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Adam Keller has been building custom aquariums and cages for the past 25 years in Neenah. Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Aquarium, cage maker captures special market

Adam Keller builds into national status

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A hobby that started in a college apartment has grown into a multimillion-dollar company in Neenah and celebrating 25 years of making cages and aquariums seen at most major zoos across the United States.

ed States.

Adam Keller started Adam's Specialty Products in February 1998 out of his apartment while attending college at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

"I like building cool-looking cages with waterfalls and just neat-looking cages," he said. "As soon as I'd get done with one I'd move on to the next one."

SEE **Custom aquariums** ON PAGE 10

Assisted living facility CEO indicted

Atrium Health location in Neenah closed in 2019

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The chief executive officer of several assisted living facilities in Wisconsin and Michigan, including a Neenah location that abruptly closed in early 2019, has been indicted for a \$407 million scheme to defraud Medicare and Medicaid.

Kevin Breslin, 56, of New Jersey, and KBWB Operations, doing business as Atrium Health and Senior Living, was indicted by a federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin on Feb. 1 with 12 counts including health care fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud, conspiracy to commit tax fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering.



Breslin

According to the indictment, from January 2015 to September 2018 Atrium billed Medicare for \$189 million and received \$49 million, and billed Medicaid for \$218 million and received \$93 million.

The indictment alleges the defendants certified Atrium would use the funds to maintain quality of care standards, adequate staffing, supplies and services at the 24 skilled nursing facilities and nine assisted living facilities that it operates in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Instead, the funds were diverted from the Wisconsin facilities through guaranteed payments to Atrium owners totaling

SEE **CEO indicted** ON PAGE 10

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Cannabis fine reduction gets panel review from county

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Judiciary and Public Safety Committee considered a proposal last week to reduce the county's fine for possessing up to 25 grams of marijuana to \$1.

The proposal, brought forward by District 6 Supervisor Brian Defferding, follows a resolution for a cannabis advisory referendum question to be on the county's April ballot, which failed to pass the committee last month.

Last year the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office issued a memo stating it was no longer criminally prosecuting personal use marijuana cases. Those cases can still be issued a citation. The DA's office will continue to prosecute people who are selling.

Defferding cited a 2021 Pew Research

Study that found that 91 percent of U.S. adults believe marijuana should be legal for medical and recreational use. He noted the state Legislature is expected to consider cannabis legalization legislation in the upcoming term.

The committee discussed the proposal to amend county code to reduce the fine to

a dollar for simple possession of marijuana, cannabis and THC paraphernalia for 25 grams or less. People found with more than 25 grams would be subject to a felony under state statute.

Sheriff John Matz noted the county's fine for simple possession is about \$390, which includes court costs. If the fine reduction to \$1 was approved, the cost would be about \$116 with court fees included. The fee assessments are set by the state.

SEE **Cannabis fine** ON PAGE 10



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

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

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

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

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



Photos by David Hall

Sturgeon from Lake Winnebago were measured and registered at Payne's Point on Saturday by Department of Natural Resources officials.

Sturgeon spearing season warms up

Neenah News

The 2023 Winnebago sturgeon spearing season opened with good water clarity but ice conditions that likely prevented many from participating, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

Only about 3,100 shacks were seen during aerial counts on opening day Saturday, down significantly from almost 6,000 last year.

Jim Nobbe from Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club said on Tuesday they were seeing 12 to 14 inches of ice in most places on Lake Winnebago. He suggested travel only with an ATV or UTV at that time. The club has an ATV bridge on the main north-south crack two miles out.

Many who took to the ice found success on the first day, with 522 sturgeon harvested. There were 169 lake sturgeon harvested Upriver (20 juvenile females, 46 adult females and 103 males) and 353 harvested on Lake Winnebago (35 juvenile females, 171 adult females and 147 males).

James Gishkowsky landed a 177.3-pound sturgeon on Lake Winnebago registered Tuesday at Wendt's in Van Dyne that is the seventh largest ever speared on the Winnebago system.

There were 21 fish harvested over 100 pounds, with 16 from Lake Winnebago and five from the Upriver Lakes. The biggest fish on the Upriver Lakes weighed in at 143.2 pounds, 75.6 inches, a female speared by Rebecca Van Handel.



Tim Peters caught a 90-pound, 72-inch sturgeon on opening day that he registered at Payne's Point.

Arrowhead Park work focuses on new pier

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Construction is underway on the installation of a pier at Arrowhead Park leading to Little Lake Butte des Morts.

The pier will include a 14-foot-wide and 150-foot-long gangway leading to an 832-square-foot gathering area with six benches on it. The pier will also include a quiet water boat launch.

The project is part of the city's redevelopment plans for the 30-acre Arrowhead Park that includes part of the Loop the Lake Trail. A portion of the trail is detoured while construction is underway.

The city is working with a design firm to develop a new master plan for Arrowhead. In the meantime, the city moved forward on installing the pier that was included as part of a previous master plan.



Neenah News

Work continues on a new pier at Arrowhead Park on Little Lake Butte des Morts.

The bulk of the pier funding comes from grants from the National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) and the David L. and Rita E. Nelson Family Fund.

The NRDA funds were awarded due to the high level of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the water, due to mill waste from the former Bergstrom Paper Co.

The initial timeline for the pier indicated construction would start in December and wrap up by May. Parks and Recreation director Michael Kading said construction just began this month. With the late start, the estimated completion date is unclear.

Some prairie work has also been completed including rough grading and seeding for greenery this spring. The remainder of the prairie work is on hold until the new Arrowhead master plan is completed, expected for May.

Future development plans for Arrowhead include amenities with local and regional draws. The park will connect to downtown Neenah.



Neenah News

The former Perkins restaurant building at 1121 Westowne Drive will be removed to make way for a Chipotle Mexican Grill.

Chipotle restaurant taking former Perkins site

Neenah News

A new Chipotle Mexican Grill restaurant will soon be constructed on the site of the former Perkins at 1121 Westowne Drive.

The 5,000-square-foot Perkins restaurant building was constructed in 2007 and closed last year.

The property owner, DH Prime Development, proposed removing the existing building and replacing it with a new 2,300 square-foot Chipotle restaurant with a drive-thru lane for mobile and online pickup.

Most of the site will remain the same including landscaping and access to the restaurant from a driveway along Westowne Drive.

It will include 76 off-street parking stalls, which is six stalls fewer than the existing lot. The green space will increase to more than 26% of the site.

The proposed building is rectangular, about 20 feet tall and constructed out of an Exterior Insulation and Finish System, including aluminum and glass.

The main entrance will be situated on the north side and the drive-thru pickup window will be on the south portion of the building.

The Plan Commission advanced the project plan to the Common Council, with consideration noted on the agenda for its meeting Feb. 15.

The Neenah Chipotle will be the third in the Fox Valley, joining locations at W3198 County KK in Appleton and 111 N. Mall Drive in Grand Chute.

The chain features bowls, tacos and burritos that are made to order in front of the customer.

If the city approves the proposal, construction is expected to be underway in April.

Fox Cities Book Festival on hiatus until 2024

The Fox Cities Book Festival will not be held this fall as the board of directors announced it will take extra time to reinvest in the festival by exploring new avenues and improving its overall structure.

The event will return in spring 2024 and combine with the Fox Cities Reads community read event.

Diminished attendance alerted board members of the need for improvement. Team members representing the festi-

val board, six public libraries, and the local community at large are working to strengthen the impact the festival can deliver.

The Fox Cities Book Festival has gone through many cycles of change since former Wisconsin Poet Laureate Ellen Kort started the event more than 15 years ago.

The festival's 2023 Community Read is still on schedule with best-selling author Josh Malerman and his book "Bird Box."



Photo from Neenah Historical Society



Sturgeon spearing

A group of ice fishermen cut a spearing hole near Firelane 8 in Menasha in 1983. Lake Winnebago is one of the only places that offers a sturgeon spearing season. Indigenous people fished for sturgeon for thousands of years before the fish population was eradicated. In 1932 the Wisconsin DNR opened the first modern sturgeon season and it has been an annual tradition ever since.

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Emergency Society continues to meet basic needs

By Patti Lee
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When the cold wind blows and temperatures take a nosedive, folks can all agree they value their homes, that trusty winter coat to fend off the frigid air, and a nice warm meal at the end of the day. Pretty much the simple things in life.

But what if they aren't so simple? Job loss, medical bills, a vehicle conks out – there are so many reasons why life might take a flip side-ways. It's vital to know where to turn during a time that is scary, stressful and painful.

Folks in need have been turning to the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society (NMES), which has been meeting and answering local needs since 1906. The all-volunteer organization provides emergency financial and core needs assistance to Neenah

and Menasha residents. Through myriad programs, it facilitates payments for rent, utilities, medical bills, equipment and supplies, bus passes, heating and vehicle repairs, clothing and baby items.

People are referred to NMES by social services and other recognized organizations such as the Winnebago County Health Department, public health nurses, public and private school administrators and counselors, LEAVEN and Goodwill. The referrals ensure that other sources of relief are exhausted, thereby eliminating duplication of resources.

NMES kicks off every August with one of the largest back-to-school fairs in the area. In a collaboration with school districts, social service agencies and other sources, children in need receive a backpack of supplies and a certificate for a pair of shoes redeemable at

Rogan's.

They also receive information about the services offered by other community organizations such as YMCA, Neenah and Menasha public libraries, Boys and Girls Brigade, Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha, LEAVEN, Community Clothes Closet, St. Vincent DePaul thrift shop and Goodwill. Additionally, the Caring for Kids program provides warm winter clothing and snow pants to elementary school kids who don't have their own.

The Meals on Wheels program is a legacy endeavor, inaugurated in 1966 by members of NMES and the Neenah-Menasha Visiting Nurse Association (Valley VNA). The program provides nutritious and diet-specific meals to elderly and home bound members of the community.

Initially, the program had one team delivering six meals from Theda Clark's dietary department to client homes. Today the program fully coordinates with Valley VNA Senior Care with five routes per weekday. The meals are prepared by ThedaCare Neenah with a maximum of 12 meals per route.

It's the area's only meal delivery service where specific dietary restrictions – diabetic-friendly, low sodium or gluten-free – can be met. NMES also participates in the Fox Valley Community Table, the free meal site situated in the lower level of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neenah.

NMES has a long and remarkable history in the well-being of the community. The eight founding members were an active group of women with a mission of establishing a positive presence in the community. In 1885, Lucy Pleasants organized the establishment of a library for Menasha. In 1901, Maggie Shiells received a Carnegie Grant of \$12,500

for establishment of the Neenah Public Library.

