnebago County Sheriff's Department employees are invited to participate each year in a voluntary Casual Friday fundraiser with the opportunity to donate to one of two recipients. This year the Neenah Animal Shelter was a recipient, with Sheriff John Matz shown presenting shelter staff with a check for \$2,190. Shown with Matz are (from left) executive director Cindy Flauager, vice president Kay and shelter coordinator Talia.

Grants available for outdoor projects

The Fox Valley area chapter of the native landscaping group Wild Ones is accepting applications until Feb. 1 for grants of up to \$500 to support creation of outdoor classrooms or other projects that use and develop an appreciation for native landscaping.

Schools, churches and other public and nonprofit groups may apply for the Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow grants ranging from \$100 to \$500 for projects within 15 miles of the Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet or Fond du Lac County lines. Eligible projects include a native plant community such as

prairie, woodland or wetland for educational use; an interpretive trail using native plantings; or a rain garden used to teach about water quality improvement.

Eligible costs include native flowers, grasses, forbs, shrubs, rain gardens, trees and seed for native plants.

Winning entries will be selected based on creativity, impact on the community, thoughtful planning and wise budgeting.

Application forms are available at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/resources.

Recipients will be notified in early March.

FVTC, Chamber offer small business sessions

The Fox Cities Chamber and Fox Valley Technical College Venture Center will offer a series of small business workshops at a discounted rate for Chamber members. Four programs will be held in the first half of 2023 on topics that will help small businesses grow.

The series kicks off Jan. 18 with "Small Business Talent Management," which will help micro and small business owners prepare for improving and adding talent. Main areas to be discussed include writing job descriptions, recruiting and managing staff, employee training, calculating employee cost benefit, and planning for future employee needs.

The workshop will be facilitated by Bill Ritcey from FVTC Venture Center, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the D.J. Bordini Center in Appleton. The cost is \$59/person for Chamber members; \$79 for nonmembers.

The February offering will be a small business skill-building series: "Social Media Basics and Understanding TikTok" facilitated by Evan Friemuth, founder, Venture Wisconsin, and held on two Mondays, Feb. 6 and 13.

A series on "Small Business Sales Management" is set for March and "Smart Marketing for Your Business" in April.

Contact info@foxcitieschamber.com for registration details.

Tree dropoff program offered at landfill

Winnebago County Solid Waste will once again be offering a place to drop-off residential Christmas trees for landfill diversion.

The program is underway and runs through Jan. 31.

The dropoff service at Sunnyview Landfill & Transfer Station site at 100 W. County Y allows for easy disposal of real trees at no charge for county residents who do not have tree pickup service.

All trees must be free of artificial components or decorations and flocked trees are not accepted.

The landfill hours are from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. to noon Sat-

urdays. Christmas light recycling is also available at no charge.



Weekend rates starting at \$325
Locally Owned & Operated
Neenah, WI

920-312-6616

www.qualitywastedumpsters.com

Winnebago County January COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

- Updated bivalent vaccine available for anyone eligible, 6 months and older!
- Offering the Pfizer vaccine.
- Parent or guardian must be present if under 18.
- First, second, and booster doses available. Please bring your vaccine card.
- Just walk in! No appointment needed.
- The vaccine is free. No ID or insurance required.

TUESDAYS

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Oshkosh Public Library
(106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh)
Home test kits available.

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Fox Crossing Fire Department
(1326 Cold Spring Rd, Neenah)
Home test kits available.

WEDNESDAYS

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Sunnyview Expo Center
(500 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh)
Home test kits available.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Oaklawn Elementary School
(112 Viola Dr, Oshkosh - Door #2)


A Better Way to Holiday!

Prevent the spread of COVID-19, colds and flu this Holiday Season.
Test if you're sick. Get vaccinated.

Testing Locations

Sunnyview Expo Center
500 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh
M - F, 9 am - 5 pm

Summit Clinical Laboratories
2135 S Koeller St, Oshkosh
M - F, 8 am - 4 pm, Sat, 8 - 11 am
(Also offering testing for Influenza A & B and RSV.)



Scan the QR code to order home test kits

Test Positive for COVID-19?

Get free COVID-19 medication through Wisconsin's COVID-19 Telehealth Program!


Free, easy access to oral antiviral medication for anyone 18 and older who tests positive for COVID-19.

Prescriptions can be picked up immediately following a phone or video consultation, or they can be delivered the next day.

Clinicians available every day, 8 am - 8 pm.

No insurance needed.

Call 833-273-6330
Register online at color.com/covid-19-treatment-wi





More Info:
www.wcvaaccine.org
920-232-3026





Photo by David Hall

Visual expressions

Using hundreds of objects fabricated from multiple glass processes, “Between Seeing and Knowing” is a large-scale installation by Anna Boothe and Nancy Cohen on exhibit running through Feb. 3 at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. Their work is inspired by the artists’ study of Tibetan Buddhist thangka paintings and their symbolism.

Ice safety measures get emphasis early in season

Neenah News

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is promoting ice safety on all water bodies with recent Wisconsin water rescues serving as reminders that early-season ice on any waterbody is thin, weak and potentially life-threatening.

None of the early-season breakthrough rescues reported statewide has been a fatal incident.

“Temperature swings, strong winds, currents, underground springs feeding lakes and rivers vary widely across Wisconsin,” said Maj. April Dombrowski, DNR recreational safety and outdoor skills section chief. “These factors are why no ice is ever considered safe, especially not this early in the season.”

