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Supervisor pay structure examined

Winnebago task forces look at compensation

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved creation of two special task forces to consider restructuring county committees and evaluating supervisors' per diem pay at a meeting last week.

The county board currently has 12 standing committees and three boards under the county executive's purview. There are about 15 committees that each county is mandat-

ed to have under state law. Some of the mandatory committees are folded into others.



Floam

The committees do the preliminary work of drafting resolutions and ordinances, reviewing budget requests and assisting in policy development. Each committee's recommendations are then sent to the full 36-member board for a vote.

Supervisor Shanah Zastera authored a resolution to create a task force of five su-

pervisors to examine the committee structure.

Supervisor Jacob Floam said he supported the resolution because it will save county staff and elected officials time and money. He named several other counties that have about half the number of committees that Winnebago has.

"We really want to roll up our sleeves and have a dedicated task force to seeing what works, what doesn't, what's good for us, what we can do to maximize public input and public comment," Floam said. "But at

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Public library turns new chapter

Director retires, recalls 30-plus years on staff

By Susie Brautigam
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

If you've walked through the Neenah Public Library over the past 30 years or so, you know that a lot has changed.

One thing, however, has been consistent. Gretchen Raab has been a fixture at the library, albeit in several different capacities, throughout that time. After serving as library director for the past 10 years, Raab retired from that position this week.

The Illinois native began her career in suburban Chicago with a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in library and information science. After moving to Neenah she has been a library employee for the past 32 years. She started as a reference librarian and advanced from department head of the Adult Services Department and assistant director to director, a position she has held for the past 10 years.

"I'm proud of our library's culture – we foster a positive, supportive workplace and a welcoming environment for all who visit the library," Raab said. "We have one of the finest libraries in the state with phenomenal staff and volunteers, well-rounded circulations, important services and wide-ranging programming."



Photo by Susie Brautigam

Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm (left) has taken over Gretchen Raab's role as library director after working many years with Raab, who stepped down last week.

Raab said she is "particularly proud of our successes – our circulation is among the highest in the state and our programming is phenomenal. In addition, our summer lunch program (in collaboration with Neenah Joint School District and Chartwells)

and our year-round hours (open seven days a week, year-round) set us apart from other libraries."

Raab will be handing the role over to

SEE **Library director** ON PAGE 8

Pickard Auditorium delivers more than 50 years of magic



Oshkosh Northwestern photo

Kenny Rogers performed in December 1997 at Pickard Auditorium.

By Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski and Kristine Heidke
FOR THE NEENAH NEWS

The Shakespeare line goes, "All the world's a stage," and for many people in Neenah, the stage that often comes to mind is at Pickard Auditorium.

How many elementary school kids got to sing Christmas carols on 'the big stage'? How many teens got to live their dreams in the shining spotlight of high school productions, band concerts and orchestra recitals? And how many learned new skills and forged lifelong friendships in the backstage world of technical theater?

"I loved that stage. There was something about stepping out onto it that gave me a sense of being exactly where I needed to be," Carrie Dreger, class of 2000, said of her time performing at Pickard in plays, musicals, choir and swing choir.

Feelings are similar for those who worked behind the scenes.

"Pickard wasn't just a place for me. It was a home and the people that worked there were family," Kari Derks, class of 2001, said. She worked technical crews for various productions during her high school years.

Even if not on that stage, you likely sat in one of the orange-and-brown audience seats. Maybe for a meeting, seminar or orientation. Or for a concert, play or motivational speaker. Since the beginning, Pickard has been host to countless gatherings and we are merely the players.

According to a Jan. 7, 1969, Neenah News-Record article, when planning began for the new Neenah High School in 1969, school board members wanted a typical-size auditorium for a high school –

SEE **Pickard** ON PAGE 7

Neenah News

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Corrections

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School board candidates air views

Six vying for three seats on Neenah board

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County, in partnership with Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education, held a forum in Neenah last week with candidates for the Neenah Board of Education answering questions submitted by viewers.

The six candidates vying for three open seats are Lindsay Clark, Tom Hanby, Brian Roeh, Rocky Shafer, Michelle Swardenski and Deborah Watry.

Hanby and Watry are incumbents, with the third vacant seat belonging to Amy Morrissey, who did not seek re-election.

The candidates fielded questions on standardized testing, student mental health, art programs in schools, the fate of the Shattuck Middle School building and challenges the district faces.

The forum was moderated by Peggy Cox, whose first question pertained to standardized testing.

All the candidates agreed that standardized testing is not an accurate reflection of students' success and progress.

"The standardized testing that is currently being used across the nation is not keeping pace with the technology that our students are growing up with," Roeh said.

Watry added the standardized tests are a snapshot of student progress.

"What we use it in Wisconsin for is hopefully a growth model to see where we've been and how far we've come," she said.

When it comes to mental health, the consensus among the candidates is that the Neenah Joint School District is doing its best, but schools need more resources.

Recommendations included increased funding, outreach programs, teacher education and additional mental health professionals on staff.

Swardenski said there aren't enough counselors to meet the needs of the students.

"I do think that Neenah has taken some really great steps in the right direction, but there's a crisis in this entire country for mental health and we need to do more to help our kids, starting with more people to help our kids instead of putting more on the backs of our teachers while they're trying to teach our kids," she said.

The candidates commended the district's various art and music program offerings, emphasizing the importance of these programs to give students a place to connect.

"Art and music is so good for brain development," Clark noted.

A contentious topic the candidates took up was the failed rezoning of the Shattuck Middle School site, which will be vacant next school year, to be made into apartments and homes.

The candidates were in agreement that the location has divided the community.

Clark said she didn't think the residents opposed to the rezoning were listened to, and that the school board and city needs to do better with communication.

Hanby echoed those sentiments, stating he didn't like the way the Shattuck situation was handled.

"I think, frankly, that our biggest shortcoming is that we don't have as much communication and transparency with our community as we should," he said.

As a real estate agent, Shafer said the district is doing its due diligence and not just selling the property to someone who has no plans for it.

"Everybody is not going to be happy with what we decide but whatever is best for the majority of the district, I say go for it," he said.

The final question related to the challenges the school district faces, with the candidates listing mental health, special education services, enrollment numbers, communication, teacher support and graduation rates as the primary issues.

The forum was recorded and will be available for viewing at lwvwinnebago.org. The top three candidates selected at the April 4 election will serve a three-year term on the board.

Information on voter registration and polling places is available at myvote.wi.gov.

Two council candidates engage in forum

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Two candidates vying for a seat on the Neenah Common Council at the April 4 election faced off during a forum last week held by the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County in partnership with Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education.

Alexander Collins is challenging incumbent Cari Lendrum for Alderman District 1.

Collins grew up in Neenah, moved from the area after graduating from Neenah High School in 1985 and returned three years ago with his wife and two children. He served in the U.S. Navy, was a vice president at Citibank and J.P. Morgan and is currently a cyber security vice president for a retail bank.

He used part of his introduction to criticize Lendrum for her vote in support of rezoning the Shattuck Middle School for a housing development. The rezoning failed to pass the council in December and the fate of the site, which will be vacant later this year due to its advanced age and district restructuring, remains uncertain.

Lendrum has served as District 1 alderman since 2011. She's a homeowner and owns other real estate investments in the district. She has lived in Neenah for 32 years, raising two children here. She serves on several committees and boards.