In 1906, the group adopted its "Emergency Society" name, growing to 25 members. This was followed in 1908 with establishment of Visiting Nurses Association of Neenah and Menasha. Today it is its own entity known as Valley VNA Senior Care. Instrumental in establishing Theda Clark Hospital in 1909, the society provided all supplies for the nursery from 1923-58.

Recent NMES milestones include a 2015 collaboration with Neenah High School establishing Orbit, the in-school community closet that provides clothing, food and personal hygiene products for students seeking assistance with basic needs. This was followed by the 2019 partnership with Pillars' Neenah-based, young adult supportive housing program Ascend that provides welcome baskets containing basic supplies for new residents.

Last year, NMES and First United Methodist Church formed a task force that purchased a duplex in Menasha, subsequently donating the unit to Pillars. The duplex will be operated as affordable housing and be a part of its Stable Housing unit.

NMES is wholly supported by donations, sponsorships and events. Notable is the highly popular Annual Kitchen Tour. This year the 14th annual event, sponsored by Nicolet Bank, will take place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 27. The tour includes five magnificent homes, all distinct in design and scale, and feature "delightful demonstrations, bitty bites and sumptuous sips." The revenue raised directly supports students and families.

For a complete history of NMES, along with program details, go to nmesociety.org.

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Sorting erasers for the back-to-school fair are (from left) NMES member Holly Muggenthaler, Sienna Manteufel and her mother, Stacey Manteufel.

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The many benefits of a work-based Beer Club

Before we begin, let's raise a toast to the Neenah News and the one-year anniversary of its first edition. Cheers!

See? People love an excuse to celebrate and share a drink. At "Wife + Husband = Beer," we do that every month as we bring readers local beer-related news (breweries, beer releases, retail opportunities, recipes, deep-dives into beer styles).

This month, we want to suggest something we'd all appreciate having in our work environments: a Beer Club. Other than the pure joy of enjoying a cold one at work, a Beer Club boosts camaraderie and helps an employer attract and keep employees.

A large majority — 78 percent — of respondents to a survey ("Drinking in the workplace") conducted by Niznik Behavioral Health say drinking with co-workers was acceptable. Why not turn that enthusiasm into regular, team-building events?

Husband: I started my company's Beer Club a few years back, but it really became a wonderful thing during the pandemic lockdown.

Wife: You got to know co-workers better even though you didn't see them in person for months.

Husband: People really appreciated it. I made it as fun as possible, and we developed some loyal participants.

Wife: I remember you telling me what the theme was for each club meeting. It got quite creative, and the people were enthusiastic about it.

Husband: Oh, yeah. My company uses the Beer Club as a selling point for prospective employees. It shows we care about having some fun at work.

Wife: Even the people who don't drink beer like knowing that the club exists. Someone started a Wine Club, too, right?

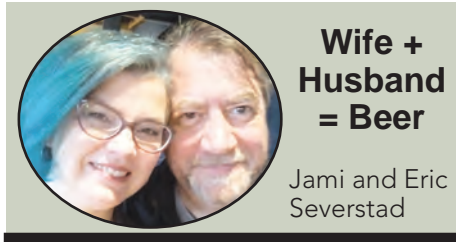
Husband: They did. It's another example of an interesting culture.

The topic of "theme" was mentioned earlier. Before each meeting, I challenge members to bring a beer that fits the theme, mostly to keep the discussion fresh but also to help others learn about different styles and breweries.

Themes could relate to the time of the year (Halloween), a season (winter warmers), an event (baseball opening day), an animal (dog beers are everywhere!), or simply a specific style (stouts were a huge hit last month).

We go around the room (including both in-person and virtual participants), with each person showing what beer they brought and explaining how it tastes. Sharing is optional for in-person folks. I'm never disappointed with the variety, and the opinions get the discussion going.

Once we cover each brew, we share any beer-related adventures we've been on. That's typically brewery visits, standout



Wife + Husband = Beer

Jami and Eric Severstad

beers at a tavern, beer sales at local retailers, or even family gatherings with beer.

So, other than trying new styles of beer, how can you keep Beer Club interesting? Over the past years, I've shared news stories, read from beer-focused books, conducted beer trivia, shared beer artwork, and played a beer board game. It's up to your imagination. In Wisconsin, we have lots of options.

If you're wondering how to create a Beer Club, here's a step-by-step plan for getting one organized at work.

1. Create a plan. This doesn't need to be elaborate, but just an outline of details: why Beer Club exists, how it operates, who is invited, who runs it, how often does it meet, etc.

2. Share the plan with Human Resources to get buy-in. Stress that this is an after-hours club (won't hurt productivity), each meeting is only a short time (to limit alcohol intake), and it doesn't cost the company a dime (more on that later).

3. Determine a place to gather, the meeting duration, and the meeting frequency. I recommend every other week for 30 minutes in a casual spot. That way, it's not too frequent, which keeps people anticipating it, and it's only a half-hour (short and sweet).

4. Name your club. I use the generic "Beer Club" at work, but you can get creative. "Brewing Appreciation Club," "Imbibing Libations Society," or tie the name into your company's name or culture.

5. Promote your club by inviting everyone! OK, that depends on the size of your company. We employ 40 people, and about 12 regularly participate, so it shouldn't get out of hand. Beer is inclusive, so I recommend a big, welcoming group.

6. Set up a recurring Zoom meeting. People need to know that this is an ongoing event, especially those who aren't in the office regularly.

Don't work at a company? You can still create a Beer Club with your business connections (many customers and vendors like the idea and want to join in), expand a social media group to which you belong, or invite your friends/family. People appreciate the high-fun, low-commitment aspect of a Beer Club. Have fun!

Wife + Husband = Beer is a monthly column exclusive to Neenah News. Tell us what local beer-fans need to know, and we'll cover it. It's a sacrifice we make for you, dear readers. Email: wife.husband.beer@gmail.com



A work Beer Club can be both in-person and virtual. Attractiveness and diversity of your participants may vary.

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—Dr. Esser



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Wisconsin Civics Games accepting signups

The Wisconsin Civics Games, which aim to promote civics education and encourage high school students to develop an interest in public service, is open for registration through Monday.

Presented by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation, the 2023 Civics Games' regional competitions will be held virtually April 13 and 14. The top-performing teams will advance to the state finals May 12 at the State Capitol.

A team can consist of any number of players who meet eligibility rules while no more than four may actively compete at one time.

Teams may compete with fewer players, with a minimum of one. This year, schools will be allowed to enter multiple teams in regional competitions.

Members of the winning team will each be awarded \$2,000 toward tuition to a Wisconsin college or university of their choice. The scholarships are funded in part by the University of Wisconsin System.

Register for the games at bit.ly/wicivicsgames. Participating teams will receive "The Framework of Your Wisconsin Government" textbook and access to online resources to help them prepare.

Kobussen Buses still on the move at 85 years

Family business now serves 35 districts

Neenah News

It was 1937 when Elwood Kobussen – Grandpa Goldie – was chosen by the Kaukauna Board of Education to transport out-of-town students to and from Kaukauna High School.

The transportation company, marking its 85th anniversary this year, now operates in 35 school districts, including the Neenah Joint School District, with 23 bus terminals and 994 vehicles.

“We think that he would be incredibly proud of how far we have come,” said Samantha Kobussen, social media designer for the company.

With a fourth generation of the family now involved with the company, current president Joe Kobussen said “getting to 85 years as a family business has been exciting and it’s been challenging, but overall it has been fun.”

A dairy farmer and trucker by trade, Elwood Kobussen started with red, white and blue school buses. No buses were available for purchase during 1940-45 due to World War II. From 1945 to 1951, one bus was added every single year. After that, two were purchased annually.

James Kobussen, Elwood’s eldest son, joined the company and they eventually formed a father-son partnership in 1957.

In 1958, Kaukauna Mayor Joseph Bayorgeon requested that an inner-city route be established between Kaukauna and Appleton. The Kobussens were contracted to operate that transit system up until 1974, when the service became the current Valley Transit.

In 1962, the Kobussens became Kaukauna Bus Service Inc. Elwood was president, and James was vice president.

Marion Kobussen, James’ wife, became secretary.

During the 1960s, the Kobussens took a progressive move at the time in hiring women drivers. This was a sensitive topic for northeast Wisconsin and elsewhere, but the Kobussens were proud of the drivers and had trust in them regardless of the era.

Eventually, Elwood’s youngest son, Michael, took over management of Neenah operations. Since then, Michael’s wife Ann, Ann Kobussen’s daughter Melissa, and son Scott have all joined the business. Michael passed away in 2004.

In the early 1970s, the company started a driver’s training program even though it was not mandated by the state. To complete the program, drivers were required to attend training and take road and written tests. During this time, James Kobussen became a certified driver training instructor and taught classes at Fox Valley Technical College. This practice continues today with all Kobussen drivers receiving skid pad training at FVTC, along with practice and additional training with skilled trainers at the bus terminals.

Kaukauna Bus Service officially became Kobussen Buses Ltd. in 1976. Not long after that in 1980, Outagamie County and Kobussen Buses started a contract to transport adults with special needs. This contract had been expanded to 11 vehicles.

Kobussen expanded into motorcoaches in 1983, which is also when Joe Kobussen, James’ middle son, joined on as a mechanic. With the addition of motorcoaches, Kobussen was able to, and still offers, chartered group trips through the U.S. and Canada.

James’ youngest son, Dan, joined the company in 1994. James and Marion retired in 1998 and his presidency went to



Photo courtesy of Kobussen

Kobussen family members gather in 1993 for a photo in one of their buses.

Joe. Joe and Dan have taken over all management of Kobussen Buses and today own and operate it with their aunt Ann and cousins Scott and Melissa.

In 1995, Kobussen was nominated by the Wisconsin Council of Safety and Department of Industry, Labor and Human

Relations for the Wisconsin Corporate Safety Award based on compensation claim scores. Kobussen is the only bus company in northeast Wisconsin nominated for this honor. Kobussen Buses has always prided itself on safety and forward thinking.

Business news roundup

Neenah K9 Rec Center, an open indoor recreation space for dogs and their owners, has its grand opening from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at 1526 S. Commercial St. Nita Diaz, who opened Clever K9s in Kaukauna and SwimDog Wellness Center in Appleton, said the 1,000-square-foot rubber floored space can be rented and memberships will be available. Customized canine fitness coaching by Becky Heiner will be available along with other classes and workshops.