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions and recommends anyone planning to access or use an ice-covered waterbody to contact their local fishing clubs, bait shops or outfitters for ice condition information. Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club off County A on Lake Winnebago is one of them (pphsfc@gmail.com).

“These places routinely check ice conditions and can give you the best and most current conditions,” Dombrowski said. “If you can plan your outing without any travel over ice, do it. And if you are going to be on some ice, let someone know your plans and follow them.”

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue’s Dive Team, formed in 2012, has 15 certified divers that train in area lakes, rivers, ponds, quarries and pools to maintain their certification and stay prepared for live rescue dives. Donations are accepted to help defray maintenance and future training costs.

A waterbody has its own characteristics. Check if a lake has inlets and outlets. Know whether its narrows are spring-fed

or have currents like rivers, both of which can thin the ice.

Smaller lakes can have aerators that are run throughout the winter, either covering a large area toward the center of the lake or smaller aerators placed by private landowners adjacent to their shore and piers.

It is equally important to stay alert for pressure ridges or ice heaves. They are often created, move or grow with changes in temperatures and high winds. Pressure ridges and ice heaves occur regularly on Lake Winnebago.

Some basic ice safety tips:

- Carry a cellphone and let people know where you are going and when you’ll return home.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or a float coat, to help a person stay afloat and to help maintain body heat.
- Wear ice creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas.
- Carry a few spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.
- If you fall in, remain as calm as possible. While attempting to get out of the water, call for help. Anyone who attempts to rescue you should use a rope or something similar to avoid falling through themselves.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas or at night.

Have a plan in place noting where you will be and when you plan to return. Along with leaving a written note of your plans, keeping a charged cellphone is recommended.

Go to the DNR’s Ice Safety webpage for more information.

Ice report

By Jim Nobbe

PAYNE’S POINT HOOK AND SPEAR FISHING CLUB

As you can see if you drive by the lake, it looks to have held surprisingly well from the recent snow and windstorm. As of Monday, on the northern half of the lake, I am seeing anywhere between 2 to 8 inches of ice. There is not a lot



of snow cover but there are certain areas that have a lot of shove ice to contend with.

The warmer weather that is forecasted for later this week will be the next hurdle to get past for building more ice on the lake. I will do my best to keep everything updated as the conditions change with these reports and on Payne’s Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club’s Facebook page and website.

Remember, the ice is never 100% safe.

Calendar of events

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

Friday, Jan. 6

Fitness Friday, 9:15 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Jan. 7

Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Monday, Jan. 9

Monday Matinee, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Jan. 14

Washington Park Winter Festival, 11 a.m., Washington Park, Neenah

Thursday, Jan. 19

Hidden History of Doty Island – the Driving Park, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, Dec. 30

Doo-Wop Daddies, 6 p.m., Bridge-wood Resort Hotel

Saturday, Dec. 31

New Year’s Eve Party, 5 p.m., Ground Round

Wednesday, Jan. 4

Vaccine clinic, 3 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, Jan. 5

Meditation session with Zen River



Local news for you




Subscribe today to Neenah's new weekly, community newspaper

LOCAL, RELEVANT NEWS DELIVERED WEEKLY

For only \$70/year you can have community news delivered to your mailbox every Friday.

Neenah government, business and community news every Friday with a subscription to Neenah News.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

at www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe or call 920-486-1616

for only \$70/year

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail check to 124 W. Wisconsin St. #090B, Neenah WI 54956 • Call 920-486-1616 to subscribe with a credit card over phone or visit www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe

Oshkosh Herald LLC dba
Neenah News, 124 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 090B, Neenah WI 54956 • 920-486-1616 • www.neenahnewsnow.com

Community better served by prison release support

By JenAnn Bauer
ESTHER INTERFAITH GROUP

There are currently 20,000 people in the Wisconsin prison system. Ninety-five percent will eventually return to their communities, your communities, our communities.

In a state that locks up “a higher percentage of its people than almost any democracy on earth” (Prison Policy Initiative, States of Incarceration: The Global Context 2021), we would assume the carceral system would have a plan in place for these individuals coming home, and we all know where assuming gets us.

A document shared by the Department of Corrections spanning 2016-2021 reported an average of 47% of women released in Wisconsin experience housing instability upon release. The Winnebago County average over those same years comes in at 49%.

These numbers would be much higher if we added the male population.

As a housing advocate for ESTHER Fox Valley, I am gathering stories of Oshkosh community members who are facing housing challenges. The information we’ve gathered is concerning. Many in our community are struggling to find a safe place to lay their head amid the barriers to safe housing for those with criminal convictions.

As a formerly incarcerated woman having experienced homelessness upon release, I share a short version of my truth with you to illustrate these challenges.

My family was healthy: a roof over our heads, bills paid and food on the table. When disaster hit in 2006, a motorcycle accident put my husband on the injured reserve list.

A year later, pressure to keep everything afloat on my own had taken its toll on my physical and mental health. Then, in the summer of 2007 an injury led me down a dark path by way of prescribed medication. I had reached out to treatment centers several times throughout my addiction and was refused repeatedly.

Late 2011 found me in “dope sick” desperation mode, threatened by my co-dependent husband, I crossed a line I couldn’t come back from. On April 24, 2013, I was transported to Taycheedah Correctional Institution as #548624.

July 2018 found me anxiously awaiting my release. At the age of 51, I was planning a new way of life.