She is employed as a landlord and property manager and works at the Neenah-Menasha YMCA as a building supervisor. She used part of her introduction to thank Collins for his military service.

The first question the candidates fielded was on commercial construction in the city. Lendrum said the city's commercial construction has had an eye toward maintaining Neenah's small-town charm while staying within the city's long-range plan.

"When you bring in commercial building, it builds a really strong tax base and that in turn takes the burden off of us, the Neenah taxpayers," she said.

Collins said he supports more building in the city. "We should be trying to attract

building," he said.

The candidates shared their community involvement, with Collins noting he became involved based on the Shattuck school rezoning issue.

"I was a bit concerned that these people were having a rezoning being done and they didn't feel like they were being heard," he said, adding that talking to the council was like talking to a brick wall.

Lendrum shared that when she first moved to Neenah in 1999 she was holding her baby in a rental property when she heard a noise outside. She saw the Neenah Menasha Santa Float coming down her street, a tradition led by volunteer firefighters who bring holiday cheer each season.

"It was a magical moment where I thought this was going to be our forever community," she said. "I thought, any community that can do that for their residents has my buy-in, so ever since then I have volunteered since day one, since we got here."

Lendrum has served as a school and United Way volunteer, Doty Island Development Council Board member and has participated in other volunteer opportunities.

Collins identified the biggest issue as the city budget. Lendrum said public works is a challenge due to staffing and supply shortages and a lack of bids coming in for projects.

"Sometimes we have no bids coming in and then what do you do?" she said. "You have to wait, you have to send it back out again, you have to go over budget."

Lendrum told attendees that she's the better candidate for the position because she promptly responds to residents' calls and emails and tries to resolve their concerns.

Collins agreed that Lendrum is responsive to her constituents, sharing that he heard a story about Lendrum removing a dead squirrel from a resident's yard, which elicited laughter from the audience.

"We also, though, have to look at the bigger picture as well," he said. "I think my private sector experience could be very useful in the city council."

A recording of the forum will be available at lwvwinnebago.org.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Celebrating 150

In 1873, the City of Neenah was incorporated and on March 13, 2023, it will celebrate its 150th anniversary. This 1870s view of Commercial Street (looking north toward Doty Island) gives a glimpse of what life looked like in Neenah 150 years ago. Visit the Neenah Historical Society's new exhibit "Neenah and Menasha Sesquicentennials: Two Cities One Community" to learn more. The exhibit opens at the Octagon House on March 13.

Board looks at district staffing, budget

Neenah News

The Neenah Joint School District's 2023-24 staffing proposal, budget framework and food service contract were reviewed by the Board of Education at its Tuesday meeting.

The staffing proposal includes a reduction of 4.47 full-time equivalency (FTE) positions, which administrators primarily attributed to increased efficiencies in school consolidations and the loss of ES-SER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) positions that will no longer have federal aid support in 2024-25.

None of the reductions would result in layoffs, the board was told, as they would be contained through unfilled retirements and resignations.

Among the proposed additions are two counselors that would give all K-4 schools a full-time counselor, as well as a behavior interventionist at the high school and middle school magnet and special education teachers. There will also be an additional

hiring in the maintenance department and Curtis Bartlett, STEM coordinator, would take on additional duties as an administrator at the middle school.

Those proposals will be voted upon at the March 21 board meeting.

The budget framework for 2023-24 has unknown variables of student enrollment, state and federal funding, and health insurance for the upcoming year. The budget is expected to remain relatively stable with the biggest change being a 4 percent pool of dollars allocated for salary increases.

The district received only one bid for its food service contract, from 12-year provider Chartwells, which was integral in the design of the kitchens at the new high

school and future Neenah Middle School. Chartwells said it guarantees a return of at least \$350,000 to the district annually. The one-year contract allows for up to four one-year renewals. The board will vote on the contract March 21.

In other action, the board:

Approved resignations for Spring Road teacher Jessica Christensen, effective Feb. 28, Shattuck attendance clerk Tess Du Vall, effective March 30, and Tullar teacher Morgan Johannes, effective June 2.

Recognized students Jacob Herm, Declan Koch and Eric Schaufelberger on their top-three finishes at the WIAA state wrestling meet, and Kaylee Kurszewski for being the first Neenah female wrestler to place at the state meet.

Transit connection retained between Neenah, Oshkosh

Neenah News

Neenah is retaining its bus system link to Oshkosh through an agreement between Oshkosh's GO Transit and Winnebago County to replace the Route 10 service that had been connecting the greater metro area transit systems.

The new yearlong agreement that goes into effect April 3 is intended to be a pilot program using a private vendor for on-call shared ride service to and from the Oshkosh downtown transit center and Neenah's Valley Transit center, which relocated in November to the corner of Walnut Street and East Doty Avenue next to the City Hall building.

Service hours will be from 6:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The estimated cost of the program is \$170,100 with \$90,153 provided by the city of Oshkosh through state and federal grant money. Fare income at \$5 per ride is estimated to bring in \$27,000 over the 12-month period. The remaining \$52,947 will be paid by Winnebago County to Oshkosh on a quarterly basis.

Museum acquires permanent exhibit

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass recently acquired the installation "Between Seeing and Knowing" to its permanent collection through a gift by artists Anna Boothe and Nancy Cohen, who had the display in the Mahler Gallery from Oct. 8 through Feb. 5.


The museum's board of directors unanimously approved this gift.

Originated during a residency at the Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass in 2012, "Between Seeing and Knowing" is the result of both artists' long-standing interest in and in-depth study of Tibetan Buddhist thangka paintings and the integration of their otherwise separate studio practices. Thangkas are ordered cosmological paintings, often scrolls, created for the purpose of meditation and composed of numerous visual elements.

The exhibition will be available as part of a traveling exhibition program offered to other museums across the country.

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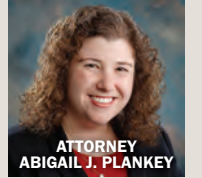
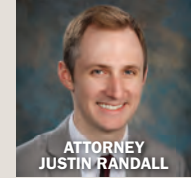
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- ▶ How planning in advance can help you and your spouse afford quality care.



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Neenah man arrested in connection with murder

Suspect in Milwaukee death held after chase

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A 33-year-old Neenah man was arrested last week in connection with the killing of Cashay Henderson, who was found shot in a burning apartment in Milwaukee in February.

Cordell Howze, identified as a suspect in the homicide, had been incarcerated at the Winnebago County Jail since Jan. 28 in relation to a vehicle pursuit. He was released two days before Henderson was killed.



Howze

11:15 p.m. The driver, Howze, fled into Menasha on Washington Street at Nicolet Boulevard.

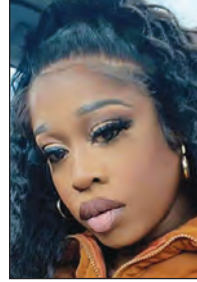
Menasha police deployed stop sticks that slowed the vehicle and took over the chase as Howze continued into Menasha.

Police requested assistance from the Wisconsin State Patrol to perform a pursuit intervention technique (PIT) and successfully stopped the vehicle on Appleton Road.