EnTech Solutions was recently rec-

ognized by RENEW Wisconsin and the Central States Water Environment Association (CSWEA) Wisconsin Section for its work on two renewable energy projects. EnTech was honored as a RENEW Wisconsin 2022 Clean Energy Leader for the microgrid deployed at its renewable natural gas digester facility in Middleton. The digester also was recognized with the 2022 Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Resource Recovery Award from CSWEA. EnTech Solutions was also recognized by RENEW as a partner on the solar microgrid incorporated by the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior

Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Kate Burgess has joined the board of directors of **New North Inc.**, the regional economic development corporation for northeast Wisconsin. She was advanced by New North’s board development committee and approved by the board. Burgess is CEO of Elevate97, a Green Bay-based brand house that creates, produces and distributes marketing solutions for worldwide brands. She co-founded the company as FulfillNet in 1997 and became its CEO in 2004.

Hygiene supply drive underway

The Fox Crossing Police Department has again partnered with the Family Radio Network’s annual Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive seeking items to be distributed to local organizations that help less-fortunate community members.

There is a donation box in the police department lobby at 2000 Municipal Drive that is open during front window hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays until March 5.

Among the most needed items are cleaning supplies, hair care, feminine needs, baby care, toilet paper, dental care, deodorant, laundry soap, paper towels and face/bath soap.

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UW Oshkosh graduates

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's 58th midyear commencement at Kolf Sports Center recognized the accomplishments of students from all three of its campuses. More than 900 students earned bachelor's, associate, master's and doctoral degrees.

Neenah area graduates include:

- Austin Akey, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Nourah Almulhim, Master of Science, Educational Leadership and Policy
- Mason Bohm, Master of Business Administration
- Andrew Bores, Master of Business Administration
- Matthew Dahms, Bachelor of Science in Education, Mathematics
- William Dorow, Bachelor of Business Administration, Human Resources Management
- Rudy Fisher, Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science
- Kayla Fritsch, Bachelor of Business Administration, Supply Chain Management
- Briana Hankemeier, Graduate Certificate, Certificate of Educational Administration for Principal Licensure; Master of Science, Educational Leadership and Policy
- Jessica Hendrickson, Bachelor of Applied Studies, Leadership and Organizational Studies
- Andrew Huffman, Associate of Arts and Science
- Kyle Kangas, Associate of Arts and Science
- Hanna Koehler, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Orion Koepsel, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Pa Lor, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary and Middle School Education

Nora Martin, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary and Middle School Education

- Meike Messick, Bachelor of Science, Biology
- Brady Mitchell, Associate of Arts and Science
- Jonathan Moderson, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Teegan Nichols, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance
- Emily Peters, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary and Middle School Education
- Mya Ramadan, Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing
- Allison Rogge, Associate of Arts and Science
- Thomas Russell, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary and Middle School Education
- Abigail Schwanke, Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Matthew Sherrick, Master of Business Administration
- Alex Simon, Associate of Arts and Science
- Lucie Spanbauer, Associate of Arts and Science
- Stacey Sparks, Bachelor of Science in Education, English
- Carson Spiegelberg, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance
- Kristin Stamper, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education and Special Education-Cross Categorical
- Shannon Turchan-Meeks, Master of Science in Education, Professional Counseling
- Emilee Wise, Bachelor of Science in Education, English
- Vang Lee Yang, Master of Business Administration



St. Mary Central photo

Forensics champs

St. Mary Central High School's forensics team took home the conference title Feb. 6 in the Big East North Conference Tournament. Ava Hoger won a gold medal while Lainey Becker, Daniel DuVernay and the team of Cat Genke and Mari Ladish all earned silver medals in the competition. The team also took second place Feb. 4 in the small school division of the Sun Prairie Tournament.

Student glass exhibition features new works

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass presents the 2023 Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition with two separate events featuring glass art created in the classroom and in the museum Glass Studio.

Two related events are scheduled over the course of the exhibition. An opening and awards presentation is set from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday and a special edition of the museum's Art After Dark program titled "Sweet Celebration of Youth Art" will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 23. Both events are free and open to the pub-

lic.

"Each school was introduced to a different form of glass art and the students took the tools we gave them and really ran with it," said Kourtney Kositzke, museum education and community program manager. "They were able to express themselves through their glass art and were very excited and engaged while at the museum."

Exhibition award sponsorships were supported in part by the Lilian Noble Memorial Fund, Oshkosh Fine Arts Association, Jack Richeson & Co., The Art Haus, and Mud and Prints.

Fox Valley Technical College graduates

Fox Valley Technical College students from Neenah who graduated with degrees in December include:

- Julie Bennis, Aesthetician - Basic
- Thuyvi Ceelen, Practical Nursing
- Jaime Chapin, Assistant Teacher
- Tyler Choy, Business Operations
- Harley Cochenet, Automated Manufacturing Systems Technology
- Thomas Dreger, Marketing
- Amber Evers, Fire Protection Technician
- Jenssey Fermin, Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
- Cole Frink, Mechanical Design Technology
- Emily Gauthier, Medical Assistant
- Kaeli Grunski, Medical Assistant
- Kari Hagenow, Business Management

- Michelle Hanneman, Practical Nursing
- Katlyn Harrison, Nursing-associate degree
- Valeria Hernandez-Olivares, Nursing-associate degree
- Nichole King, Baking and Pastry Production, Culinary Arts
- Lily Kocha, Horticulture/Landscape Specialist
- Nora Kowalkowski, Culinary Arts
- Talaysha Kuss, Aesthetician - Basic
- Morrison Lamb, Wildland Fire Crew, Wildland Firefighter
- Sydney Linskens, Cosmetology
- Maykazia Lo, Nursing-associate degree
- Amanda Lottmann, Professional Communications
- Lyndsey Luebke, Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement 720 Academy

- Samantha Manke, Early Childhood Assistant Teacher
- Isaiah McCormick, Wildland Fire Crew, Wildland Firefighter
- Daniel Melman, IT - Network Systems Administration
- Tyler Mussatti, Industrial Welding Technology, Welding/Metal Fab Technician
- Michelle Nieman, Nursing-associate degree pathway
- Mollie Petsche, IT - Web Development and Design Specialist
- Mitchell Phillips, IT - Software Developer
- Taylor Prah, Nursing-associate degree pathway
- Sheila Ramey, Medical Assistant
- Justin Rankin, IT - Software Developer

- Erica Selwitschka, Forensic Science
- Jordan Staubs, Criminal Justice Studies
- Mike Tietje, Business Management
- Alexander Wade, Metal Fabrication/Welding
- Sydney Wayne, IT - Software Developer
- Ashley Westphal, Electrical Engineering Technology
- Daniel Westphal, Metal Fabrication/Welding
- Samantha Weyenberg, Nursing-associate degree
- Gavin Wunderlich, Aeronautics-Pilot Training
- Rene Zehr, Criminal Justice Studies



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Academic Achievement for Neenah area schools

Neenah High School

Neenah High School has announced first-semester "A" honor rolls (3.5 or higher grade point average).

Dominic Young
Jack Zemlock
Jadon Ziebell
Madison Ziegert
Molly Ziegert
Julie Zimmerman

JUNIORS

Lauren Aaholm
Max Archambo
Olivia Archambo
Wyatt Armock
Emily Aykens
Makenna Baker
Wilson Baltus
Aiden Barr
Amelia Bart
Korianna Bartman
Taelyn Bauer
Adelaide Benner
Kyra Berry
Alexandra Blattner
Nicholas Bloomhuff
Genevieve Bom
Emma Bottensek
Allie Bradshaw
Gabrielle Brazee
Grace Brazee
Tess Brazee
Connor Briones
Rhyann Brockman
Asher Brotherton
Nathaniel Brotherton
Derick Brown
Sarah Brunel
Sophie Buel
Zoe Callahan
Aidan Carey
Benjamin Carey
Gideon Christensen
Hayley Clark
Nathaniel Cleveland
Aidan Colby
Brady Corso
Naomi Cortina
Isabella Coulman
Ethan Coulthard
Izabella Czerniejewski
Samuel Davies
Lydia Delene
Allison Denzin
Irati Deperrest Azcarate
Alfredo Elias Diaz
Kaitlin Dibelius
Julianna Dickey
Rachel Dietrich
Emma Donahue
Alexis Dornier
Ava Drach
Emma Dumbleton
Chloe Dwyer
Brayden Eckes
Genevieve Ellis
Carson Erbrecht-Willard
Filip Eyer
Della Ferguson
Abigail Fischer
Kaitlyn Fleege
Bret Fredrick
Charles Fredrickson
Saba Gagoshidze
Julianne George
Hudson Gerdin
Carmen Tanem
Tyler Gillig
John Gilman
Jackson Glaeser
Lillian Granditzke
Graham Grassl
Morgan Grosek
Owen Grotenhuis
Ava Gunderson
Elijah Hallman
Brianna Halvorson
Evan Hans
Graham Hansen
Rowan Hansen
Madeline Harris
Annasophia Hein
Hilary Heroux
Brady Hildreth
Paige Hilgers
Kirsten Hilton
Anabelle Hodges
Noah Huguet
Madyson Janichuk
Justin Janssen
Sawyer Janssen
Kayden Jazdzewski
Madison Jensen
Marta Jimenez Llop
Amaya Jones
Hannah Karker
Jonathan Kasten
Timothy Kerberlein
Sarah Keene
Carly Keesler
Luke Keller
Leia Kersten
Ella Kirchner
Evan Kirkman
Evan Kleisner
Samuel Kleisner
Titus Koll
Elliot Krajnik
Elliot Krueger
Kate Krueger
Alyssa Lamb
Sienna LaTonzea