Single, sober, healthy and educated. I knew if I returned to the situation I had left in 2013, I would become complacent and comfortable. I would lose the person I had fought to become, risking not only my sobriety but my freedom as well.

The prison social worker and my community agent were aware of my needs; a strong release plan with access to resources and a safe place to lay my head.

Two days before my release, the agent called my social worker explaining there was “nowhere” for me to go and “no resources” to access. Panic, anxiety, fear and a heavy sense of dread overshadowed the elation and joy of my release.

Wearing my prison greys, carrying a box of my personal belongings and grasping a check from my release account for \$800, I was released homeless by the DOC, spending my first two nights of freedom in the place I most feared would bring chaos, destruction and failure.

I was left to “figure it out” on my own. There is a list of collateral consequences that come with having been involved in the criminal legal system, from fines to supervision fees, family reunification to sustainable employment. But the struggle to find dignified housing is at the top of that list.

Most management companies won’t consider a rental application with a criminal history. Many “mom and pop” landlords have all but disappeared. Technology, although much needed, has furthered the disconnect of personal face-to-face interactions.

Most landlords in our state require an individual earn 2-3X more than the rent. Most rental applications require fees for criminal background and credit checks. Many rentals will not accept housing assistance which may be desperately needed if these individuals have children.

If we do find a rental to accept us, we are often required to pay more up front to assuage the fears of management. This was my case \$2,175 up front is a high price to pay – and often unattainable – when you are trying to reestablish your life.

Luckily, I had found an organization that believed in the power of second

chances.

How do we establish ourselves and move forward, reunite with our children and participate in our communities in a healthy way? How do we “prove” ourselves to society when we can’t even find a safe place to call home?

Many just want to be accepted into their community with an opportunity to provide for themselves and their families. Human beings are motivated by their needs. We, as a marginalized population, aren’t so different than anyone else.

We should not be defined or held back by our greatest regret. Everyone deserves a place they can call home.

Here are a few ways to support your community:

- Listen to the stories of those with lived experience.
- Get involved in your community on matters that support your values.
- Utilize the power of your vote through legislation and policy, elected officials work for you.
- Donate time and/or money to organizations that lead our communities to safety and equity.
- Donate/lease abandoned or underutilized property to these organizations.
- Support the need for transitional housing.
- Join the conversation and be a voice for the voiceless.

JenAnn is a housing advocate with ESTHER Fox Valley and Community Organizer with EXPO of WI.

Assessments

FROM PAGE 1

than we have taken in the past,” Kaiser said.

Deniss Malejevs, who lives in the Integrity Acres subdivision, spoke at the meeting and said he and his neighbors were notified the road, curb and gutter in their neighborhood would be assessed in 2023.

Malejevs said before he purchased the property he called the city and was informed each property would be assessed based on the frontage. He added that he and others disagree with the city assessing the improvements equally among neighboring residences.

Council member Todd Stevenson said that as a corner lot owner, he’s in favor of changing the code.

“I think this is a fair method and I do feel for those that may have asked the question of what the methodology is,”

Stevenson said.

The council unanimously approved revising the municipal code for special assessments.

It then moved to approve several preliminary resolutions, the first step in identifying the city’s powers to issue special assessments and direct staff to develop plans and estimates for the projects.

The preliminary resolutions include:

- Sanitary sewer lateral and water service construction on Burr Avenue, Chestnut Street, Dieckhoff Street, Elm Street, Laudan Boulevard and Reed Street; and adding Laudan Boulevard (Oak Street-Elm Street), River Street (Forest Avenue-Edna Avenue), High Street (River Street-Center Street) and Columbian Avenue (Elm Street-Congress Street).

- Curb, gutter and pavement construction on Amendment Drive, Anthem Drive, Briggs Lane, Buser Drive, Hedgeview Drive, Highland Drive, Nation Court, Plains Avenue, Presidential Drive, Statue Drive and Amber Lane.

- Curb, gutter, sidewalk and pavement construction on Integrity Way, Respect Avenue, Honor Street, Cardinal Circle, Lone Oak Drive and Paintbrush Road.

Council member Kathie Boyette asked whether construction will be completed in the Shattuck Middle School area, at 600 Elm St., as the site may be redeveloped once the school district sells it and vacates the property next year.

Jobless rate drops in cities, county

Unemployment in the Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell from 2.5% to 2.3% between October and November, according to the state Department of Workforce Development.

The jobless rate in the city of Neenah dipped from 2.3% to 2.2%.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates for Wisconsin metropolitan areas, major cities and counties showed jobless rates decreased in all 12 Wisconsin metro

Kaiser said he and water utility director Anthony Mach created a backup plan of locations where they can redirect efforts if construction on the streets around Shattuck were to be postponed.

“There’s plenty of needs out there so there was no issue with finding projects,” he said. “It was finding something that fit within the borrowing amount that the council had reviewed in the Capital Improvement Plan.”

areas over the month of November, while rates decreased or stayed the same in all of Wisconsin’s 35 largest cities.

Preliminary November unemployment rates decreased or stayed the same in 57 of 72 Wisconsin counties over the month. In Winnebago the November rate fell from 2.5% to 2.3%. The county’s jobless rate in November 2021 was 2.1%.

The data can be accessed at Wisconsin.com.