Howze ignored officers' commands and fled from the vehicle. A Winnebago County K9 was deployed and officers used a taser on him as he continued to resist arrest. Police said he was safely placed into custody.

Howze was referred for charges in Winnebago County and turned over to Milwaukee police for their homicide investigation. A handgun and other evidence were recovered from the vehicle.

The nonprofit organization Diverse & Resilient identified Henderson as a Black trans woman, noting that Black trans



Henderson

Milwaukee firefighters responding to a report of a burning apartment building Feb. 26 were quickly able to extinguish the fire. In an upper unit, authorities found Henderson, 31, with a fatal gunshot wound.

Neenah police initiated a traffic stop Feb. 28 on the suspect's vehicle at around

women are at the highest risk for homicide within the LGBTQ community.

Henderson's death marks the third Black trans woman killed in Milwaukee in the past nine months. Brazil Johnson, 28, and Regina "Mya" Allen, 35, were killed in June and September.

Veronica Beck, a cousin of Henderson, said she had many friends in both her hometown of Chicago and in Milwaukee.

"She was a bubbly spirit with a down to earth, tell it like it is personality," she said.

Howze has an extensive criminal history with four felony convictions in Milwaukee, Waukesha and Outagamie counties for armed robbery, theft of movable property and battery or threat to a judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer.

Howze is facing charges of felony fleeing and eluding in Winnebago County for the January vehicle pursuit and has been referred for felony fleeing and eluding and resisting and obstructing an officer in relation to his Feb. 28 arrest.

Milwaukee County has charged Howze with first-degree reckless homicide and possession of a firearm by a felon for Henderson's homicide.

Online court records show a judge or-

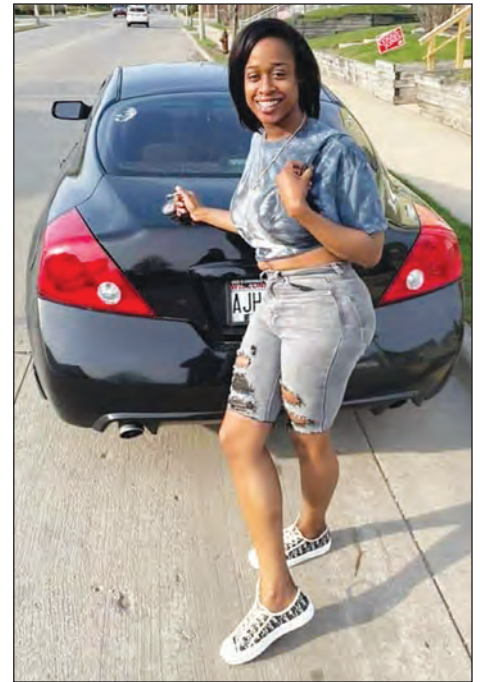


Photo from Facebook

Murder victim Cashay Henderson is shown in this undated photo from Milwaukee.

dered Howze to undergo an examination to determine whether he's competent to proceed with trial. The results of the competency exam will be reviewed at a hearing March 20.

Wild Ones native plant sale orders taken

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area is sponsoring its annual native plant sale with grasses, sedges and forbs for all types of habitat available.

The plants are nursery-propagated in 4-inch pots with one to two years' growth. Native plants help attract bees and other pollinators. Included in the sale is a variety of native trees and shrubs from John-

son's Nursery that must be pre-ordered.

For a list of available plants, download order forms at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org. Pre-orders for the plants are due by March 31. Pick up is May 20 at the WILD Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road, Fox Crossing. More plants will be available for purchase that day. Wild Ones members will be on hand to assist with selection.



Submitted photo

Beekeeping buddies

Marty Havlovic (right) visited Rance Bennett recently at his This Old Hive location in Neenah, which donated 24 ant bait stations to help Nicaraguan beekeepers. Bennett said he hopes to visit the Central American country to help teach beekeepers how to make hive woodenwares.

Volunteer needs

World Relief Fox Valley is seeking apartment setup volunteers to provide a safe and welcoming home for refugees upon arrival. Volunteers will work with a staff member to move and unpack household goods and furniture and should be able to lift 10-20 lbs. Those interested can contact Taylor at twittman@wr.org or 920-231-3600.

Fox Valley Literacy is seeking volunteers to help children with their homework, read together, play, or do art projects together while their parents are in class. Volunteer weekly or as needed. For information, contact Paola at paola@foxvalleylit.org or 920-991-9840.

Covey is seeking volunteers for the "Covey Connects" program. Support participants with disabilities as they gain independence in a variety of community events including dining out with Diner's Club, learning library skills, making

art and crafts, attending fitness activities, hosting a party or other opportunities. For more information, contact Stephanie at 920-292-1120 or sburke@covey.org.

Phone Pals is looking for volunteers who enjoy casual phone conversations and would like to make weekly calls to a participant in the Phone Pals program. Interested volunteers are required to complete an application and pass a standard background check. For more information, contact Holly at 920-832-9360 or holly@volunteerfoxcities.org.

ThedaCare at Home seeks volunteers to provide companionship to terminally ill patients and their family members. Volunteers share their time and talent by visiting, listening, assisting with meals, or simply being a loving presence to a patient. To learn more, contact Jane at jane.shea@thedacare.org or 920-969-0919.

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Neenah-Menasha Meals on Wheels is a community collaboration of Valley VNA Senior Care, the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society, and ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

Lake Winnebago fish report shows strong species

Neenah News

The state Department of Natural Resources' 2022 trawling assessment on Lake Winnebago noted a near-record walleye hatch and adult yellow perch catch, as well as record-setting young-of-the-year yellow perch and trout perch catches.

The DNR's Oshkosh fisheries management and operations staff, along with more than 30 volunteers, wrapped up its trawling season on Lake Winnebago with an annual survey that has been conducted since 1986. The team was able to return to its normal volunteer participation after two years of pandemic protocols.

The survey captured 176,336 fish repre-

senting 22 species. A total of 45,849 adult fish were caught, representing 21 species. Most notable adult fish results include the second-highest yellow perch catch on record, above-average walleye catch, measurable recruitment of the strong 2021 sauger hatch (age 1 this year), a strong bluegill catch, and freshwater drum remaining well-below average for the fifth consecutive year.

The young-of-the-year catch was less diverse, with 10 different species captured, but a higher total catch with 130,487 fish. Highlights include the third highest walleye catch on record, a record-setting yellow perch catch, an all-time high trout

perch catch, a high emerald shiner catch, and another year of low catch rates for gizzard shad and white bass.

"The record catch of (young-of-the-year) trout perch should provide excellent forage for the strong gamefish classes of 2022," the report stated. "Time will tell how the walleye and yellow perch classes of 2022 recruit into the adult population, though our high catch rates and abundant forage indicate a prosperous outlook."

The trawling assessment involves 138 net pulls split up into three sampling events. Forty-six net pulls are conducted during the first week of August, Septem-

ber and October. An average day on the trawl consists of 10 to 12 net pulls with a 27-foot-wide net deployed behind the boat and pulled along the bottom of the lake at 4 mph for 5 minutes. When the net is pulled in, the fish are emptied onto the counting table, the crew counts the fish and separates the gamefish into a holding tank. The gamefish are measured for length and released.