Harrison Lauer
Hope Lawton
Jaden Leal
Sonja Leist
Madelyn Lewis
Addison Liedke
Alliyah Lima
Lauren Linstedt
Shingyng Lo
Haeley Logterman
Braden Loudon
Emma Mantel
Preston Marnocha
Owen Martin
Berkley McClinnis
Avrie McKenna
Gabriela Medina
Claudia Merizon
Caleb Ashton Meyer-Hill
Ethan Meylink
Zander Moore
Alexia Nelson
Sofia Newsome
Keira Nickel
Aubrey Oitzinger
Elizabeth Oldenburg
Ana Sofia Ottani Pavao
Vespa Pacheco
Katie Poquette
Austin Price
Amara Pruchnowski
Natalie Quella
Will Radies
Tavian Ramos
Carter Randall
Peter Ranger
Henry Ratliff
Jensen Reffke
Ella Reiter
Blake Rhodes
Alyssa Ross
Christian Ross
Zachary Ryan
Ellie Sabel
Ava Schalow
Skyler Schilt
Katelyn Schmidt
Macy Schmidt
Cole Schrage
Ann Marie Schumann
Abigail Searl
Finnar Severstad
Sophia Sheikh
Arianna Sheridan
Chloe Sieman
Jesse Skelton
Lucien Slattery
Stephen Soderberg
Hannah Belle Solon
Ella Stachurski
Aubrey Strong
Connor Swokowski
Kyria Taillon
Hudson Tamulion
Carmen Tanem
Logan Tauscher
Rylie Temby
Nigel Thao
Mykayla Tharp
Alexander Thayer
Gabriel Theisen
Ella Trampe
Gaelle Tronche
Mackenzie Ullrich
Marley Van Domelen
Karianna VandenLangenberg
Isaac Verbruggen
Reid Vogelsang
Josie Voigt
Zsofia Voko
Brendan Wallenfang
Quinn Wehner
Sadie Wendell
Myah Wenzel
Kayla White
Jeremy Wiggs Schmalz
Leo Wilhelm
Trevor Wilz
Sierra Wirth
Owen Wise
Charles Wunderlich
Tristin Yun
Sean Zeier
Keira Zemialkowski
Annalise Zenzick
Allie Ziebell

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Alexander Alatorre
Ian Altan
Brianna Ankerson
Aidan Apa
Madilyn Armstrong
Augustus Austin
Logan Balsiefen
Jordan Barkovich
Anastasia Basler
Rylie Bauman

Benjamin Bell
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Charles Bellows
Drew Benthein
Morgan Bernhardt
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William Fisher
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Alexander Luedtke
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Haley Mayer
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Ellie Mertes
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Amber Miller
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Gavin Missall
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Satchel Moss
Maria Mulloy
Jake Mulroy
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Jacob Ostrom
Matt Pack
Kendra Pagel
Tessa Pagel
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Emily Pilzak
Elaina Plankey
Madison Plungy
Michael Printz
Lukas Quinones
Allison Raber
Coy Rajotte
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Sophia Rundquist
Milo Runnerstrom
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Jackson Schlomann
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Christian Vulgamore
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Sophia Walter
Eric Wang
Kaelyn Weinke
Bridger Wenzel
Benjamin Wesley
Ryan Westphal
Maria Wierzba
Charlie Winters

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Mitchell Argall	Zachary Kramp
Antonia Balozi	Kaiden Lambert
Richie Bernice	Alicia Langlois
Tucker Brackin	Dalton Liebhauser
Vega Brawley	Allison Malcore
Jason Coates-Sanders	Allyza Martinez
Samuel Coulthard	Ethan McNulty
Zaylee Davidson	Brooklyn Mena
Jordon Donnelly	Caeleb Meunier
Casey Driscoll	Brooke Micheau
Evalyne Dunn	Kaitlin Miller
Jacob Engel	Jonthomas Misevicz
Kaeden Essler	Caleb Moore
Jazmine Falkner	Charles Ogden
Ryan Foucault	Lea Perry
Zachary Fruendt	Tristen Peterson
Allie Galligan	Samuel Portugal-Nellessen
Maysen Gray	Savina Poulter
Jasilyn Griesbach	Nicholas Raasch
Brady Groleau	Cal Radies
Soukeye Gueye	Grace Radke
Connor Halvorson	Madeline Reagan
Braeden Hankwitz	Jonathan Rieger
Charles Hansen	Teagan Sargeant
Blake Hasler	Trinity Scheffler
Jamison Hawley	Caleb Shine
Preston Hella	Owen Sickler
Emmanuel Hernandez-Pinacho	Justin Sina
Mason Herrick	Quinn Smith
Trent Higgins	Jessica Stankevitz
Brady Hintz	Erika Supple
Olivia Holtz	Elliot Swanson
Sawyer Hopfensperger	Kaiden Talayumptewa
Latasha Hudson	Logan Van Zummeren
Drake Jesse	Madison Vande Berg
Brenna Johnson	Cattee VanLinn
Zoya Jones	Kalia Vanschindel
Matthew Jousma	Cooper Waldoch
Nolan Juckem	Owen Wheeler
Jacqueline Kanhyeba	Isabell Wienandt

Neenah High School

Neenah High School has announced first-semester "B" honor rolls (3.0-3.499 grade point average).

Hunter Williams	Kyle Joneson	Thomas Weis	James Holubek
	Seth Keuler	Nolan Weyenberg	Elizabeth Johnson
JUNIORS	Tristan Khang	Landen White	Nathan Johnson
Korbyn Akstulewicz	Ariel Kissel	Samantha Zehner	Hunter Jordan
Michael Amick	Jaxon Kramer	Gracie Zietlow	Dalaena Khang
Cullen Josiah Arboleda	Michael Landskron		Ty Laabs
Rebecca Arias-Noll	Mia Lassiter	SOPHOMORES	Jack Landreman
Elijah Armatti	Willard Lee	Sergio Aguirre	Finn Lettau
Artion Bekteshi	Marc Lefeber	Shae Bartlett	Justin Liriano Rueda
Grace Berkholtz	Weijie Li	Keanna Basler	Matthew Machacek
Owen Blenker	Kylee Mahner	Ashley Baumann-Vanprice	Ashiyah McClain
Mikkiya Botker	Aleya Manteufel	Ariel Bayer	Margaret McMahan
Benjamin Broeders	Jack Meixl	Madison Bell	Olivia McNulty
Evoryn Brummeyer	Eleanor Moore-Nokes	Melody Birney	Clark Miller
Chase Collins	Clementine Mukashyaka	Carter Blaylock-Schmitz	Luke Moran
Jeremiah Cowling	Domanic Muma	Claudia Buch	Victoria Ochs
Kaitlyn Daniels	Claire Nichols	Bryinna Butler	Derric Odom
Gavin Downs	Kess Nickels	Evan Cardoza	Emma Oehlenschlager
Hailie Drawenek	Evan Olson	James Carpenter	Jace Ostermeier
Andrew Engel	Tanner Olson	Carter Catlin	Grace Peeters
Adrian Fifield	McKinna Peters	Lucas Chapin	Nathan Rank
Broc Giesen	Jensen Popp	Sylvia Crouse	Kathryn Rasmussen
Jenna Granditzke	Nicholas Raasch	Joseph Drawenek	Easton Rice
Blake Griesbach	Caleb Reddick	Eliza Egonut	Emma Roberts
Miriam Hallman	Kyzel Rivers-Mims	Orion Erck	Charlotte Robinson
Tyler Heider	Jack Romsos	Ashlyn Erickson	Edwin Rodriguez
Kristian Heyes	Alayna Sauer	Anna Fanelli	Adiques Ryan
Ethan Hoelzel	Nathan Schraven	Cole Fenske	Desirae Sattler
Sarah Hoffman	Elliana Schultz	Blake Fish	Zayne Schmitt
Jackson Holinbeck	William St Clair	Zhynique Fisher	Alexander Schuchart
Samantha Hooyman	Paige Stielow	Jaycie Gerrits	Andrew Schumacher
Brayden Hujet	Ella Suprise	Andrew Gmeiner	Jaime Selwitschka
Angela Hultman	Lucas Thiel	Calvin Gressler	Avery Smith
Aidan Hurlburt	Kayla Uhlenberg	Matthew Hang	Natalie Smith
Ethan Jacobs	Ethan Van Dyke	Aidan Heinrich	Emily Snider
Isaac Jacque	Zakary Vanlerberghe	Mason Herneke	Drake Swokowski

Jaidyn Thao	Matthew Lauer
Connor Thurber	Ainsley LeClair
Arjana Useini	Colton Lesselyong
Skyler Van Buren	Owen Lloyd
Cyan Vandermuss	Radamane Lor
Riley Weinholzer	James Maguire
Serena Whitby	Ty McNeely
Alexander Yang	Dylan Missall
Ava Yoblonski	Charles Moss
Trystyn Young	Jocelyn Nelson
	Caroline Neuhoff
FRESHMEN	Sawyer Newman
Zaid Alhuraishi	Pongkasad Ngampring
Lance Bart	Mason Niemuth
Ayden Bartz	Kaden O'Brien
Cole Bauer	Joscary Palermo
Micheal Boylan-DeLeon	Marcos Perez-Gonzalez
Daniel Breuer	Annabelle Perry
Zavier Brzezinski	Liam Rennert
Lluvia Carrillo	Anna Ross
Mia Chapman	Cole Rothermel
Leonard Coulman	Jack Runnerstrom
Leonel DeLeon	Caden Sarauer
Noah Dvorachek	Zachary Schneider
Owain Elliott	Henry Schultz
Nolan Fischer	Lauren Schultz
Emma Forman	Olivia Smillie
Drew Green	Angelina Star
Westley Hahnen	Jordan Stevens
Uliana Hannemann	Braden Taylor
Collin Hasenfus	Khiara Trewartha-DeSantos
Collin Herrick	Treyden Turner
Kaylee Hoelzel	Eleazar Vargas
Kayleigh Hoelzel	Jaden Vondracek
Ethan Huynh	Andreas Walgenbach
Emilee Johnson	Kal El Wallenfang
Vincent Jourdan	Oscar Waters
Raya Kersten	Mara Westphal-Dorow
Ella Kirchman	Kaden Weyenberg
Addyson Klases	Jacob White
Brook Konrad	ShuaNha Yang
Anthem Kotze	Cooper Zinda
Isabella Krull	

SENIORS	Sahara Lewis
Highest honors (4.0 GPA)	Teagan Miller
Nicholas Berg	Gabriella Ruback
Catherine Genke	Mason Talaga
Erika Stencil	Samuel Todd
Vanessa Thiede	Cole Uhlenbrauck
Adela Thiel	Peyton Weis
Highest honors	Honors
Lauren Altfillisch	Michael Fairweather
Dane Anderson	Daniel Griffith
Maria Argueta Gonzalez	Kathryn Laemmrich
Olivia Bergstrom	Sophia Lehner
Matthew Betchner	Sophie Lescamela
Brianna Beyer	Charlie Nackers
Shruti Chakrapani	Janessa Puls
Maryuri Covarrubio	Emiliano Romero
Lauren Detterman	Jack Ruelle
Dylan Dwyer	Nyles Schneider
Julia Kubicki	Allie Strande
Mari Ladish	Owen Swanstrom
Spencer Lynch	
Grace Meyer	JUNIORS
Eva Schneider	Highest honors (4.0)
Chloe Vogel	Sienna Anderson
High honors	Nicholas DeBaal
Lainey Becker	Audrey Norville
Evan Bengel	Highest honors
Natalie Colon	Ian Albino-Gonzalez
Sam Foord	Mackenzie Barmash-Turner
Bianca Hammond	Imola Barta
Lily Hansen	Grant Bergstrom
Bryn Korth	Braeden Brenn
Laura Krausert	Kassadi Calmes
Jason Kroll	Alex Campbell
Paul Kundert	Daniel DuVernay

St. Mary Catholic High School

St. Mary Catholic High School announced its first-semester honor roll. Highest honors were awarded for a grade point average of 3.75-4.0; high honors for a GPA of 3.5-3.74; honors for a GPA of 3.0-3.49.