Change of Ownership

SALE

HERGERT

SPORT CENTER

MARINE - SPORT - SKI

OPEN
Jan 2
9am - 6pm

Everything must be sold, Save up to 70%

920-231-8520 • www.hergertsports.com { 1232 N. Sawyer St., Oshkosh WI } M-F 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-4pm

Soccer star

FROM PAGE 1

game,” Behnke said. “In Europe, they rely more on the technical and tactical side of the game. Do you have the foot skills? Do you understand how to move without the ball? I’ve always had good foot skills and a good understanding of the game.

“I’m not that big and I’m not the fastest and the strongest. So it (the European game) is more suited to me. The U.S is more focused on speed, strength and size. In Chicago with the Red Stars, they told me, ‘You’re small and you keep getting pushed off the ball. We really don’t see a future for you here, but we think you’d be good in Europe.’”

The Red Stars were right. Behnke has been good in Europe. She was selected as Haukar’s MVP in 2020 and landed all-league honors. In her first season with Fylkir, Behnke tied for the team lead in goals and assists.

She’s also tough. Behnke missed the entire 2018 season and part of the 2019 season after undergoing two spinal surgeries for what she describes as a broken back. She also broke her ankle during the 2021 season with Haukar and needed surgery, undergoing a six-month rehab before signing with Fylkir and returning to the pitch.

Adapting to Iceland – the most sparsely populated country in Europe – has been challenging, but Behnke has adjusted. Despite the Nordic countries’ reputation for bitter cold, the weather has been nothing a Wisconsin girl can’t handle. It’s not like she’s playing games in blinding snowstorms with polar bears prowling the sidelines.

“I really don’t think the weather is that hard to adjust to,” said Behnke, a 2011 Neenah High graduate. “But then again, I’m from Wisconsin where it’s cold a lot of the time. Actually, I think it gets way colder in Wisconsin. It wasn’t a super shock to my system, but if you’re from California or Florida it’s probably different.

“They don’t really get a lot of snow accumulation. But they get that blizzard-like type of wind that gets you right in the face.



Submitted photo

Vienna Behnke is a midfielder for the professional soccer team in Fylkir, Iceland.

I’ve had some games, especially in the preseason, where you are like frozen by the end of the game, but I’ve had games in Wisconsin where you felt the same way.

“The summers don’t get very warm. The warmest day you’re probably going to get is in the mid-60s. And they don’t really have spring or fall. They just have a couple months where it’s kind of warm and the rest of the year feels like winter.”

Behnke remembers reporting to her first Icelandic team in 2017. She had no idea what to expect and figured that games and practices would likely be held indoors.

“I showed up with indoor soccer shoes for turf,” Behnke said. “Everyone was like, ‘What are those? We don’t do that here – everything is outdoors.’”

Adjusting to limited daylight – as little as four hours during winter months – was another surprise for Behnke along with an inability to do some of the common things she did in the United States.

“No Amazon – you can’t order from Amazon,” Behnke said with a laugh. “Well, actually you can but it costs like 400 times as much and it takes forever to get here.”

Behnke also had a new language (Icelandic) to deal with.

“It’s a very difficult language to learn,” she said. “I made it a point to try and learn it because I wanted to. I’m not great with it and don’t know some of the advanced words, but I’ve learned some of the key words and phrases I need to know.

“But there really hasn’t been a language barrier because they speak English really well here. Many of the young people are very fluent in English.”

Behnke added that the Icelandic people and soccer fans have been nice and welcoming. Still, it can be tough when your family and close friends live roughly 3,000 miles away. She keeps in regular contact with her parents – Duke and Kathleen – and brother Kaiser.

Duke and Kathleen have made multiple visits to Iceland and watched their daughter play. Duke, a journalist with The Post-Crescent and Gannett Co., coached some of Vienna’s youth soccer teams when she was growing up.

“I’m really proud of her – not as much with all she’s accomplished – but that she’s just had that desire to pursue her dreams,” Duke Behnke said. “It’s not easy to play pro sports. There are a lot of obstacles in the way – getting the right connections, injuries, just getting your body to hold up.

“But she always had that passion since she was a kid to play soccer at the highest level possible and never really wavered from that. Pro sports is not for everyone, but it does seem to be for Vienna.

“It’s just her mindset, her goals, her drive. People don’t see the work she puts in outside of the game. There is so much training involved. Even when she’s home, she’s outside in the snow working out, clearing the snow on the streets so she can do a drill or something soccer related.”

Despite being so far away from Reykjavik, Duke and Kathleen have been able to regularly watch Vienna’s games through the modern-day wonders of computer livestreaming.

“We see all of her games,” Duke said. “Due to the (six-hour) time difference, we have to watch them on replay because we’re working. It’s still hard to watch them from afar, especially if she gets crunched with an injury or someone takes her out. You’re still a parent – far away – and all you can do is watch. It’s exciting, it’s nerve-wracking – it’s all of the things you get through sports.”

As for her future, Vienna understands she doesn’t have many years left to play the game professionally but she’s not ready to call it quits. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s in psychology-behavioral analysis with an emphasis on neuroscience – both from UW-Milwaukee.

“My big plan is to eventually go back to school and get my Ph.D. in behavioral science-neuroscience,” she said. “But I keep thinking I’ll play a couple more years. I’ll play as long as I can. As long as the body holds up. I’d do it forever if I could.”

Cat trip

FROM PAGE 1

car for the ride,” she said. “It wasn’t anyone being neglectful or anything; it was just an outdoor cat seeking heat.”