The long-term data set allows for the comparison of year class strength and relative abundance of adult fish over those 36 years, giving fisheries managers and interested anglers insight on the status of the Winnebago fishery.

Winnebago ice report

By Jim Nobbe

PAYNE'S POINT HOOK AND SPEAR FISHING CLUB

The ice season on Lake Winnebago is coming to a close with rain, warm temperatures and a sun getting higher in the sky daily taking their toll on the lake ice. The ice on the lake is becoming really water logged and soft.

As far as I know, almost all of the fishing clubs on the lake have removed their ATV bridges. Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club removed its ATV bridge Sunday. The landing at the clubhouse is in real rough shape. I would suggest only walking out.

Where the water is shallow the lake bottom has been warming up with the sun so high in the sky and it is melting the ice from the bottom up as well as the top down, making these areas unsafe. I was on the east shore of the lake this past

weekend and the ice is holding up a touch better than it is on the west shore, but it is still not in real good condition.

The other thing I noticed this year is that with the lake water levels so low, is a lot of people have had substantial damage to their shoreline. If you stop at the clubhouse and look at our rental property to the south you will see a prime example of what super low water levels along with large temperature changes can make the ice do.

Hopefully next year the water levels will be higher and closer to the level most residents remember on the lake. The low water level also plays a part in how much ice we make by shore and can make the landings not as safe or inaccessible. Please remember to support your local fishing clubs and that the ice is never 100% safe.



Fish and wildlife spring hearings continue virtually

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invite the public to get involved in April during the annual spring hearing public input opportunity.

The WCC/DNR Spring Hearings focus on natural resource-related questions and proposed rule changes. They will again be held in a virtual format, as they have since 2020. This year's questionnaire will be open from April 10 through noon April 13 via the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing webpage at dnr.wisconsin.gov.

New this year will be open houses in each county to allow the public to ask questions and learn about resource management in their neck of the woods. Open houses will be held from April 3-6. More details will be made available on the DNR's Events Calendar and Spring Hearing webpage as soon as details are finalized.

DNR staff and WCC delegates will be on hand at these open houses to discuss

local issues of importance, answer questions from the public and open a dialogue among the public, the DNR and the WCC about areas of interest and concern.

In addition, the WCC will hold elections for their delegates at each of these open houses. Two of the five WCC seats will be up for election in each county.

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Shop hopping

Neenah Vintage Mall on South Commercial Street drew visitors during the annual Vintage Shop Hop Event last weekend. The self-guided road trip to some of the more than 400 registered vintage shops, antique stores and boutiques in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois offers promotions, demonstrations and discounts.

Community Skills Initiative offered

United Way Fox Cities has launched a program called Community Skills Initiative (CSI) Wisconsin to help job seekers and professionals gain skills for in-demand roles in the digital economy.

With funding from Microsoft Philanthropies, the suite of online training and resources accessed through the CSI Wisconsin website offers free training that boosts digital skills.

The cornerstone of the initiative is an Up-Skill-A-Thon competition that drives participation in Microsoft's Skills for Jobs

initiative. The competition runs until March 31 and includes \$10,000 in total prize money.

Participants can compete in one of three categories: ages 16-24, 25-49, and 50 and older. Cash prizes include \$1,500 for first place, \$1,000 for second, \$600 for third and \$250 for fourth place.

Courses can be taken online via smartphone, tablet, desktop or laptop, and are available in English and Spanish.

More details are at www.communityskilling.org.

Neenah wrestling coach among chamber's Shining Star winners

Neenah News

The Fox Cities Chamber announced its recipients of its 2023 Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards. Ten Fox Cities educators were honored, and an Educator of the Year will be named the evening of the event from among them.

This year's recipients include Kyle Kleuskens, wrestling coach and physical education teacher at Neenah High School, who received the Excellence in Extracurricular Activities award.

"Coach Kleuskens brings an energy to the wrestling program that is second to none," the awards presenters said. "It is full of positive energy that you see all over Neenah and across the Fox Valley. Every single member of his team has 100% bought in to carrying out the academic, social, and athletic goals. This level of commitment by the athletes is unprecedented."

Other winners:

• Excellence in Early Childhood: Carol Mallmann, Robin's Nest Daycare.



Kleuskens

• Excellence in Elementary Education: Elizabeth Hirschy, kindergarten, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School, Greenville.

• Excellence in Middle School Education: Stephani VanRoy, fifth grade, Little Chute Middle School.

• Excellence in High School Education: Rebecca Ludtke, English, Wrightstown High School.

• Excellence in Specialty Arts: Jacob Martin, band, Kaukauna Middle School.

• Excellence in Specialty STEM: Brian Zunker, STEM Biomedical Science, Fox Valley Lutheran High School.

• Excellence in Special Education: Sharyn Brum, special education, Janet Berry Elementary.

• Excellence in School Administration & Support Staff: Autumn Steif, reading specialist, New Directions Learning Community.

• Excellence in Higher Education: Tammy Ladwig, professor of teaching and learning, UW Oshkosh Fox Cities.

The honorees were selected by a volunteer panel of Fox Cities education professionals and will be formally recognized at the Chamber's Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards Program at the Grand Meridian in Appleton on March 30.

Photo contest, exhibition marks 150th

Neenah Arts Council's second annual juried Photography Contest and Exhibition that celebrates the city's sesquicentennial through landmarks, cityscapes, scenic views and iconic features is accepting photos taken in the city between Jan. 1, 2022, and March 1, 2023.

Photographers can submit up to six photos, and those from novice photographers

under age 18 will be judged separately. Entries must be submitted in both print and digitally and will be accepted until March 31 via the Neenah Public Library website.

Photos will be displayed in the Shattuck Community Room at the library in April.

Contest details are at neenahlibrary.org. For more information, contact director@neenahlibrary.org.

Student engages in blood cancer fund project

Neenah High School sophomore Joe Schultz is participating in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Student Visionaries of the Year Program after being selected in November to take part.

Through April 27, Schultz is competing with other students in northeast Wisconsin to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) mission.

Schultz states on his web page that do-

nations would touch three main LLS programs: blood cancer research, support for victims and families of blood cancer, and advocacy for laws that help make treatments more accessible.

Tax-deductible donations can be made at events.lls.org/wi/svoynewisc23/jschultz.

For information about LLS, visit www.lls.org.

UWO student from Neenah part of theater fest

Three students, including one from Neenah, represented the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) last month in Flint, Mich.

Each year, eight regional festivals are held around the country before a national festival in Washington, D.C. The KCACTF program involves some 18,000 students each year to showcase university theater. The UW Oshkosh students attended the Region 3 festival Jan. 11-15.

Lily Slivinski, a junior radio TV film major from Neenah; Jordan Whitrock, a senior radio TV film and theater arts major from Ripon; and Aaron Stone, a sophomore theater arts major from Round Lake Beach, Ill.; were among Wisconsin students grouped with others from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and western Ohio. The trio took part in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions, having been nominated for their work in UW Oshkosh theater's production of "Grease" in November.



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Pickard

FROM PAGE 1

about 700 seats with a dressing room and some basement storage. It would fit easily in what is now referred to as the Armstrong building at NHS.