Haley Gustafson	Lily Dallman	Emily Vogel	Gabrielle (Gabby) Callan
Theodore Higgins	Paige Danen	Sandra Zarco Salas	Donghwan (Dylan) Cho
Isidro Muniz	Noah Decker	Highest honors	Gracie Decker
Ray Pingel	Harrison Higgins	Kieran Barrientos	Samuel Finch
Gwyneth Rabitoy	Mackenzie Jaeckels	Claire Benz	Ruth Gutierrez Obeso
Rhiannon Reichenbacher	Sofia Malanchak	Grant Brazzale	Maria Marti
Benjamin Schoeni	Zain Manzoor	Alice Cole	Addison Moder
High honors	Kate Mislinski	Jakob Duquaine	Kate Nackers
Elena (Ellie) Altfillisch	Ethon Moschea	Carson Emenecker	Joseph Pirillo
Aidan Birling	Olivia Noel	Daniel Harness	Jaelyn Reuss-Markley
Jonah DeWitt	Ashton Post	John Osland	Lauren Ripley
Addison Dinka	Hunter Schreiber	Ava Rankin	Nathaniel Seiske
Lauren Fischer	Johnathon Schultz	Alex Rice	Honors
Alexander Groppel	Tamas Szabo	Ana Sophia Roub	Nolie Anderson
Nicol Hendrichovska	Rheana Underwood	Katharine Schoeni	Pau Bacardit Noguera
William Lawniczak	Noah Valentine	Zach Trudeau	Harrison Bergstrom
Norah Lee	Garrett Weninger	Stella Virlee	Alejandra Cunillera Fernandez
Evelyn McKenna	Lara Winkler	Brityn Voss	Preston Fields
Nathaniel Pable		Audrey Wanless	Amelia Herzog
George Staner	SOPHOMORES	High honors	Rylee McClone
Alexander Walsh	Highest honors (4.0)	Jaylyn Akey	Geneva Miller
Honors	Giovanni Albino-Gonzalez	Nicholas Anderson	Myles Norville
Nathan Bekkers	Eliana Brenn	Wesley Auth	Sean Ortscheid
Charles Cedergren	Elijah Kutney	Jeremiah Berken	Gregory Wheeler

FRESHMEN	Maddox Dwyer
Highest honors (4.0)	Jacob Hall
Maria Jimena Argueta Gonzalez	Maria Johnson
Ethan Auer	Meagan McCune
Erin Blaney	Nicholas Miller
Isabella Dupont	Marcos Muniz
Ana Emenecker	Carter Nicholson
Isaiah Hennessy	Bethany Ruppert
Ava Hoger	Teresa Rutchik
McKenna Lau	Adel Schneider
Mary McCurdy	Isabella Strande
Olivia Nagel	Audrey Weber
Highest honors	Honors
Zachary Beyer	Sean Brennan
Madeleine Breen	Jesua Cardenas
Samantha Danen	Andrew Ferguson
Anna DeWitt	Owen Hansen
Ethan Gustafson	Nevin Jamison
Isabella Jankowski	Hailie Kane
Vivian Koski	Wyatt Kletschka
Kaden Mielke	Garrett Londre
Maxwell Osgood	Kristina McNulty
Mia Pable	Sergio Mediodia Sanchez
Breelyn Pauly	Haley Miller
Margo Scanlan	Sean Osland
Thomas Siems	Mia O'Toole
Kaylee Sommerfeld	John Pirillo
Anne Walsh	Ethan Plutz
Samantha Weiss	Madison Radosevich
Madeline Weninger	Elliot Reichenbacher
David Young	Mason Uhlenbrauck
High honors	Mason Wagner
Alex Berzowski	
Wyatt Birling	
Norah Boehm	

A Strong Community Starts in the Classroom

The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and Neenah Joint School District recognize and celebrate the students who made the Fall 2022 Honor Roll.

Congratulations on this achievement!

Learn how your generosity can impact our future leaders!




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Custom aquariums

FROM PAGE 1

Iguanas were a low-cost and popular pet at the time, but they often grow to be more than 5 feet. There weren't any companies building cages for animals that size that could reasonably be shipped across the country.

Keller put an ad in a trade publication to sell some of the cages and his phone rang off the hook. With \$5,000 in capital from his brother in exchange for 10 percent of the business, he launched the company while he was a sophomore in college.

When he started out, he primarily made enclosures for iguanas, snakes and other reptiles. Each cage was handmade with materials that Keller purchased from building supply stores.

"It got to the point where I'd have 30 or 40 sheets of acrylic on top of a Ford Explorer while going down the highway," he said.

His bedroom became an office, his kitchen was shipping and receiving, finished inventory was in the garage and the basement became his workshop. He was making close to \$1 million per year in sales by himself.

When Keller graduated in 2001, he moved the business from his apartment to a new 3,000-square-foot production facility in Neenah and hired his first employees. He added to the facility once and then built a second shop. He's since added three more shops, with construction underway on an addition.

Keller's grandfather is the founder of J. J. Keller. His father, uncle and sister formerly led the company, while his brother is the current president and CEO. The J. J. Keller headquarters is visible from Adam's Specialty Products, which Keller said serves as an inspiration to him.

The company was the first in the market to create animal enclosures the size of a small room that could be broken down for easy shipping and transport. He called them Cages By Design.

Cages By Design later became Custom Cages and the business expanded to include Custom Aquariums and Serenity Aquarium and Aviary Service. It also acquired Vision Products.

The brands feature custom-made enclosures and aquariums for birds, reptiles, fish, cats, dogs, rodents and other exotic animals. The enclosures are made to order for indoor or outdoor use with any number of available modifications, accessories and additions.

Over the years, Keller has experienced his fair share of setbacks. The first was the housing crash of 2008.

"My business almost disappeared," he said, adding that his sales are tied to the housing market and people often purchase the enclosures and aquariums when they're moving to a new home.

To diversify and generate more reliable revenue, Keller launched Serenity, a sister company that rents fish tanks and bird aviaries to nursing homes, offices, clinics and other locations and offers routine maintenance services.

When challenges arose servicing the enclosures and aquariums, Keller took note and the company worked to improve, with more than 35 patents for its innovative designs.

"Every little problem that we came into, we discovered a solution and invented our way around it," he said.

Serenity has since grown to include 2,000 accounts in 38 states.

Another challenge arose when the



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Manufacturing work at Adam's Specialty Products includes aquarium stands being built in the warehouse.

pandemic hit and nursing homes closed down. Serenity employees were no longer permitted to service their aquariums and aviaries.

"We managed that pretty well," Keller said. "We had to remotely teach the nursing homes how to deal with their live animals while we were getting through the pandemic."

He's also had to deal with many of the same problems seen at other businesses, from staffing shortages, inflation and supply-chain issues.

"There would be days that I'd find out that I wouldn't be able to get glass at all," he said. "What do you do? You have an aquarium company."

He often stayed up late at night searching for a source for glass or other materials.

Adam's Specialty Products is on track to do \$10 million in sales in 2023. It employs more than 100 full- and part-time staff, with 50,000 square feet of manufacturing space on Commerce Plaza Drive in Neenah.

The production includes cabinet and finishing, glass manufacturing, part fabrication, assembly and shipping. The lumber used in production is harvested and milled at a local wooded property Keller owns.

"From tree to product – the entire vertical chain – we handle," he said.

A public showroom displays some of the aquariums and enclosures, complete with live animals inside.

The cost for a custom enclosure or aquarium ranges on average between \$3,000 to \$5,000. Some orders can cost \$100,000 or more.

The customers include the general public, nursing homes, zoos, museums and aquariums.

"It's hard to find a zoo anywhere, of any size, that hasn't purchased from us," he said.

For Keller, there were times over the past 25 years where it may have made sense to give up. But when you've created a business and overcome so many challenges, it's hard to let go.

"I'm sort of stubborn and I don't know how to quit," he said.

As for celebrating 25 years in business, Keller attributes it to ambition and perseverance.

"It was not an easy journey but we've rode through the ups and downs and we've got a pretty cool business," he said.

Calendar of events

Friday, Feb. 17

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

Saturday, Feb. 18

Winter Time Indoor Flea Market, 10 a.m., Lucky Dogz, 157 S. Green Bay Road

Sunday, Feb. 19

Paul's Party Cheese Raffle, noon, Barrel

41 Brewing Co., 1132 S. Commercial St.

Thursday, Feb. 23

LWV Candidate Forums, 6:30 p.m., Neenah City Hall, 211 Walnut St.

Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Open Chess Nights, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Feb. 25

Tolerated Vandalism, 9 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

Monday, Feb. 27

Book Club, 10 a.m., "Eleanor," Neenah Public Library

Equine-assisted memory cafes offered

Beaming Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted services in Neenah, will be offering free Equine-Assisted Memory Cafes every month this year with the second session scheduled for March 13.

Part of Beaming's dementia support equine programs, the cafes seek to enrich quality of life, reduce social isolation and encourage physical activity through interaction and connection with horses. These monthly cafes offer individuals with early-to moderate-stage dementia, Alzheimer's or other forms of memory loss and their caregivers an opportunity to enjoy a horse experience with their loved ones.

Each cafe consists of equine-assisted

activities including grooming, walking and feeding horses, and riding if appropriate; light refreshments; and a varied mix of educational presentations, mind-body emotions exercises, guest speakers, musical performances, hands-on arts and crafts projects and other nature-focused activities including a sensory walking path.