Flauager recommended checking under a vehicle before starting it. She said mothballs can be placed under the vehicle to deter animals from climbing inside.

Although the feline may have used up one of his nine lives on the adventure, he was unharmed.

“It’s a Christmas miracle,” Nennig said.

The cat was taken to the animal shelter where he was placed on a stray hold and checked for a microchip, which he did not have. Microchips contain information that helps the shelter locate an animal’s owners.

No owners came forward to claim the cat. Flauager said he will be vaccinated, neutered and rehomed.

“In general if you find a cat, and especially in this weather, try and get them inside and get them to the shelter so that they aren’t seeking that shelter out on their own and going in places that would be dangerous for them,” she said.



Photo from Neenah Animal Shelter

A cat that found its way under a car hood in Sherwood was taken to the Neenah Animal Shelter.

Health needs assessment emphasizes behavioral care

ThedaCare has put mental and behavioral health as priorities for 2023 in its Community Health Needs Assessment, a review it conducts every three years in partnership with public health officials and other stakeholders.

Dr. Imran Andrabi, ThedaCare president and chief executive, said those health concerns have been an ongoing issue that the pandemic has only worsened in the re-

gion and nationally.

The community assessment found that anxiety and depression have risen between 20 percent and 30 percent, along with increased use of alcohol and drugs.

Andrabi said that the health system continues to work against the stigma of mental health treatment and improving access to help in primary care offices.

ThedaCare Behavior Health is experiencing wait lists for the growing need for therapy and psychiatry, according to the assessment.

He also pointed to a health care staffing shortage across the country that ThedaCare is seeking to counter through collaborations with local colleges.

The Community Health Needs Assessment focuses on how people in the

region are becoming healthier, learn about what stands in their way to achieving health and well-being and how ThedaCare can support their ability to lead healthy lives.

More than 150 diverse community voices were engaged to identify health priority areas that will serve the 2023-2025 ThedaCare Community Health Improvement Plan.

Public library calendar

Visit neenahlibrary.org for details.

Jan. 3
Toddler Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months), 9:15 a.m.

WeeRead Storytime (all ages), 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 4
Baby Time (ages birth-12 months), 9:15 a.m.

Musical Movers (all ages), 10 a.m.

Community Event and Free Booster Vaccine Clinic 12 years old and up, 3-6 p.m.

Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Jan. 5
Wild Child Adventure Storytime, Riverside Park (all ages), 10 a.m.

Open Chess Night (all ages welcome), 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 6
Fitness Friday: Boot Camp, 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga, 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 8
Study Night (ages 14-18), 4 p.m.

Jan. 9
Monday Matinee for ages 18 and up, 1 p.m.

Jan. 10
Toddler Time (ages 12-24 months), 9:15 a.m.

WeeRead Storytime (all ages), 10:30 a.m.

All About Podcasts, 1:30 p.m.

Free Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 11
Baby Time (ages birth-12 months), 9:15 a.m.

Musical Movers (all ages), 10 a.m.

Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 12
Wild Child Adventure Storytime, Riverside Park, 10 a.m.

Open Chess Night (all ages), 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 13
Library After Dark: Genealogy Lock-In, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 15
LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+), 1 p.m.

Jan. 16
Memory Cafe: Old Fashioned Snow Day, 1:30 p.m.

Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "An Unwanted Guest" by Shari Lapena, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 17
Toddler Time (ages 12-24 months), 9:15 a.m.

WeeRead Storytime (all ages), 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 18
Baby Time (ages birth-12 months), 9:15 a.m.

Musical Movers (all ages), 10 a.m.

Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 19
Wild Child Adventure Storytime at O'Hauser Park, 10 a.m.

Open Chess Night (all ages), 5:30 p.m.

History Program-Hidden History of Doty Island: The Driving Park, 7 p.m.

Jan. 20
Fitness Friday: Balance & Strength,

9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga, 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 21
Stuffed Animal Clinic (ages 3+), 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 23
MMBK Book Club- "Four Winds", 10 a.m.

Finding My German Family After World War II, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 24
Toddler Time (ages 12-24 months), 9:15 a.m.

WeeRead Storytime (all ages), 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 25
Baby Time (ages birth-12 months), 9:15 a.m.

Musical Movers (all ages), 10 a.m.

Jan. 26
Wild Child Adventure Storytime, O'Hauser Park, 10 a.m.

Open Chess Night (all ages), 5:30 p.m.

This holiday season give the gift that will have them thinking of you all year long and every week as they read local, relevant news in the Neenah News!

GIFT THEM AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE NEENAH NEWS!

Neenah News
Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Call **920-486-1616** or visit www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe today to finish your holiday shopping.

To: _____ From: _____

You have been gifted

an Annual subscription to the Neenah News starting with the _____, 20__ issue.

Neenah News
Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Neenah News, 124 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah WI 54956
920.486.1616 • www.neenahnewsnow.com

Zephyrs roll past Knights in tourney matchup

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Offensive firepower is once again a staple of the St. Mary Catholic boys basketball team.

Through the first eight games of the season, the Zephyrs are averaging nearly 91 points per contest and feature a handful of players who have the potential to erupt at any given time.

Yet, head coach Paul Bradshaw has been just as impressed with what his players have been doing at the other end of the court.

“The last two years, we’ve scored a lot of points, but we didn’t play as well defensively,” Bradshaw said after his team’s 95-65 dismantling of Lourdes Academy in the first game of the Holy Buckets Tournament on Tuesday night. “This year, we really worked on it and I think our defense is the catalyst for us now. I think our defense will tell us how far we can go.”