But another group had grander ideas. They wanted to bring a greater focus on art and culture to the community, beyond the already popular summer theater programs with Riverside Players. The group thought a larger auditorium in the Fox Cities would be worth the cost of a separate, bigger building. On June 2, 1969, this group of anonymous donors, led by Sam Pickard, presented the school board with a gift of \$750,000.

In a Post-Crescent article from June 3, 1969, Pickard explained that “a well-equipped auditorium would be beneficial to the community and would make Neenah a cultural center for the whole area.”

With that generous gift, the auditorium could be expanded and enhanced. A capacity of up to 1,800 was proposed, with better stage equipment, facilities and space for parking. Plans were introduced to include a stagecraft shop, tons of storage space, two levels of dressing rooms and a green room with closed-circuit television.

Despite a few construction hiccups, like when a natural spring was hit during blasting for the orchestra pit, the new theater opened for business in the fall of 1972. It had an audience capacity of 1,609, with state-of-the-art light and sound systems. The auditorium could handle anything from high school theater productions to professional touring companies.

The first public event at the auditorium was a Fox Valley Symphony concert Oct. 24, 1972. Neenah school board member Neal Perry, Neenah Mayor Roman Hauser and Sam Pickard, representing the donor group, all spoke at the event. Pickard died in January 1973 and the school board decided to dedicate the auditorium in his honor in November of that year.

Early on, the auditorium mainly hosted NHS students. There were drama department productions, concerts from the school’s band, orchestra, symphony and choir, plus smaller performances by groups like jazz band, swing choir and pop strings. Local community groups, including Fox Valley Symphony and Neenah Community Band, also performed. The city’s nonprofit groups and religious organizations sponsored concerts and lectures, and a group from Oshkosh called Broadway 41 brought in a few touring groups.

Because Pickard is part of the school system budget, decisions on how to handle the income and expenses were made by the school board. The auditorium was run and managed by a technical director,



Submitted photo

Kenny Rogers (center) appeared with the Pickard Auditorium choir in 1997.

responsible for all technical aspects as well as custodial details. Booking of acts was handled by the school district. Rental costs were an issue for many years as the school board wrestled with the appropriate way to charge fees.

In 1990, several things came together that would have a big impact on Pickard. First, the policy changed with for-profit groups. It went from a percentage of the ticket sales to a flat daily fee. Second, there was a staffing change.

That fall, Bill Heidke took over as technical director. With a master’s degree in technical theater, a deep commitment to community theater and a love of sharing theater with young people, Heidke helped bring about Pickard’s heyday.

The new rental costs encouraged Dan Liebhauer’s company, Starshow Presents, to bring in many different kinds of acts, from up-and-coming country music artists, such as Diamond Rio and Brooks & Dunn, to more-established artists wanting to play in smaller venues, like Tony Bennett and Kenny Rogers.

Starshow also brought in special acts, such as magician David Copperfield, memorable showings of the musical “Phantom of the Opera” and “Jesus Christ Superstar,” and a touring show of “Nutcracker on Ice,” which turned Pickard’s stage into an ice rink.

Heidke helped take local community groups and the high school shows to the next level, encouraging new groups to come to Pickard. He encouraged students to try their hand at set construction, lighting, sound or whatever they were interested in pursuing.

“Mr. Heidke always put confidence in us by letting us learn by doing,” said Rachel Tanzer, class of 2001.

Heidke also worked to upgrade the light and sound systems, bringing them on par with professional theaters in the area. He understood how best to use the equipment on hand to elevate any production to a professional level. The residents of Neenah considered going to Pickard Auditorium as a special treat. It was special for the per-

formers, too.

“I loved how theater allowed me to completely transform into a character so different from me. And if NHS didn’t have a facility as great as Pickard, none of that would have happened,” Dreger said.

Katie Covi, class of 2000, took the stage multiple times as a performer in high school productions, show choir, and choir, orchestra and symphony concerts.

“Playing around on the Pickard stage lent a certain fearlessness to me that I don’t know I’ve experienced on any other stage since, and I’ll be forever grateful,” she said.

When asking former students about their memories of Pickard, the most common was that it was a place of acceptance and belonging.

“What makes Pickard special in my mind is the feeling that it was my home. Nothing was too scary at home — friends and family were near. The stakes were low, and anything was possible,” Covi said.

For those involved behind the scenes, Pickard became a place to learn — both about theater and about themselves.

“No matter how small or big my role was, I was important. My job mattered,” Derks said. “I was never in the spotlight, but my responsibilities behind the scenes were just as important.”

As the ’90s progressed, things started to change and Pickard’s stage was dark more often. Heidke died unexpectedly in June 1999. Many touring shows were looking at alternative venues. Having an auditorium attached to a school made it difficult for them to unload equipment while students were present.

Starshow also started festivals in Oshkosh, including Country USA and Rock USA, which gave artists a way to reach bigger crowds. And the arts community in the Fox Cities had a bigger, better auditorium in mind. The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center opened in downtown Appleton in 2002, drawing even more groups away from Pickard.

Pickard remains busy, even if the type of performers has changed.

“We have not been able to host as many

Star stage lineup

Some of the well-known acts that appeared at Pickard Auditorium in the 1990s:

- Tony Bennett
- Victor Borge
- Oakridge Boys
- Brooks and Dunn
- Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash
- Ray Charles
- David Copperfield
- Billy Ray Cyrus
- Bob Hope
- Engelbert Humperdink
- Jars of Clay
- Tom Jones
- Willie Nelson
- Wayne Newton
- Marie Osmond
- Kenny Rogers

community events in Pickard in recent years due to the sheer number of NJSD events consuming most of the available dates,” Jim Strick, NHS communications director, said.

That could change when the new Neenah High School opens. There are two smaller auditoriums — one at 800 seats and the other at 300 — at the new school in Fox Crossing.

“Pickard will continue to be used for large district events and events at our middle school level. It will continue to be a great venue for our elementary concerts that typically draw large crowds,” Strick said.

The chance for younger students to take the stage is also thrilling for parents, many of whom remember Pickard from their own childhoods.

“When I see (my daughter) on the stage at Pickard, I feel giddy that she’s on a stage I once performed on,” Tara Bann, class of 1994, said.

“I think of the stagehands dressed in black that are helping my child shine in their moment of glory, knowing I was in the backstage wings not so long ago,” Derks said.

But the lights are fading and the curtain closing on Pickard Auditorium as the main venue for the arts in Neenah.

“(Pickard) has been a source of pride in NJSD for a half-century, and that won’t change,” Strick said.

But there’s no denying that big changes are underway, and it’s still unclear how much of a role Pickard will play, especially for students of NHS. For many looking back at Pickard’s 50 years of service, all that’s left to say is, “Thank you for the memories.”

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Supervisor pay

FROM PAGE 1

the same time, we make sure we're eliminating silos, we're making sure everybody is communicating with each other and doing good reform for the sake of making government more efficient."

Supervisor Maribeth Gabert pointed out that the task force will only review the committees and present to the board.

"Having served on some committees and seen how some committees operate, I think we could clean house a little bit," she said. "I don't think we need a drastic change but we should start there."

The board voted 25-7 in favor of the resolution, with three abstentions.

The board later voted to approve a resolution authorizing a task force to examine supervisors' per diem pay for committee and board meetings.