The memory cafes will be held rain or shine at the Beaming Barn on the second Monday of each month, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Guests may also attend via Zoom at bit.ly/3WMGvvd. To attend in person or virtually, participants are asked to RSVP to Katie Samuelson, center director, at 920-851-6160 or incbeaming@gmail.com.

CEO indicted

FROM PAGE 1

\$37 million.

Another \$20 million was allegedly diverted to investors who were financing the construction of facilities in New Jersey. The funds were also used for construction costs for the New Jersey facilities.

Some of the money was used for Breslin's personal expenditures including monthly payments of about \$60,000 to the Internal Revenue Service for unpaid taxes; \$75,000 for loan repayments; and \$60,000 for mortgage debts.

The diverted funds caused inadequate staffing at the assisted living facilities, which resulted in insufficient care of residents.

Documents indicate residents at some facilities were left in soiled diapers and bed linens. Bed-ridden residents were not repositioned as required to prevent bed sores and pressure ulcers.

Atrium's failure to pay vendors resulted in a shortage of clean diapers, inadequate wound care and cleaning supplies, and a lack of durable medical equipment and respiratory supplies.

Court records indicate contractors refused to do repairs and maintenance at Atrium locations because of nonpayment and bounced checks. Broken toilets and showers were not repaired. Roofs and windows leaked and mold was found on residents' walls, windows and inside air ducts.

Cannabis fine

FROM PAGE 1

Matz told the committee he's concerned about the proposal due to the amount of marijuana that would be considered personal use.

"This is 25 grams, which is a substantial amount from my perspective," he said. "Twenty-eight grams is enough for 60 joints or 90 bowls. So we get into what we consider much more than personal use and more than just sharing with a friend."

The diverted funds resulted in residents' services, such as physical therapy and fire alarm monitoring, being cut off. Phone and internet services were also dropped, preventing staff from obtaining prescriptions or accessing electronic medical records systems.

In late 2018, a receiver was appointed for Atrium's 33 facilities in Wisconsin and Michigan due to financial issues, with the company more than \$13.5 million in debt. At that time media reported Atrium operated an additional 12 facilities in New Jersey that were outside the receivership.

Atrium locations in Neenah, Appleton, Chilton and Weston permanently closed four months later, displacing dozens of residents.

The indictment alleges Breslin and Atrium withheld retirement savings account contributions and health insurance premiums from employees' paychecks but failed to use the money for paying a third-party administrator. This caused employees' health claim payments to be stopped.

Breslin and Atrium withheld state and federal income and employment taxes from employees' paychecks but evaded payment to the state Department of Revenue and IRS, documents say.

If convicted, Breslin faces five years in federal prison on the conspiracy to commit tax fraud charge and 20 years on each of the other 11 fraud and money laundering charges. He also faces a \$500,000 fine on the conspiracy to commit money laundering charge and a \$250,000 fine on each of the other charges.

He added that legalizing marijuana will not stop the illegal marijuana market.

"It doesn't stop the illegal growers and the illegal distributors," he said.

District 16 Supervisor Jacob Floam proposed postponing the discussion on the fine reduction until the committee's August meeting.

The committee voted 4-1 in favor of postponing, with Defferding voting against.

"I'm very much a pioneer and part of me really wants to push the state so I think it's time for us to act now," he said.

Neenah sending strong contingent to state meet

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

The WIAA Division 1 State Swimming Meet will have at least a tint of Neenah Rocket red.

Neenah qualified three individuals in a total of five events and will send a pair of relays to compete at Waukesha South High School on Saturday. And not only will Neenah be sending a nice contingent to the meet, but it's a group that could potentially return with a little hardware they picked up for their efforts.

"We are definitely looking to be top six in a couple of events. Hopefully, we can get there," Neenah head coach Carrie Raeth said. "Sectionals was a great day for us with a pretty young group. It was a high-pressure situation and we did well."

Senior Ryan Foucault will be competing in his third state meet after winning the sectional diving title last weekend. Foucault finished 15th at the state meet a year ago.

Earning another trip to state was the hard part for Foucault, who now can relax and focus on performing at Waukesha.

"There is a big weight off my chest," said Foucault, who is seeded ninth among the 24 divers at state, based on their sectional scores. "Leading up to conference and sectionals, I knew I needed to do well at both. At state, it's like if I do well, I do well and if I don't, oh well."

Foucault said he is hoping to finish in the top six at the state meet and doesn't plan on changing his 11-dive lineup he used at sectionals.

He just hopes he's a tad bit sharper on each attempt in what will be his final high



Neenah News

The Neenah Rockets will be sending three individuals in five events and two relays to the state meet on Saturday at Waukesha South High School. Those competing, and relay alternates, are (front, from left) Kyle Joneson, Drew Gaerthofner, Ryan Foucault, Tanner Trustem; (back, from left) Joshua Youngwerth, David Murphy, Quinn Koeper, Julian Kuehn and Braden Loudon.

school competition.

"That hasn't set in yet, but I'm sure it will after the meet," Foucault said. "I'm just fine-tuning everything (in preparation for state) for sure. I don't think I want to add anything at this point. It would be more things to worry about."

Gaerthofner, a sophomore, also competed at the state meet last season in multiple events, swimming in the 200-yard medley relay and the 100-yard breaststroke.

He will again compete in those two events for the Rockets – albeit with an entirely different lineup in the relay – and

tacks on two more. He also qualified in the 100-yard freestyle and as a member of the 200-yard freestyle relay and believes the experience of being at state last year will help him the second time around.

"State was really fun last year," Gaerthofner said. "I wasn't in the fastest heats of the 100 breaststroke but having that experience just knowing what it's going to be like will help. Knowing where I'm going to be at a certain time and then I will walk out with the other swimmers and be ready to race."

Gaerthofner finished 22nd at state last year in the 100-yard breaststroke

but enters this year's state meet with the fourth-fastest sectional time and will swim in the fastest heat for the event.

He's coming off a sectional meet where he set the Neenah High School pool record with his time of 56.62 seconds. He believes he can still go faster and has one other mark in mind heading to state.

"Making the podium is a big goal of mine – even finishing in the top three – and I would like to get the school record," said Gaerthofner, who is chasing a time of 55.54 seconds for the Neenah mark. "I think I'm more competitive in the 100-yard breaststroke but I also love the 100-yard freestyle."

Gaerthofner is seeded in the middle of the pack for the 100-yard freestyle, however, the swimmers from the third seed through the 16th, are only separated by about 1.5 seconds.

With such tight competition, one little hiccup could send a swimmer back many places, so preparing to swim a perfect race is important.

"Visualization is key. In bed the night before, running through the race a couple of times," Gaerthofner said. "We've practiced so much, you just know your stroke counts, you know how many kicks you are going to do off each wall and what that looks like, so when you get to race time, you don't think about it, you just know what to do. It makes it a lot more calming."

Freshman Tanner Trustem rounds out the individual qualifiers and will compete in both the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard breaststroke.

SEE **State swimming** ON PAGE 15

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Ziebell sparks Rockets to win over Polar Bears

Rockets claim FVA title for first time since 2009-10

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The wait is finally over for the Neenah High School girls basketball program.

The Rockets are back on top of the Fox Valley Association for the first time since the 2009-10 season having clinched at least a tie for the title with a 67-47 thumping of Hortonville last Friday night at the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse. The Rockets had the opportunity to clinch the title outright when they hosted Oshkosh North on Thursday.

Allie Ziebell finished with 36 points and 12 rebounds to lead the way against the Polar Bears, who had handed the second-ranked Rockets their only loss of the season in overtime earlier this year.

Neenah was certainly ready for the rematch and controlled the game the entire night.

"We were very dialed in and focused on this game," Neenah head coach Andy Braunel said. "Hortonville is a great team, super well coached, a lot of talent on the team and they really get after it. We all knew that we had to be 100% focused. The days leading up to the game we focused on playing for each other – when you are tired and won't make the extra effort, look at your teammate and dig deep for them."

Neenah led by 11 points at halftime and then opened the second half with a Ziebell-led 11-4 run to stretch the lead.

The junior and University of Connecticut recruit had eight points in the surge that pushed the lead to 44-26.

"There is no way around it, Allie is spe-

cial, she is amazing, and there are just not enough terms to describe who she is and what she does for our team," Ava Kok said. "She is our leader, she helps set the tone and she is a great team-orientated player. As a team, we feed off her energy on the court. When she plays with energy, we play with energy and all of us had that energy tonight. We have a very special bond as a team and we used that to our advantage."

Kok, who finished with 15 points, fueled another key second-half surge for the Rockets.

After Hortonville had trimmed the deficit to 10, Neenah answered with a 10-1 run to push the lead to 54-35.

The Rockets extended the lead to as many as 23 points late in the game as Ziebell led a huge performance at the free-throw line.

Ziebell finished 16-of-16 from the foul line as Rockets went 22-of-26 as a team in the game. Hortonville was just 6-of-16.

In addition to the strong night at the line, the Rockets held the Polar Bears – who were playing without injured stand-out Kallie Peppler – to a season-low point total.

"Hortonville has a lot of talent and many tough match-ups for us," Braunel said. "We knew we had to do it (defensively) as a team and do it full court all game long. We know that for us to be a solid team defensive unit, that each step counts, each close-out, each defensive stance, and each rotation, all matter and all are crucial for us to be a good defensive team."

Autumn Schabo opened the game with a basket and it was all Neenah from there.

Kok and Rowan Klesmit had the Rock-



Photo by David Hall

Allie Ziebell looks to navigate the Hortonville defense last Friday. The junior finished with 36 points and 12 rebounds as the Rockets beat the Polar Bears to clinch a share of the FVA title.

ets off and running as they built a 12-4 lead while Ziebell scored 10 of the Rockets 12 points in one stretch to extend that lead to 27-14.

Locked into the No. 1 seed for the WIAA playoffs, Braunel knows the regular season means nothing at this point as his girls are shifting their focus over to the

next stages of their season.

"We have much more work to be done and many more goals to achieve, but this is a great step on our path," Braunel said. "We need to finish the deal to claim our first outright conference championship in almost 40 years."

Curso fuels Rockets' victory

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Brady Corso led a big second-half outburst as the Neenah boys basketball team rallied from a double-digit first-half deficit to claim a 75-60 win in a Fox Valley Association boys basketball game last Friday night at the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.

Curso scored 26 points – one off his season-high – to key the victory as the Rockets won the first time in their last four games.