St. Mary Catholic, which improved to 9-0 on the season with the win and was set to face St. Mary’s Springs in Wednesday’s title game, hardly let Lourdes Academy catch their breath Tuesday.

The Zephyrs forced the Knights into countless turnovers – many of which were immediately turned into points – and simply wore the Knights down over the course of the game.

“We were a lot deeper than them. Once we pressed them, we knew they were going to be tired,” senior point guard Danny Griffith said. “We are just a really deep team, a really quick team, a really conditioned team. We get up the court a lot and that really helps.”

Four players reached double figures against the Knights, led by Fisher MacKenzie with 22 points and Cole Uhlenbrauck with 21 points, and having the balance makes it tough for opposing defenses to contain.

St. Mary Catholic displays a team-first



Charlie Nackers soars toward the basket between a pair of Lourdes Academy defenders Tuesday night.

Neenah News

approach and that has let the talented individuals on the roster shine.

“I think (the key for us) is the unselfish play and how we just work together,” Uhlenbrauck said. “I think how we just blend together is awesome. We want to get everyone else the ball, not just ourselves, and that works out a lot.”

Bradshaw said that putting trust in each other is something the team talked about after the game and he likes the way that his

top two scorers – Uhlenbrauck and Griffith – lead by example in that respect.

“That’s what we talked about after is trusting your teammates and letting it happen,” Bradshaw said. “Cole and Danny don’t feel like they have to force their shots because they trust their teammates. I’m proud of those guys for having that trust and letting the game come to them.”

The Knights grabbed an early lead in the game but it didn’t take long for the Zeph-

rys to seize control. MacKenzie’s putback basket a little more than three minutes into the game cut Lourdes Academy’s lead to 9-7 and started 14-0 run for the Zephyrs.

Four different players scored in the surge for the Zephyrs, which Griffith – who added 18 points in the win – capped with a driving layup with 11:46 left in the

See **Zephyrs win** ON PAGE 11

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

Call **920-486-1616** or email advertise@neenahnewsnow.com to include your business every **FRIDAY** in the Business Services Directory.

FOUNDATION REPAIR

AREA
WATERPROOFING & CONCRETE LLC

Foundation Repair
Basement Waterproofing
Bowed and Cracked Walls
Concrete Flat Work

Free Estimates
Residential and Commercial

920-830-3788
www.areawaterproofing.com

PAINTING

DOUG'S
PAINTING

- Interior and Exterior
- Wallpaper Removal
- Residential & New Construction
- Over 30 years experience!

Call **920-722-5832**
No pay until you're satisfied

GET YOUR PHONE TO RING RING RING

By advertising your service business here every Friday!

Call **920-486-1616** or email advertise@neenahnewsnow.com

REAL ESTATE

RE/MAX ON THE WATER

HELPING EMPTY NESTERS
FIND A NEW NEST

JD Williams, REALTOR®
(920) 252-3633 Cell
920-230-8880 Office
814 Knapp St · Oshkosh
www.sellwithjd.com

CARPET CLEANING

Aquire 920.2.AQUIRE

CARPET CLEANING
UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
RUG CLEANING
SPOT/STAIN REMOVAL SERVICES

VOTED BEST CARPET CLEANING COMPANY

\$95 FOR TWO ROOM CARPET CLEANING

GET YOUR PHONE TO RING RING RING

By advertising your service business here every Friday!

Call **920-486-1616** or email advertise@neenahnewsnow.com

PLUMBING

KASCADE PLUMBING L.L.C.

Well & Septic
920.582.7304
www.kascadeplumbing.com

- Residential • Industrial
- Commercial • M.P. #255145
- Licensed and Insured

Not only service, We provide solutions!

E-RECYCLING

SE SADOFF E-RECYCLING & DATA DESTRUCTION

A SADOFF IRON & METAL COMPANY

Destroying Your Past to Protect Your Future

Certified Electronics Recycling & Data Destruction
Drop-off Service for Residents
Pickup Services for Businesses

(920)232-7373
www.sadoffecycle.com
36 E. 10th Ave Oshkosh

TROPHY

All-Sport Trophy & Engraving
856 S Commercial Street, Neenah, WI. 54956
(920)722-0146
E-Mail Allsporttrophy@aol.com • Website allsporttrophy.com

TROPHIES * AWARDS * RIBBONS
ENGRAVABLE GIFTS * MEDALS

Neenah - Menasha's Complete Awards Center

INSURANCE

Erie Insurance®

Karen Schibline, CPCU
920.385.0782

Home • Auto • Life

Oregon Office Center
1429 Oregon Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902

Trusted Erie Agent since 2001

Sutton siblings deliver overtime win for Rockets

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Family ties on the Neenah/Menasha/Hortonville hockey team helped break a tie Tuesday night.

Luke Sutton took a pass from his brother, Mark, to score the game-winning goal in the second overtime period as the Rockets edged West Bend, 3-2, in the first game of the three-day Rocket Red Nose Classic being played at the Champions Center this week.



L. Sutton

"It is an amazing opportunity to be able to play with my brother," Luke Sutton said on his game winner. "Being able to share that overtime goal with him is something special and we are going to remember that one for a while."

Sutton finished with two goals in the game as Neenah once again found itself in a tight, low-scoring battle.

Six of the Rockets first 12 game have been decided by one goal, while the team has been held to three goals or less seven times this season as the Rockets continue to look for offense.