Supervisors are reimbursed \$50 per committee meeting they attend and \$75 for each board meeting. They may also be reimbursed for mileage, meals and lodging. Each supervisor is responsible for reporting per diem expenses to the county for reimbursement.

Floam noted under current county policy, supervisors may attend committee meetings that they're not assigned to and receive per diem reimbursement, regardless of whether they participate in the meeting.

"Currently, there is no structure as to what meetings a supervisor is obligated to attend," he said.

The per diem reimbursement adds up, with some supervisors claiming thousands more than others.

"This is not punishing anybody," Floam said. "This is just making sure that the county government works in a way that's responsible to the people who fund it and currently it's just not a balanced system."

The task force, made up of seven supervisors appointed by the board chairman, will examine the per diem compensation and determine if there are changes that could be made to better suit the county.

The task force will report to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee in September and to the county board in October. It will automatically disband Nov. 1.

"The goal here is to reduce spending in a responsible way so that people are adequately compensated, but taking a look and reviewing and trimming the fat where we can," Floam said.

Fire displaces 12 in apartment building

Neenah News

A fire caused extensive damage and displaced 12 tenants in an apartment building early Sunday morning in Neenah, causing minor burn injuries to an occupant attempting to put out the fire along with injury to a firefighter working at the scene.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue was called to 2116 Marathon Ave. at 12:15 a.m. Sunday and arrived in about six minutes where large amounts of black smoke were coming from the second story of the

structure. A firefighter suffered a knee injury when attempting to leave the building after encountering high heat.

The fire was contained to the apartment where the fire started but there was significant smoke and water damage that made two apartments uninhabitable. Displaced tenants were being assisted by the Red Cross.

The apartment had working smoke detectors but not a sprinkler system. Damage to the building and contents is estimated at \$400,000.

Library director

FROM PAGE 1

someone very familiar with the job. Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm has been with the library for 18 years, beginning as adult services librarian and serving as deputy director for the past 10 years.

"Nicole will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to her new role as director," Raab said.

Library Board president Michael Koller agreed. "Nicole has been with the library for many years, and I believe her promotion to director makes perfect sense both for her and the library. I have full confidence in her, and I look forward to seeing what great heights the Neenah Public Library can reach under her leadership."

Hardina-Wilhelm said she looks forward to working with staff, the community and community leaders to continue providing the library's services and programs.

"Gretchen has been a great mentor to me," she said. "Working with her to create her vision and accomplish the goals she set forth for the library has been a pleasure over the last 10 years.

"It is an honor to be the next director, and I hope to continue her legacy and advocacy."

Raab worked at three different versions of the library starting with the wrap-around structure built in 1964, the temporary library at Fox Point Plaza and the current building that opened in 2000.

She recalled the overcrowding and inefficiencies of the former library with some offices and storage areas in the basement along with tunnel-like spaces under the building where seldom used items were stored. The temporary site at Fox Point was nicely arranged, she recalled, but there was little or no space for story times, programs, events or meetings.

"The library had just transitioned from the card catalog to the online catalog, but much library work was still done by hand - and by

typewriter," Raab said. "Answering reference questions was done using reference books, making phone calls or checking with experts in a field. We've come a long way since then."

Raab said there also were many changes in the past 23 years at the current library on Wisconsin Avenue but "still feels new and fresh and welcoming."

One unexpected challenge came in the form of COVID-19.

"There was so much uncertainty at the beginning of the pandemic," she recalled. "We responded by following guidance from physicians, scientists and researchers to provide services and resources to the community in a way that would minimize the risk to both staff and patrons."

That meant providing curbside service, installing an air purification system and, for a time, limiting capacity.

"We received some pushback, but it was important to keep our employees healthy and to ensure that all patrons could utilize library services and resources safely," she said.

Koller praised Raab's longtime contributions to the library's growth and success.

"Gretchen has been an absolutely vital part of the library," he said. "Her knowledge, wisdom and guidance have been integral to the library's continued success."

Raab sees the library at the heart of the community that enhances its quality of life.

"In addition to providing traditional library services and collections and championing literacy and education, our library serves as a community center," she said. "We provide meeting and gathering spaces with opportunities for engagement. We offer access to the arts through concerts, exhibits and events, and we serve as technology providers through public access computers and technology training and workshops."

While Raab will miss her co-workers and the many volunteers and patrons she's come to know, she is excited at the prospect of gardening, antiquing, traveling and getting to house projects in her retirement.

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Calendar of events

Monday Matinee: "Ticket to Paradise," 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Arrowhead Park District open house, 5 p.m., City Hall

Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing

Thursday, March 16

Downtown Neenah blood drive, 8 a.m., DoubleTree Neenah Hotel, 123 E. Wisconsin Ave.

Glass blowing demonstration, 5:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

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

Saturday, March 18

Almost Spring Indoor Flea Market, 10 a.m., Lucky Dogz, 157 S. Green Bay Road

Sunday, March 19

Neenah Community Band Spring Concert, 3 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Roosevelt Elementary Walk-Through, 1 p.m., 215 E Forest Ave.

Thursday, March 23

Sweet Celebration of Youth Art, 5:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Friday, March 10

The Price is Right! 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

MTI's Broadway Junior Revue: "Raise Your Voice," 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Saturday, March 11

Night at the Museum fundraiser, 7 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

MTI's Broadway Junior Revue: "Raise Your Voice," noon, Pickard Auditorium

Sunday, March 12

Fox Valley Chorus, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Church St.

MTI's Broadway Junior Revue: "Raise Your Voice," noon, Pickard Auditorium

Monday, March 13

Neenah's 150th Celebration Kick-off, noon, City Hall, 211 Walnut St.

Neenah girls fall to Hortonville in sectional final

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

For the second straight season, the Neenah girls basketball team fell one step short of making the state tournament.

A rough first half was too much to overcome for the Rockets, who fell 71-54 to Hortonville on Saturday afternoon in a WIAA Division 1 sectional final at Appleton East High School.

Neenah finishes the season with a 26-2 record, with both losses coming to the Polar Bears.

"This is not the way we wanted our season to end," head coach Andrew Braunel said. "We didn't play well at all in the first half and completely got away from our game. We couldn't get in a consistent offensive rhythm all game and when we did, the shots were not falling. Credit Hortonville for putting a great game plan in place and making things difficult for us."

The Rockets were held to just 15 points in the first half and trailed by 19 points at intermission but started the second half with a 9-0 run to climb back into the game.

Ava Kok ignited the spurt with a 3-pointer to start the half, followed by triples from Rowan Klesmit and Allie Ziebell to cut the Polar Bears' lead to 34-24.

Hortonville answered with its own 9-0 spurt before Neenah once again began to chip away. Five different players scored in a 10-0 run to bring the Rockets within nine points, while a Sammie Buss 3-pointer a bit later narrowed the Polar Bears' advantage to 49-42.

But that was as close as the Rockets would get as Hortonville was able to weather the storm and pull away down the



Photo by Dustin Riese

Neenah's Autumn Schabo looks to make a pass while being pressured by a Hortonville defender in last Saturday's WIAA Division 1 sectional final.

stretch.

Ziebell finished with 26 points, nine rebounds and five assists to lead the Rockets, while Ava Kok added 12 points and Klesmit chipped in seven points.

Hortonville was led by sophomore Rainey Welson, who scored a program-record 41 points.