"We dug in and competed in the first half when we got down," Corso said. "We had some foul problems early and took us out of our rhythm. Closed with a nice run at the end of the half and then really executed on both ends in the second half."

Trailing 27-18 late in the first half, Corso hit back-to-back 3-pointers to pull the Rockets within three. He then converted on a tough and-one play to close out the half scoring nine of his team's final 11 points and helping bring Neenah back within 30-29.

"(Leading scorer) Cal Klesmit cut his lip open early in the game and had to sit out for a little bit," he said. "We know we have plenty of good shooters on the floor. Sometimes it takes us a little while to settle in, but once we start getting good ball movement the offense just comes more natural to us."

Jackson Schломann opened the scoring for the Rockets in the second half before another Corso triple tied things up at 34. Schломann, who finished the game with 13 points, then went inside to give the Rockets their first lead since midway through the first half.

Tied once again after a Hortonville basket, Elliott Swanson put the Rockets up for good with an easy layup.

From there, it was all about the Neenah defense as they went on a massive 21-3 run to take what was a close game and flip it to a one-sided affair with the Rockets suddenly holding a 57-39 lead.



Photo by David Hall

Neenah's Luke Jung looks to make a pass out of a double team against Hortonville.

Klesmit was part of the action during that run, as were Corso, Schломann and Luke Jung, who also finished with 10 points.

"Any time good shooters are connecting and making shots it helps make everything else better," Neenah head coach Lee Rabas said. "I was glad that Corso was able to carry us in the first half and his teammates worked to get him open and get him the ball. We got better movement off the ball in the second half and we did a nice job using movement off the ball and dribble penetration to create shots for other players."

Rabas knew that the Rockets defense was going to have to step up, but even he didn't know they would play as well as they did.

"The second half was more about the adjustments we made on offense more so than on defense," Rabas said. "Defensively, we were sound, but we were good all game long. We did a better job of dealing with their zone early in the second half, got them out of it and really executed well when they went man-to-man. Felt our defense was just more consistent throughout the game."

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Zephyrs take down top-ranked Howards Grove

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Down seven points late in the second half against the top-ranked team in Division 4, the St. Mary Catholic basketball team never panicked.

It just went to work.

The Zephyrs put together a game-winning push over the final three minutes, with Charlie Nackers' driving layup with three seconds left delivering the final punch in a 64-63 win over Howards Grove inside a jam-packed St. Mary Catholic gym last Friday.

"(When we were down) we knew we had to just keep battling and play defense and our shots will come. If we keep locking in on defense and doing our thing, we know we will make it happen," senior Cole Uhlenbrauck said. "We played our game and battled to the end so it feels really good to beat the No. 1 team."

The Tigers, who had beaten the Zephyrs earlier this season, had never trailed in the second half until Nackers' basket.

Howards Grove's Tanner Schumacher missed the second of two free throws with 17 seconds left and the Zephyrs secured the rebound. Head coach Paul Bradshaw thought about calling a timeout at that point, but instead let his veteran squad play the game out.

"I was going to call timeout if he made the second one but when he missed it I pulled back," Bradshaw said. "In that situation, it's unsettled. It's a one-point game so it's anybody's ball game. I have confidence in our kids to finish."

After working the ball around the perimeter to start the final possession, Danny Griffith penetrated the lane from the left wing



Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic's Danny Griffith drives to the basket around a Howards Grove defender in the first half last Friday.

and kicked to Nackers near the corner.

The senior wasted no time driving toward the basket, putting up a left-handed shot between two defenders for the go-ahead basket.

"I saw Danny driving and he kicked it out to me. I saw the lane and I went up and took it left-handed," said Nackers, who finished with 12 points and five assists. "It feels great, especially since they beat us when we were No. 1 and now we get to get them back and of course the buzzer beater always feels great."

Uhlenbrauck, who led the Zephyrs with 25 points and 12 rebounds, had the best

view of Nackers' drive as he was right under the basket when the shot fell through.

"That was awesome," Uhlenbrauck said. "He got up there and the ball just went right in."

Howards Grove did manage to get a shot off as the buzzer sounded but the near half-court attempt by Schumacher bounced off the rim.

"We had to watch Schumacher and he ended up getting the ball, but we made him shoot from well beyond the arc," Nackers said. "I felt a little more comfortable they had to go the whole length of the court."

A few minutes earlier, the game didn't

look like it would come down to the final seconds.

Howards Grove, which led by five at half-time, was able to keep the Zephyrs at bay in the second half never allowing St. Mary Catholic to put any type of a run together. The Tigers' lead hovered between four and five points most of the half and was bumped up to 58-51 when Isaac Godziewski converted a three-point play with 6:12 remaining.

At that point, Bradshaw opted to make a change.

"We called a timeout and we were able to change our defense and it really helped us. It helped our energy and it put them under a little more pressure," Bradshaw said. "We didn't necessarily force a turnover every time, but there were tougher shots and we were able to rebound."

Although the Zephyrs were able to quell the Tigers' offense, they didn't chip into the lead until Uhlenbrauck's putback with 3:01 remaining. But that got St. Mary Catholic going.

Fisher MacKenzie, who finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds, hit a shot in the lane and a 3-pointer on consecutive possessions to tie the game at 58. Baskets by Uhlenbrauck with 1:28 and 1:04 left then tied the game at 60 and 62, respectively.

Howards Grove then ran a long possession, which included a timeout, before Schumacher was fouled on a shot attempt and made only one of his two attempts. That set the stage for Nackers to deliver the win.

"We wanted to really just stay within reach and then hopefully get some open looks down the stretch," Bradshaw said. "It was a bit of a momentum game and once it rolled back our way, it really came our way."

Prep sports roundup

SWIMMING

Neenah takes second at WIAA sectional

Neenah claimed three individual titles as it took second place overall at the WIAA Division 1 sectional held last weekend in Neenah.

Bay Port claimed the team title with 400 points while the Rockets finished with 309. Sheboygan North/Kohler was third with 249.

Drew Gaerthofner won both the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard breaststroke to lead the way for the Rockets. The sophomore set the pool record in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 56.62 seconds.

Ryan Foucault also picked up a win for Neenah by placing first in the diving competition, while teammate Kyle Joneson finished fourth.

Tanner Trustem added third-place finishes in the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard breaststroke, while other strong finishes came from Julian Kuehn

who was sixth in the 100-yard freestyle and Braden Loudon, who was seventh in the 100-yard butterfly.

Also earning top-10 finishes were Kuehn, seventh in the 200-yard freestyle; Quinn Koeper, eighth in the 100-yard freestyle; Jackson Holzheu, eighth in diving; David Murphy, eighth in the 200-yard freestyle; Joshua Youngwerth, 10th in the 200-yard individual medley; and Gideon Benner, 10th in the 500-yard freestyle.

In the relays, Neenah posted a pair of second-place finishes with Gaerthofner, Trustem, Loudon and Youngwerth taking second in the 200-yard medley relay, while Gaerthofner, Kuehn, Koeper and Trustem were second in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

WRESTLING

Neenah advances eight wrestlers to sectionals

Neenah qualified eight wrestlers for the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet from last

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15

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Nackers finds niche with St. Mary Catholic squad

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

When opposing teams prepare to face the high-powered St. Mary Catholic basketball team, defensive gameplans usually formulate around stopping seniors Cole Uhlenbrauck and Danny Griffith.

That's just fine with Zephyrs' head coach Paul Bradshaw.

He knows that when teams pay too much attention to the team's top two scorers, the Zephyrs have another potent option that has proven he can carry the load.

"Charlie (Nackers) does fly under the radar but we like that he flies under the radar," Bradshaw said. "He's really athletic. He's gotten really good at finishing with either hand and so he's very comfortable going right or left. He's done a great job for us."

Nackers is averaging nearly 12 points per game this season and is shooting almost 60 percent from the floor. He has reached double figures 14 times in 20 games and has hit the 20-point mark twice.

The 6-foot-1 senior has shown a knack for getting into the lane and scoring at the rim, registering the majority of his points as a result of tough, physical drives to the basket. Nackers had a clear answer as to where and how he developed that ability.

"I don't really know. I've just gotten more comfortable with it," Nackers said. "I've worked on it a lot with one-on-one games and my dad would force me to do a lot of post work when I was younger. That helped get my off-hand pretty strong and that has also been a key aspect because I can finish both ways now."

Not only has Nackers honed his game against teammates, but growing up he also had some help.

Nackers credits his brother, Jacob – who is six years older than him – for helping to shape his game and not going easy on him when the two would battle.

"Absolutely not, he did not let me win at all. He pushed me a lot by playing one-on-one and that taught me how to



Charlie Nackers is a three-year varsity player for St. Mary Catholic and the third-leading scorer on this year's squad.

Neenah News

be physical," Nackers said. "That's why I think with driving, I can drive and finish through contact pretty well."

Nackers has since turned the tide when the two tussle, claiming that he walks off the court the winner now.

"Every time, yep," he said. "One hun-

dred percent."

Nackers has played basketball since he was little and joined the St. Mary Catholic youth program in seventh grade. Since then, he has found himself on the court with the likes of Uhlenbrauck, Griffith and Xavier standout Alex Sherwood.

Senior Spotlight

Initially when he looked for a way to impact the team, it wasn't by trying to be another offensive weapon. He turned his focus on the defensive end and considers himself more of a defensive player even today.

"Those guys are all very good scorers, so I just kind of decided I needed to work more on my defense to be a part of our team," Nackers said. "That's what I feel I put a lot of effort into."

Yet, he was also still a threat on offense and was able to showcase that as a freshman.

With some of his classmates moved up to varsity right away, Nackers took on a much bigger role offensively on his freshman team. Although he wouldn't necessarily carry that role when he made the jump to varsity as a sophomore, the experience certainly bolstered his belief in himself on the court.

"I was able to step up and bloom I guess and feel what it was like to be the main guy on the team," Nackers said. "It really helped my confidence."

Not playing varsity as a freshman also put a competitive chip on his shoulder.

So, when a new coaching staff, which was led by Bradshaw, came in his sophomore year, he was ready to show what he could do.

"I wanted to prove myself because I thought I had a chance to play my freshman year and then I didn't," Nackers said. "I was trying to show the new coaching staff what I could do and I wanted to prove to them that I could play at that level."

The St. Mary Catholic program has continually improved the past three seasons, capped by this year's 18-2 start that has the Zephyrs ranked second in Division 4 after knocking off then top-ranked Howards Grove last week.