"The kids played hard on the ice tonight," head coach Jeff Lindemann added. "We are not built to put up big numbers on offense. Because of that, we are going to play in a lot of close games this season and we saw that again tonight."

This was just Neenah's second win in

a one-goal game this season and Lindemann was pleased to see the breaks go the Rockets' way in the win.

He's hoping that the experience from all of these close contests pays dividends when the games start to mean more.

"Playing in close games is never ideal, as your mistakes can be magnified," Lindemann said. "Hopefully there is some good that comes from these games. Our hope is that these games are going to get us ready for February as that is when the real season starts."

Sutton's first goal of the night came late in the second period and put the Rockets ahead 2-1.

John Kriz had gotten Neenah, which received 23 saves from Caleb Moore in goal, on the board earlier in the period with a power-play goal.

West Bend knotted the score at 2 about three minutes into the third period and the tie lasted the rest of regulation and through the first overtime period.

The Suttons then combined less than two minutes into the second extra stanza to push Neenah into the winner's side of the tournament bracket.

"I want to give a huge shoutout to everyone on this team tonight," Luke Sutton said. "This was a great team effort and one of our best efforts this season. We hung in there from start to finish. That can be tough to do when you play multiple overtime periods, but we managed to fight through adversity to pick up the win."

Zephyrs win

FROM PAGE 10

first half.

"I feel like we don't have to force shots because our teammates are going to get us (shots)," Griffith said. "We can just be unselfish and try to get other people shots because our shots will come and when they do, we'll make them."

The Zephyrs maintained their advantage the rest of the half, leading by double digits the majority of the way.

However, Lourdes Academy did narrow the gap to six with four minutes left in the half but back-to-back 3-pointers by MacKenzie and Uhlenbrauck pushed the lead back to 12 and the Zephyrs would take a 46-31 lead into halftime.

"If we see one of the teammates hit a big shot or make an awesome pass it makes us just want to get them the ball more," Uhlenbrauck said. "As a team, we play very well because of that. We want to keep everyone going and keep the ball moving."

St. Mary Catholic's lead was never threatened in the second half and the Zephyrs were able to dip deep into their bench in the closing minutes of the game as eight players ended up scoring in the game.

With each Zephyr basket until the final



Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic's Michael Fairweather (3) and Fisher MacKenzie (23) converge on Lourdes Academy's Calvin Tollard in the first half Tuesday.

buzzer, there was still a level of excitement coming from the team and that's something Bradshaw says is a characteristic of this group and this program.

"This senior group of guys is just outstanding the way they work together and our juniors and sophomores fit right in with them," said Bradshaw, whose team also got 17 points from Charlie Nackers in the game. "When we bring kids along when they are younger, they get adopted right away by the team and it's very open and supportive group of guys."

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have the pulse on the community? Interested in feature stories or prep sports?

We are looking for writers interested in creating community features, news stories or sports reporting on a freelance basis for either the Oshkosh Herald or Neenah News weekly newspapers. Submissions would need a local focus that also can connect to broader topics. Compensation is on a story-by-story basis.

Contact editor@oshkoshherald.com to get more details.



CATCH THE BUG!

Retro Radi



HometownBroadcasting.com

Neenah News

Local news for you

In partnership with Legacy.com

Obituaries



Honor your loved one with the timeless tradition of an obituary

- Provide the community with timely service and memorial details
- Give friends and family a convenient place to offer condolences and make charitable donations
- Have an easy way to share the notice on social media
- Create a permanent record of your family member's legacy for future generations to explore

To place an obituary in the Neenah News submit through
Your Funeral Director • obits@neenahnewsnow.com • 920-426-1616

Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad
Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m.
Tuesday. \$15 for first 20 words

Employment

CDL A OR B DRIVERS deliver new straight trucks nationwide, part-time, 3 yrs CDL Exp req.

920-475-7698 or TCCorp.us Appleton, WI

OTR TRUCK DRIVERS FT/PT Competitive wages & full benefits. Mileage, Drop pay, Paid weekly Home weekends, NO east/west coast, 28 central states. Van & Hopper Division. Agriculture experience a plus. Fox Valley company since 1958

Call Frank 920-788-6242 or 920-858-0238.
Van Groll Trucking, Kaukauna

For Sale

AKC FOX RED & YELLOW LAB PUPS shots/worm/vet, F-\$675 M-\$650 715-257-1330 (267331)

BICHON POODLE CROSS PUPPIES vet checked UTD shots \$500-\$700 715-703-8981

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-888-686-1458 (WCAN)

FRITZ BARN PAINTING Rusty Roofs, Metal bldgs Free Est 608-221-3510 920-821-6311

KRAUS SNOWPLOW CO Hiniker-Snow-Way-Western-Meyer-Used Boss; Sales/Service 920-894-2488 or 920-948-2812

Mini American Eskimo Pups 5-M \$450; 4-F \$500; Ready 12-19-22, Wormed 715-754-5004

MINI COCK-A-POOS READY FOR XMAS! Hypo-allergenic, Non-shed, shots/vet checked F-\$600, M-\$500 715-758-2433

MINI GOLDENDOODLES 1 yr health guarantee. \$600 Call/text 715-409-0533

REG ENGLISH CREAM RETRIEVERS & FIB GOLDENDOODLES, shots/wormed/vet checked \$800 Ready Now! 715-680-8149 (WCAN)