"Welson was in a zone tonight, there is

nothing else that needs to be said," Braunel said. "We didn't do a great job of taking away space on the floor and she took advantage of that every time. When we were finally able to make some adjustments, she made us pay from deep. She was impressive tonight."

SEE **Neenah girls** ON PAGE 11

Ziebell to shoot at state

For the second straight season, Neenah standout Allie Ziebell will compete in the 3-point challenge at the WIAA Girls State Tournament at the Resch Center in Green Bay this weekend.

Ziebell will be one of 10 competitors who take to the court on Saturday morning to compete for the title. Ziebell finished second in last year's event.

Ziebell led all of Division 1 with a 47.8 shooting percentage from 3-point range. She made 88-of-184 of her attempts, which is the most makes and attempts of any player in the field. Her percentage is the third highest mark among the competitors.

The top two shooters, who are not competing with their teams in the state tournament, are invited to compete in the 3-point challenge. Rankings are based on 3-point shooting percentage over the course of the regular season.

The rest of the field consists of Sophia Lanille of Fond du Lac, Mimi Hart of Cedarburg, Emily Jaenke of Fox Valley Lutheran, Ameerah Grant of Brown Deer, Riley Ketterhagen of Oostburg, Paris Opelt of Neillsville, Lindsay Schadewalt of New Glarus, Libby Ash of Sevastopol and Jaden Zuber of Monticello.

Jaenke won last year's event.



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Zephyrs drop hard-fought heartbreaker to Mishicot

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

It was another step forward for the St. Mary Catholic girls basketball program.

Just not the final step the Zephyrs were hoping for.

After clawing its way back to a sectional final for the first time since 2009, the Zephyrs came up short of earning a trip to the WIAA State Tournament after a 56-55 loss to conference rival Mishicot at Brillion on Saturday.

"It's tough," head coach Jeff Chew said. "I just told them to be proud of what they accomplished. There aren't many teams in the state playing today so walk out (of the locker room) being proud of what you've done and who you are."

The game was capped after a wild final few seconds.

It started with eight-tenths of a second left when the Mishicot bench was issued a technical foul for coming on the court during play as the team celebrated what

appeared to be a hard-fought three-point win.

The Zephyrs' Emily Vogel then stepped to the line and drilled two free throws despite the near deafening noise. St. Mary Catholic then got the ball at halfcourt but couldn't get the ball inbounds and was whistled for a five-second violation, giving the ball to Mishicot.

The Indians just had to inbound the ball and get the clock to start to wrap up the victory. They attempted a pass toward their own free-throw line where a Mishicot player was closely guarded. As the two players went for the ball, there was some contact and one official called a foul before the final buzzer sounded.

But after a discussion with another official, no foul was called and the game was over with Mishicot earning the state trip.

"We knew they were physical and we knew they played hard," said Chew, whose team won close games in both regular-season meetings with Mishicot. "It was just one of those games that came down to who was going to make baskets at the end."

St. Mary Catholic made just three field goals after halftime but led at times in the second half as the two teams exchanged the lead. However, the Zephyrs' were 21-of-27 from the free-throw line, including a stretch where they hit 11-of-12.

"We practice free throws a lot and we hit some clutch ones," Chew said.

It was a free throw from Audrey Norville with 2:12 left that gave the Zephyrs their final lead at 52-51, but Mishicot – which had two starters foul out – scored five of the next six points.

Norville led the Zephyrs with 16 points, but missed the final two minutes of the game after suffering an injury.

Emily Vogel finished with 13 points and Chloe Vogel – the lone senior on the St. Mary Catholic squad – added 10.

"The thing that sticks out about this team is how hard they played. The kids left it on the court every game," Chew said. "It's a very close team and they played well together."



Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic's Chloe Vogel fights of possession for the ball with three Mishicot players during the first half of Saturday's WIAA Division 4 sectional final.



Neenah News

Nolie Anderson gets fouled while going up for a shot in the second half Saturday.

Mishicot led by as many as nine points in the first half and were ahead 27-19 with 2:12 left to play.

Emily Vogel hit the second of her three first-half 3-pointers and Nolie Anderson followed with two free throws to give the Zephyrs a spark.

After Mishicot made a 3-pointer with

1:14 to play, St. Mary Catholic rattled off the final four points of the half – a 3-pointer from Emily Vogel and one free throw from Nolie Anderson – left the Zephyrs trailing just 29-28 at the half.

The free-throw line played a key role in

SEE **Zephyr girls** ON PAGE 11

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rockets top Panthers, Terrors for regional title

Neenah's boys basketball team rolled to a WIAA Division 1 regional title last weekend beating Stevens Point 60-45 on Friday and Appleton West 81-71 on Saturday.

The Rockets used a big second half to get past the Panthers, rallying from a two-point halftime deficit to outscore Stevens Point 41-24 to collect the win.

Cal Klesmit finished with 20 points, 11 rebounds and five assists to lead the way for Neenah. Brady Corso added 14 points and Jackson Schломann chipped in 12 points.

The following night in the final game at Ron Einerson Fieldhouse, the Rockets again put together a strong second half in beating the Terrors. Neenah erupted for 51 points after intermission to pull away from a one-point halftime lead.

Klesmit once again led the Rockets' charge with 29 points, leading four players in double figures. Corso added 15 points, while Elliot Swanson and Schломann each finished with 10.

Neenah hit 10-of-22 3-pointers in the game and finished 25-of-30 from the free-throw line.

The Rockets, seeded sixth in the sectional, were scheduled to face second-seeded Hudson on Thursday in Stevens Point. If Neenah wins, it would play either Superior or Appleton North on Saturday, tentatively scheduled to be played at Wisconsin Rapids.

St. Mary Catholic wins pair of tourney games

St. Mary Catholic charged back from a halftime deficit to defeat Oconto 84-81, in a WIAA Division 4 regional final Saturday.

The Zephyrs trailed 41-38 at halftime before coming back for the win.

Two players posted double-doubles for St. Mary Catholic. Charlie Nackers finished with a season-high 26 points and added 10 rebounds, while Fisher MacKenzie totaled 13 points and grabbed 18 rebounds.

Danny Griffith with 19 points and Cole Uhlenbrauck with 14 points also reached double figures for the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic helped seal the win with a 21-of-28 performance at the free-throw line, including a 12-of-14 night from Griffith.

The Zephyrs reached the regional final with a 101-62 dismantling of Manawa on Friday night.

Three players finished with at least 20 points in the game, led by MacKenzie's 22-point effort. Griffith and Uhlenbrauck each had 20.

Braeden Brenn also reached double figures for the Zephyrs with 10 points.

The Zephyrs were slated to play Crivitz at Oconto Falls on Thursday, with the winner advancing to a sectional final Saturday against the winner of Marathon and Auburndale. That game is scheduled to be played at Appleton East. All four teams left in the sectional are ranked in the top 10 in Division 4.

Zephyr girls

FROM PAGE 10

keeping St. Mary Catholic in the game.

The Zephyrs finished the game 26-of-35 from the foul line, while the Indians were just 14-of-24, including only 9-of-16 in the second half.

St. Mary Catholic took its first lead since the opening basket at 34-33 after four straight points from Norville about four minutes into the period.

Two more free throws from Chloe Vogel about a minute later gave St. Mary Catholic its biggest lead of the game at 36-33.

The Zephyrs reached the sectional final game following a convincing 84-72 win

over second-ranked Westfield in a sectional semifinal Thursday.

Chloe Vogel finished with 26 points, 10 rebounds and six assists to key the victory. It was the senior's third double-double of the season and the eighth time she scored at least 20 points in a game.

Emily Vogel added 23 points, while Norville with 11 points and Lauren Ripley with 10 points also reached double figures. Sienna Anderson finished with eight points and a team-high nine assists.

St. Mary Catholic used another strong night at the free-throw line to secure the win, going 26-of-30, with Chloe Vogel hitting all 13 of her attempts.

St. Mary Catholic led 37-31 at halftime.

Neenah bowlers compete at state tourney

The Neenah High School girls bowling team competed at the Wisconsin High School Bowling Championships this past weekend in Weston.

The squad was 12th among the 15 Division 1 girls teams. Neenah finished with a total of 2,101 after 15 games of qualifying, but were just 82 pins out of seventh place. The qualifying games were Baker style, with five players bowling two frames per game.

A co-op between the two Sun Prairie high schools and Marshall High School was the

top qualifier with a total of 2,952 and went on to win the state title in a step-ladder final.

Bowling for Neenah were Emily Glaheen, Anthem Kotze, Braelyn Boss, Kylie Brown, Trista Nelson and Miley Young.

The Neenah boys were also represented at the state meet as Zachary Olson qualified for individual competition.

Olson rolled a 571 series in qualifying and ranked 50th out of 106 competitors. Olson came up 46 pins short of advancing to the semifinal round.

Neenah girls

FROM PAGE 9

The Rockets, who won their first outright conference title in more than 30 years, will return the bulk of their roster next year, but will lose five players to graduation.

Braunel said the talented group will certainly be missed both on and off the court.

"I am having a hard time finding the right words to say about this group," Braunel said. "This group meant so much to this program and it wasn't just because of what they accomplished on the basketball court. They are great leaders in the classroom and have set the groundwork for the future success of our program. We are all going to be better players and coaches because of them and they will be missed next season."

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Kid Scoop Together

The Amazing Babe Didrikson Zaharias

Babe Didrikson Zaharias is considered one of the greatest athletes of the last century. Few, if any, have matched her achievements in sports.

Babe was born on June 26, 1911. When she was young, most girls did not participate in sports. Babe loved sports. In her lifetime, she was an Olympic gold medalist in track and field, an All-American basketball player, a champion golfer and an extraordinary baseball player, swimmer, bowler, diver and tennis player.

A Running Start

When the news of the 1928 Olympic Games filled the newspapers, Babe decided to begin her own training. She practiced hurdles by soaring over seven hedges in her neighborhood. When one of the hedges was a bit too high, she asked the people who lived there to cut it down to the right size, and they did!



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



Golfing Great

Babe was an excellent golfer. From 1946-47, Babe won 13 tournaments in a row. Babe would go on to win 113 golf tournaments.

Standards Link: Read biographical text.

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY History of Women in Sports

Today, we know that exercise is good for everyone's health—boys and girls, men and women.

Today, girls and women can play sports for fun. They also can compete and become professional athletes. But that was not always the case.

Imagine being told that you can't do something you love to do. Or that you are forced to wear clothing that

makes it difficult to do what you love to do. Or that you can't find anyone to play a sport with you. Or that you aren't allowed on a golf course, a tennis court or other sporting fields.

How would all of that make you feel? Frustrated? Lonely?

That is how girls and women who enjoyed sports felt before the year 1972, a year of important change.

Standards Link: Read informational text in history.

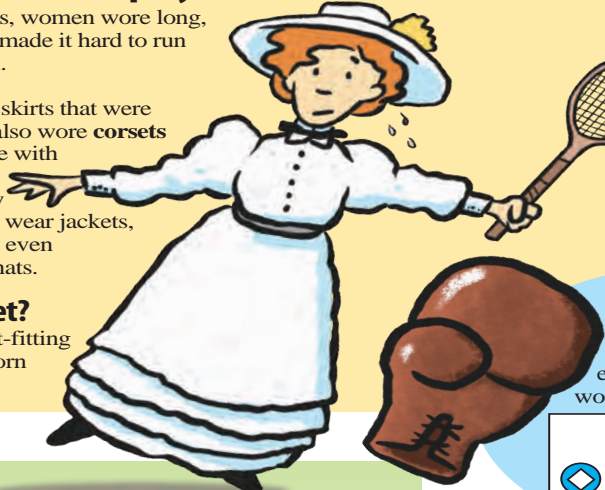
Would you want to play tennis dressed like this?

In the early 1900s, women wore long, heavy skirts that made it hard to run after a tennis ball.

It wasn't just the skirts that were a problem, they also wore corsets and blouses made with long sleeves and stiff collars. They were expected to wear jackets, heavy shoes, and even broad-brimmed hats.

What's a corset?

A corset is a tight-fitting undergarment worn under a blouse.

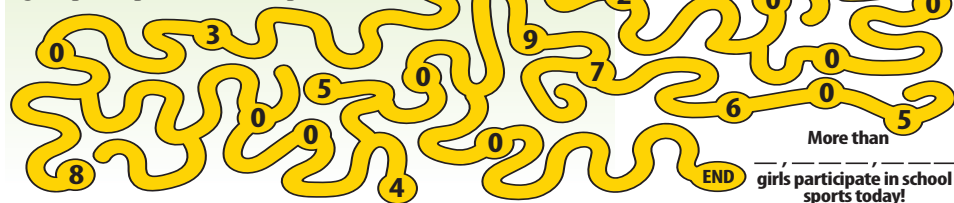


Title IX Changes Girls' Lives

Today, girls have equal access to playing sports at public schools because in 1972, the United States Congress signed into law that everyone in the United States, regardless of their gender, has equal rights to play sports. This law is called **Title IX**. (*Title IX is the same as Title 9. The number 9 is written in Roman numerals.*)

Before and After Title IX

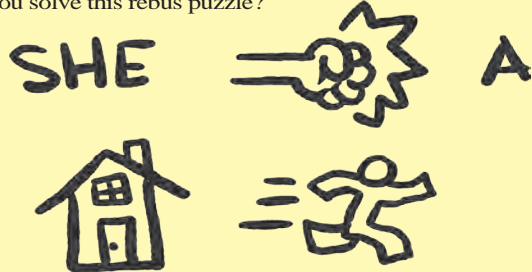
Before 1972, less than 300,000 girls participated in school sports in the United States. Write down the numbers on the correct path through the maze to discover how many girls participate in school sports.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Picture Puzzles

A rebus is a puzzle that uses pictures to reveal a word or phrase. Can you solve this rebus puzzle?



Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Double Double Word Search

- ATHLETE
- COMPETE
- FIRST
- HATS
- HEALTH
- OLYMPIC
- SCHOOL
- SHOES
- SLEEVES
- SPORTS
- TENNIS
- THROW
- WOMEN
- WORN
- YEAR

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

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O V O R J M H A T S
L U M O S I N N E T
Y N P P A R H N X K
M E E S O T T O V P
P M T W L S H O E S
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C W E V S C H O O L
W H S E V E E L S Y

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

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