The success the team has had is certainly built on a talented roster, but it's the

SEE **Senior Spotlight** ON PAGE 15

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State swimming

FROM PAGE 11

He will swim in the slowest heat in both events, however, the freshman is just happy to be competing at the state meet after missing about two weeks due to illness early in the season.

"I had a rough start to the season in getting sick and not being able to swim for two weeks, so going into sectionals I was just trusting the process and the taper and just fully believed and trusted my coaches and that's what really helped me go as far as I went," Trustem said. "I did worry that I wasn't going to make it for a while and I was doubting my skills but it all worked out in the end. I'm happy how it turned out."

Like Gaerthofner, Trustem will swim on both relays and will likely anchor the Rockets' 200-yard freestyle relay.

And as much as he plans to do his best in his individual events, he's more focused on what happens when he is part of a four-some.

"I'm more excited for the relays than my individual events," Trustem said. "My goal for state is to get the 200-yard medley relay school record. We would have to drop

a lot but we have a lot of room to improve."

Trustem and Gaerthofner will be joined by Braden Loudon and Joshua Youngwerth on the 200-yard medley relay team, while Quinn Koeper and Julian Kuehn round out the 200-yard freestyle relay team.

Both squads will swim in the second of three heats for the respective events and are seeded in the lower half of the 24 qualifiers, however, Koeper is the lone senior who is slated to swim which means the Rockets are gearing for the future with this trip.

"The majority of the guys are coming back so we've told them to soak up the experience," Raeth said. "We want them to want to get back there in the future and in more events."

Bringing two relays and alternates for those events also means a larger contingent gets to enjoy the weekend.

And as much as the Rockets will be focused on what they have to do at state, having more teammates along for the trip should up the fun factor.

"The more the merrier," Trustem said. "The best part is we are (mostly) underclassmen so we have years to come. This is just the start of our journey."

Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 14

chemistry of the group that makes this team special. And that chemistry has the team believing it has a chance to make it to the Kohl Center for the state tournament in March.

"We've talked about it quite a bit. And we plan on going all the way this year. That's our goal," Nackers said. "I think we need to focus a lot on defense (to get to state). Our offense is there. We have a lot of people who can score above 20 points any game. If we step up on the defensive end, we can beat anyone."

Basketball isn't Nackers only sport at St. Mary Catholic.

He played football for the first time since eighth grade in the fall and played a key role in the Zephyrs' powerhouse eight-player squad.

Nackers was first-team all-conference as a defensive back and also as an offensive utility player, partly because of his abilities as a returner. He returned both a punt and a kickoff for touchdowns this past season.

"It was a lot of fun. Obviously, it's a dif-

ferent sport but the team aspect is still there," Nackers said. "I wouldn't say it was tough (returning to football), but it was something new. I was playing a new position and learning that, but I had a lot of good times."

Nackers has competed in track and field in past springs, focusing on the high jump, and may once again follow that path in the upcoming months.

But he's also contemplating going out for golf, too. Just don't expect to see him play at a U.S. Open any time soon.

"I'm actually pretty terrible at golf," Nackers said. "But I have a lot of good friends playing and I just have a lot of fun doing it."

Nackers credits being in sports to his development both as an athlete and as a student and a person and he has plenty of memories to look back on from donning a Zephyr uniform.

"I like the competitive edge of sports, just trying to win and playing with others," Nackers said. "Even outside of sports, my character has changed. I've been able to be a leader more off of the court and I try my hardest and push myself more in other things more than I would before. Looking back, I've grown a lot doing it."

Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

weekend's regional tournament at Kaukauna.

The Rockets finished just shy of advancing to team sectionals, coming in a half-point behind Hortonville. Kaukauna won the team title at the regional.

Six of Neenah's eight sectional qualifiers finished second at the regional tournament. Those wrestlers were Declan Koch (113), Jacob Herm (120), Jayden Shepard (132), Eli Gast (170), Eric Schaufelberger (195) and Nate Cleveland (285).

Eli Armatti (120) and Nick Novak

(160) advanced to sectionals with third-place finishes.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Klesmit, Corson carry Rockets past Terrors

Cal Klesmit scored 25 points and Brady Corso added 23 points as Neenah rolled to a 79-64 win at Appleton West on Tuesday night.

Sam Coulthard added 14 points for the Rockets, who posted their second straight win.

Neenah held the Terrors to just 23 points in the first half to take a 35-23 lead and held on the rest of the way for the win.

Big first half lifts Zephyrs to easy win

St. Mary Catholic held Manitowoc Lutheran to just 19 first half points en route to claiming a 79-47 win over Manitowoc Lutheran in a Big East North Division matchup Tuesday.

Cole Uhlenbrauck and Fisher MacKenzie each scored 22 points to lead the Zephyrs. The duo combined for five of the team's eight 3-pointers.

Charlie Nackers added 11 points for St.

Mary Catholic, who led 49-19 at halftime.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

St. Mary Catholic rolls past Reedsville

The Zephyrs rattled off their 17th straight win with an 80-32 victory on the road at Reedsville in a Big East North Division contest Monday night.

Chloe Vogel poured in 30 points to key the win, while Audrey Norville added 14 points.

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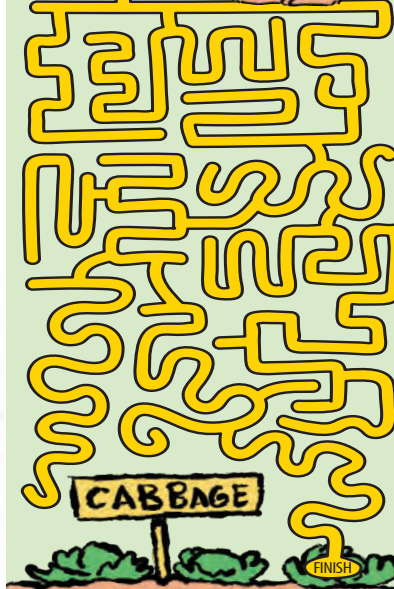
Able to be stored for long _____ of time, cabbage was a staple item of Europeans in the Middle Ages. Its juice was commonly used to heal wounds and as a _____ remedy. In 1541, French _____, Jacques Cartier, introduced cabbage to North America.

Since cabbage contains lots of vitamin C, other explorers, including Captain James Cook, _____ with it in order to prevent scurvy. Scurvy is a terrible _____ caused by a diet lacking in vitamin C. Cabbage rapidly spread across the North American _____.



Cabbage Crunchers

Rabbits love cabbage. Help this rabbit find the cabbage patch.



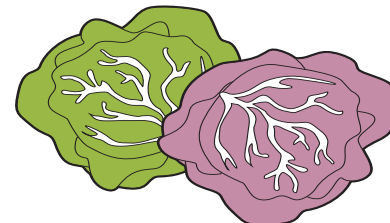
Kid Scoop Together

Cabbage Confetti

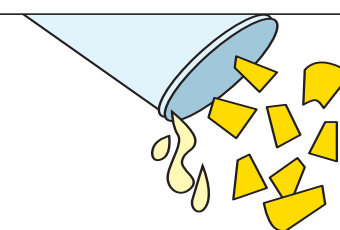
Gather the ingredients for a healthy dish.

Work with an adult to make this refreshing, crunchy, sweet treat!

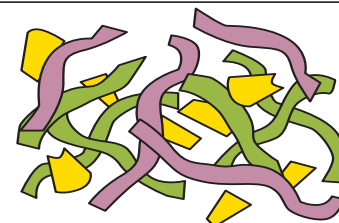
- 1 small green cabbage
- 1 small red cabbage
- 20 oz can of crushed pineapple with 100% juice
- salt & pepper



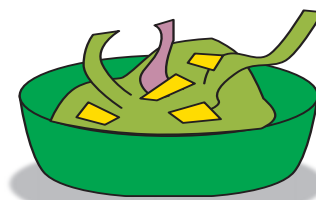
Chop cabbages into thin strips.



Drain pineapple, reserving 1/4 cup of juice.



Mix cabbage strips with pineapple and juice.



Add salt and pepper to taste, toss and chill for 30 minutes.

Crunchy, Cruciferous Cabbage

Crunchy cabbage is full of good things your body needs. It has vitamin C and vitamin K. It's a **cruciferous** (crew-si-fur-us) vegetable.

Cruciferous vegetables are plants that contain phytochemicals with possible anti-cancer properties. Other cruciferous vegetables are bok choy, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, collard greens, kale, Swiss chard and turnips.

Do the math to label each cruciferous vegetable.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 11 = ARUGULA | 22 = HORSERADISH |
| 15 = BOK CHOY | 18 = KALE |
| 14 = BROCCOLI | 17 = KOHLRABI |
| 16 = CABBAGE | 19 = RADISH |
| 26 = CAULIFLOWER | 21 = WASABI |
| 20 = DAIKON | 23 = WATERCRESS |

17 + 5	8 + 7	12 + 7	15 + 8
8 + 8	7 + 7	12 + 8	12 + 6
18 - 7	18 + 8	Extra! Extra!	
26 - 5	24 - 7	Hard C and Soft C	

Sometimes the letter C is a *soft C* and is pronounced as an S, as in *cell* and *celery*. Sometimes the letter C is a *hard C* and is pronounced as a K, as in the word *cabbage*. Look through the newspaper and cut out six words starting with the letter C. Group them into **Hard C** and **Soft C** groups.

Standards Link: Identify letter sounds.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Cooling with Cabbage

One of the greatest baseball players in the history of the game had an unusual trick for keeping cool. He would place a chilled cabbage leaf under his hat on hot days to beat the heat! He would replace the cabbage leaf with a new one every two innings. Circle every third letter to reveal this famous baseball player's name.



R D **B** C J A T M
B W D E G P R N
B U A S T V W H

B _____

Double Double Word Search

- ARUGULA
- ASIA
- CABBAGE
- DIET
- GOOD
- JUICE
- KALE
- PLANTS
- RADISH
- TURNIPS
- VITAMIN
- WASABI
- WILD
- WORDS
- WORLD

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

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

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

Write On!

What's the best way to eat cabbage?

In coleslaw? As sauerkraut? Roasted? Or? Give other kids ideas on how to best enjoy eating cabbage!

Oshkosh Herald & Neenah News Provide FREE weekly newspapers to local classrooms in the OASD & NJSD Because:

- Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe.
- Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.
- Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.
- Local newspapers can strengthen communities.
- Local newspapers can benefit children.

According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in NIE groups performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Learn more at

www.oshkoshherald.com/kid-scoop/



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