REG TOY POODLE PUPPIES Shots/wormed/vet, family raised \$1000 No Sunday calls (495932) 715-409-3321 (WCAN)

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote! Call now before the next power outage: 1-877-626-1009 (WCAN)

PUREBRED WHITE GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES \$450
John W229 Granton Rd. Chili WI 54420

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/mo! **BCI Bath & Shower**. Many options avail. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now & SAVE 15%! Call today! 1-877-651-1850 (WCAN)

THE GENERAC PWRcell a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-855-707-0232 (WCAN)

UPDATE YOUR HOME with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. **FREE** in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional Installation. Top Quality - Made in the USA. Call for free consultation: 877-544-2415 Ask about our specials! (WCAN)

Miscellaneous

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? GET RESULTS! Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers' Guide papers for as low as \$36.00 **Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.) 1-800-236-0737 www.pdsadnet.com**

New Storage Units - Power & Light included, 24/7 access. 14x40 with tall door and 12x20 with large door. Outer Space Storage, 3250 Walter St, Oshkosh 54901, cleverly hidden behind Fasco Appliance. 920/376-0629

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

YOUR CAR, BOAT OR MOTORCYCLE helps Rawhide provide mental health services that redirect local Wisconsin youth & adults from harmful decisions. Donate Today! 888-653-2729 (WCAN)

GET THE SCOOP

Read today's *Kid Scoop* page and see if you can find the answer to each of these questions.

1. What does Habari Gani mean?
2. How many symbols are there for Kwanzaa?
3. When was Kwanzaa created?
4. The Kwanzaa candleholder is called a
5. The tradition in Kwanzaa is to give gifts that encourage what?
6. What does the word Kwanzaa mean?

Kid Scoop-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **CARING** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

C	I			
A	G			
R			A	
I				
N		C		
G			N	

Write On!

Holidays at Your House

Which holidays do you celebrate during December? How do you and your family celebrate?

Proudly sponsored by



1197 W. Winneconne Ave



Habari Gani?

Do you know what that means? **Habari Gani** is how you say **What's the News?** in Swahili. One day you may hear this holiday message as often as you hear Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or Happy New Year. **Habari Gani?** is the ritual greeting of Kwanzaa.

A Seven Day Celebration

- Kwanzaa centers around seven principles:**
- Umoja (unity)
 - Kujichagulia (self-determination)
 - Ujima (collective work and responsibility)
 - Ujamaa (cooperative economics)
 - Nia (purpose)
 - Kuumba (creativity)
 - Imani (faith)

This year, millions of people are expected to celebrate Kwanzaa, a non-religious event honoring African-American culture and community. The holiday is celebrated for seven days, starting on December 26 and ending on January 1.

The holiday was created in 1966 by Maulana Ron Karenga, an African-American scholar. Karenga created this special holiday to honor African-American heritage in a celebration of family and community.

The word **Kwanzaa** means **first fruits** in Swahili, an East African language.

Karamu

On the last day of Kwanzaa, friends and relatives gather for a feast. People come to honor ancestors, review the past year and make plans for the new year. There is lots of good food, dancing and music.



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



Standards Link: Social Studies: Compare the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of varied cultures.

Symbols of Kwanzaa

Christmas symbols are the wreath, tree, holly, and more. Hanukkah symbols include the menorah, latkes and gelt. Follow each of the seven mazes below to find the meaning of the seven Kwanzaa symbols.

- 1 MISHUMAA**: The seven candles
- 2 KINARA**: The candleholder represents the stalk of corn from which the family grows
- 3 MKEKA**: An ear of corn for each child represents the child's potential
- 4 VIBUNZI**: A straw placemat
- 5 MAZAO**: The cup of unity
- 6 KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA**: A variety of fruits represent the harvest
- 7 ZAWADI**: Modest gifts to encourage creativity

Standards Link: Physical Education: Eye-hand coordination.

Extra! Extra! Kwanzaa Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper for pictures, articles or phrases that show the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Standards Link: Language Arts/Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Each night of Kwanzaa, a candle is lit in the kinara. There are seven candles, one for each night. The candles are called the **mishumaa**. It is said that the kinara holds the light of tomorrow.

Do the math. Color each candle that equals 14 **red**. Color each candle that equals 15 **black**, and each candle that equals 16 **green**.

Black is for Africa, the continent African-Americans came from.

Red is for blood, not shed in vain.

Green is for hope and knowledge.

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?

KWANZAA
SWAHILI
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
CULTURE
CANDLE
KINARA
ZAWADI
IMANI
DANCING
HABARI
UJIMAA
GANI
MKEKA

H I E R U T L U C N
A M E R I C A N A C
B A E I N A G C A G
A N L L M E I A R N
R I B I R R Z N A I
I A J H F N T D N C
I U O A A N T L I N
I Z A W A D I E K A
M E K S A K E K M D

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

ACE
Serving You Since 1913
HARDWARE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Order online. Pick up in-store.

Stop by your local Ace store, or visit us here

ACE REWARDS
THE BEST TOOL FOR SAVING MONEY.SM
Join Ace Rewards at acehardware.com and start saving today.

179 KITZ & PFEIL 179

Visit acehardware.com to find your local participating Ace.

Proud Partner of **Children's Miracle Network Hospitals**

OSHKOSH Kitz & Pfeil • 427 N. Main St. (920) 236-3340

Proudly sponsored by

1197 W. Winneconne Ave

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing