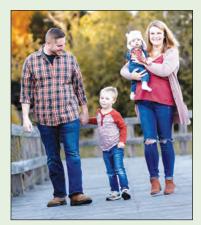
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Neenah News

## Rockets, Zephyrs advance

Both Neenah area high school boys basketball teams won sectional titles and advanced to this weekend's WIAA State Basketball Tournament in Madison. Charlie Nackers and St. Mary Catholic cut down the nets after beating Auburndale on Saturday and played Thursday night at the Kohl Center, while Neenah advanced to face Arrowhead in a Division 1 semifinal Friday night. For coverage of both teams, see pages 9 and 10.

## **Alternative** ARPA fund plan revived

## County officials make case for 'Spirit' designation

By Bethanie Gengler

Winnebago County is moving forward on a plan to establish a "Spirit Fund" for \$33.4 million in ARPA funds after a similar proposal failed to pass the county board in January, stalling use of the money awarded under the American Rescue

The county's latest proposal for using the ARPA funds was revealed at county board and ARPA Commission meetings last week and includes an ARPA "reset," reversing previous activity and rulings related to the funds.

The plan has two parts. First, the ARPA

money would be designated as lost revenue during the pandemic. Then it would be moved to a newly created special revenue fund, where it will be used for projects "in the spirit of ARPA."



Kaiser

Director of finance Paul Kaiser told the

board last week that the lost revenue designation is a calculation only.

"It's not really revenue loss," he said. "It's a calculation that was given to us by the U.S. Treasury to see if we can use all of our ARPA funds for general services expenditures, which for the most part is wages, could be used for projects, could be used for other things."

The county will use 2022 expenditures as lost revenue. Kaiser said Fond du Lac and La Crosse counties also claimed ARPA funds as general service expendi-

SEE ARPA funding ON PAGE 6

## City denies claims in Eagle Nation shooting case

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah has backed out on settlement negotiations in a civil rights lawsuit after reviewing damages submitted



Flatoff

by an attorney for five people held hostage during a 2015 standoff at Eagle Nation Cycles.

Brian Flatoff started a confrontation over a motorcycle at the former Eagle Nation, situated at 206 Main St., on Dec. 5, 2015. He took several parties hostage

at gunpoint and the police responded to what would be a four-hour standoff.

During the standoff, police shot and killed hostage Michael Funk, who was trying to escape. The two officers who shot



Neenah News

The former Eagle Nation building is shown at 206 Main St. in Neenah.

Funk were not charged. Flatoff was sentenced to 100 years in prison.

In 2021, hostages Steve Erato, Michael Peterson, Ethan Moderson, Ryan Moderson and George Fuerte retained attorney Walter Stern of Kenosha and filed a lawsuit, seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

The five parties allege that police treated them like criminals instead of victims in the aftermath of the incident, stating they were detained and arrested without probable cause or warrant, violating the Fourth and 14th amendments.

The city has denied the claims, retaining attorney Kyle Moore of Wirth and Baynard in Milwaukee.

Last month, the city agreed to mediation in an effort to settle the lawsuit and met in closed session to review a settlement demand. Moore told Neenah News the terms of the settlement demand are confidential and declined to comment on the matter.

Judge William Griesbach is presiding over the lawsuit. He previously presided over a 2014 lawsuit that alleged police used extreme force during a 2012 drug

SEE Claim denied ON PAGE 3

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## Staffing pay proposals under review

## Supervisors question deputy executive salary

By Bethanie Gengler

The salary of Winnebago County Executive Jon Doemel's assistant would nearly double under a proposed \$2 million compensation schedule discussed at a Board of Supervisors meeting last week.

With more than 900 employees and about 100 vacant positions, the county paid \$68,000 to McGrath and Associates to complete the wage study and compensation proposal presented March 7.

The purpose is to adopt revisions to employee compensation and benefits to meet the average market minimum and help attract and retain employees.

Doemel was elected as county executive in 2021, defeating Mark Harris, who held the position for 16 years. Doemel campaigned for the nonpartisan position as an independent. He hired Republican lobbyist Ethan Hollenberger as his chief of staff just days after securing the office.

"Ethan Hollenberger is known as a right-winger," Doemel wrote on Facebook that year. "He understands my vision to use conservative principles to address liberal issues."

Under the compensation schedule presented to the county board, Hollenberger's salary would increase by about 83% from \$52,000 per year to a minimum of \$95,115 per year; with potential merit-based pay raises to upward of \$124,000 per year.

Hollenberger was the subject of a co-worker complaint last year, alleging he made "inappropriate, unwarranted and unwelcome" comments to a female social worker and told her he would urinate on her. Doemel told the county board at that time that the complaint was handled in-

> ternally. Several supervisors voiced concerns about the proposed salary for Hollenberger. "I don't know what

the job scope (is) that

Dr. McGrath looked at,

but if it included uri-

nating on female social workers, I'm not sure how that's ranked in there, but apparently it's worth an 82.9 percent increase," Supervisor

Karen Powers said. "I'm outraged by this." Doemel's salary as county executive is about \$118,000 per year. Supervisor Chuck Farrey told Doemel that in comparison to the county executive's salary, the suggested salary for his assistant is misappropriated.

"Otherwise, your adviser is almost making as much as you; he might as well have your job," he said.

Doemel has defended his decision to hire Hollenberger, calling him a deputy.

"There is no way for one guy to run 18 departments by himself so I've used that position, I decided I need that position to help me to collaborate with all these departments to get them to work together," he told the board.

He noted the compensation schedule was set by the consultants and Human Resources director Mark Habeck and not by the county executive's office.

"My assistant didn't want it to be about him," Doemel said. "He begged Mark to drop it at least one (pay) grade because he didn't want that heat."

Other concerns centered around county employees who would not receive a pay increase. Some supervisors said the compensation for employees at Park View Health Center in Oshkosh, which has struggled with staffing, is inadequate.

Powers said the board may have to vote on the proposed compensation adjustments even if it's less than what the county needs.

"I want to see our county employees being compensated fully but this does not do it and it's completely skewed in some places and knocked off with people getting nothing in others," she said.

The cost for the pay increases for one year is \$2 million and was included in the 2023 budget. The intent is for the final compensation proposal to be voted on by the board in June or July.

An agenda posted earlier this week indicates the board will consider a revised compensation schedule March 21, with the proposed salary for Hollenberger dropping back down to about \$52,000 per year, with potential pay increases to

## Nonprofits get grant funds after delays

the Homelessness Eviction and Loss Pre-

vention (HELP) program within the coun-

ty's Department of Human Services, Covey,

Habitat for Humanity Oshkosh, Day By Day

By Kaitlyn Scoville Neenah News

Organizations in Winnebago County that were awarded some grants from the Neighborhood Improvement Fund are getting those payouts after nearly a year of waiting.

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors dedicated more than \$10 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds toward the Neighborhood provement Fund last March to provide local governments with help



**Roberts** 

"to build long-term, sustainable economic

success," according to county documents. Organizations included at that time were Warming Shelter and Solutions Recovery. Some of these recipients presented at the last County Board meeting to review what the improvement funds would be

Long term support division manager Beth Roberts with the HELP program said the funds have been used to assist those experiencing homelessness. Since the program's inception in January, there were 113 referrals, 62 of them being actively helped. The remainder have since found long-term housing.

Out of the people who the HELP program provided housing for, 43% have maintained a long-term presence.

Covey chief executive Pam Schutz said the funds will be used to continue providing housing for adults living with disabilities, and that a groundbreaking for a new home in Neenah will be in May.

Tom Simon, executive director for Habitat Oshkosh, said the \$2.4 million grant it received "freed up money for the homes we built (in Oshkosh) so we could go to the future for bigger things."

Specifically, Simon told supervisors that Habitat Oshkosh is planning a 20-house development in Omro to deal with the city's employment needs.

Oshkosh Kids Foundation executive director Julie Dumke said the \$500,000 the organization was granted funded the Tiny Home project community center, which included a full commercial kitchen and classrooms to teach its tenants life skills.

She said that while there is \$425,000 remaining for the rest of the project, once 65% of the homes have been filled it will be self-sufficient.

Day By Day recently received its first half of Neighborhood Improvement Funds - \$1.7 million - and shelter executive director Molly Yatso-Butz said they have been fortunate to have reserves until it was disbursed.

## **High school construction** tours open to public

The public is invited to visit the new Neenah High School in Fox Crossing from 4 to 5 p.m. March 29 for an update on construction progress in the district's final "Milestone Moment" event.

Miron Construction staff will lead visitors through an informational visit of the site with explanations about the stages of the construction. The event does not require hard hats, but visitors are advised to wear closed-toe shoes. Visitors should also be prepared for muddy conditions.

Dedication ceremonies are set for August.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society



**Beer delivery** 

While Neenah was a traditionally dry city, it was easy to get a beer in Menasha. This beer wagon delivered kegs to Sensenbrenner Sample Shop on Tayco Street in Menasha. William Frederick Meyer was a Menasha resident most of his life and delivered beer for the Walter Brothers Brewery. The brewery stood in the area near St. Patrick's Parish.

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oto by David Ha

Neenah Historical Society assistant executive director Erica Suchyta (left) speaks with a visitor to the new Two Cities, One Community exhibit at the Octagon House

## Joint exhibit celebrates Twin Cities history

Neenah News

The Neenah Historical Society and Menasha Historical Society have opened a joint exhibit celebrating the 150th anniversary of the cities' incorporations at the Octagon House in Neenah.

Neenah-Menasha Sesquicentennials: Two Cities, One Community features an immersive historical overview of the people, places and things that make Neenah and Menasha special. It will also feature the thriving Native American culture that was established in the region before European settlers arrived.

Neenah celebrates its sesquicentennial this year while Menasha will celebrate its 150th in 2024. While the two cities have unique histories, there are multiple elements connecting the two communities.

The free exhibit runs through October 2024 at the Neenah Historical Society, 343 Smith St. Educational and community events will also be planned to coincide with the exhibit.



City of Neenah photo

## City celebration begins

Neenah Mayor Jane Lang and other community leaders celebrated the city's 150th anniversary Monday with a birthday party at City Hall that included a cake and music by the Neenah High School jazz band.

## Claim denied

FROM PAGE 1

raid at Eagle Nation, which resulted in a misdemeanor drug conviction for less than one gram of marijuana. He also presided over a wrongful death lawsuit related to Funk's death, which was brought by his widow. He dismissed both lawsuits.

In a letter to the judge, Moore wrote that

the city reviewed the settlement demand and determined that mediation would not be fruitful at this time.

During a hearing last week, Stern said the city has chosen not to negotiate.

"I thought there'd be mediation even if the amount they didn't agree with, that's why you have mediation, but that's their right," he said.

Griesbach set a three-day jury trial for Nov. 6.

## Appeals court upholds 2020 conviction in boating deaths

By Bethanie Gengler Neenah News

A Neenah man has lost his appeal in a deadly 2018 boat crash that claimed the lives of two sisters.

Brian Sullivan, 48, was driving a boat in Lake Winnebago near Paynes Point on the evening of Aug. 18, 2018, when he collided with a boat driven by Kim Laabs. Kim's passengers included his wife, Cheryl, and his daughters, Cassie, 20, and Lauren, 26, both of Neenah.

Cassie and Lauren were thrown from the boat and drowned. A dive team recov-

ered their bodies the next day. The family's dog also died.

In Wisconsin, it's illegal to operate a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or greater. Sullivan's BAC about three-anda-half hours after the

Sullivan crash was 0.093.

A jury convicted Sullivan of two counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle and two counts of homicide by use of a vehicle with a prohibited alcohol content.

Judge Scott Woldt sentenced him in late 2020 to a total of three years in prison and three years of extended supervision.

Sullivan appealed the conviction, arguing that the state failed to provide sufficient evidence that his BAC was over the



Photo from Laabs family

Lauren (left) and Cassie Laabs are shown with the family dog in this undated photo.

legal limit at the time of the crash.

The appeals court rejected Sullivan's arguments, noting in its opinion that the evening of the crash was clear and the collision could have been prevented.

"There was sufficient testimony from which the jury could conclude that the accident was avoidable had Sullivan been exercising due care and had he not been intoxicated," the court wrote.

Sullivan is incarcerated at the Sanger B. Powers Correctional Center in Oneida with a release date of January.





Sunnyview Expo Center 500 County Rd Y Oshkosh, WI 54901 www.whba.net/home-show/ Page 4 I neenahnewsnow.com

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## Mental wellness gets families' attention post-pandemic

By Kaitlyn Scoville Neenah News

A recent Pew Research study revealed that about three-quarters of today's parents of children under age 18 cite struggles with mental health as a major concern for their next generation, and some area parents share that same fear.

Specifically, four in 10 U.S. parents with younger children say they are extremely or very worried that their children might struggle with depression or anxiety at some point in their lives, "(trumping) parents' concerns about certain physical threats to their children, the dangers of drugs and alcohol, teen pregnancy and getting in trouble with the police."

Furthermore, roughly as many parents say they are trying to raise their children in a similar way to how they were raised (43%) as indicate they are trying to raise them differently (44%), the January Pew



Submitted phot

The Duenkel family in Neenah includes a 4-year-old and 1-year-old.

study read.

Thisdata in the study "Parenting in America Today" might relate to a shift in parenting methodology through the COVID-19 pandemic, in a time where social connectedness was at a near standstill.

Neenah resident Sam Duenkel and her husband have a 4-year-old boy and 1-year-old girl together. She said parenting throughout the pandemic has been a "whirlwind."

"(Our son) was born in August of 2018, so I had a good year and a half with him of 'normal parenting," Duenkel said. "Having a young kid is tough no matter what, but as soon as the pandemic hit, we got a call from day care (saying it was closing). That was the biggest first blow.

"When we had (our daughter), we had things figured out a little bit more. But the level of anxiety compared to (our son's) first year was exponentially more with the whole health component."

On top of that, Duenkel said an entire social safety net is taken away. They couldn't go to parks or rely on family to spend time with or even just take the children for an hour. One of the largest concerns she had was knowing how to incorporate technology into her kids' lives without it being their sole source of entertainment.

"What I'm nervous about, quite frankly, is social media when he gets a little bit older. I don't know how we're going to navigate that," Duenkel said. "The thing that's going to be difficult for me is the conversation of, 'All of my friends have this,' or 'They're all doing this,' and then he gets left out or left behind, and it spirals from there"



Submitted phot

Adam and Nicole BellCorelli are shown with their 14-year-old and 10-year-old children.

Adam BellCorelli and his wife, Nicole, have a 14-year-old and a 10-year-old with a hands-off lifestyle that embraces today's technology.

"In culture change, generally, then exacerbated by the pandemic, is that discomfort in meeting new people," BellCorelli said. "When we are out in the world, how do we overcome some of those barriers and interact with other kids? They're not always sure what social norms are expected of them."

Something he and his wife do is encourage their children to be involved in their time online.

"I was given some advice from somebody who works at the university that as long as we are helping our kids become producers, where they're not just passive and taking in everything online, that helps avoid some problems with technology," he said. "As long as they're drawing or writing or recording – doing something where there's output from them using it – that goes a long way.

"For us, as long as they are communicating with friends and having that social piece, we're much more permissive of it being through some technology rather than insisting on as much as we can to get out and around in the world and face to face."

One mother who asked not to be named said she was a "latchkey kid" growing up with hands-off parents. She has taken two different approaches to her 15-year-old and 4-year-old.

"(My youngest) isn't physically outside so much," she said. "(My oldest) has their own online life, and you have to teach them how to navigate it safely and still let them – at their age – feel like they have some independence. I think that's a generational shift.

"I'm definitely more mindful of being gentler with (my youngest) and making sure he's aware of what is actually happening. I'm more helicopter with (my oldest)."

This mom saw the opposite of her parents' style in her own in that she is much more involved in her children's lives.

"I'm very involved; I ask questions all the time. I want to know more about them," she said. "I don't know who else they have at this point. The social world is so different. Some of us thought we had it all figured out and we survived just fine. Things could have been better and what that is for every parent is different. What lessons did we learn when we were younger because of the things we were exposed to? What can they learn from natural con-

sequences?"

Duenkel sees her parents' styles in her own methods "because that's the one example you're drawing from," but acknowledges it's quite different than when she was growing up.

Above that, Duenkel wants to deviate from her parents not taking much time to consider emotions.

"We talk a lot about our feelings in our house right now but that was not at all discussed while I was growing up," Duenkel said. "We always kept everything surface-level. If there were issues, we didn't talk about it. I really saw how that influenced my adult life and I'm trying to correct that for my children. That's the biggest thing for me.

"I want (my kids) to be kind, I want them to be happy and to know who they are. It breaks my heart to think about them having to navigate adulthood on their own. What my goal is trying to set the foundation for a relationship with them in the future."

BellCorelli said he also sees his parents' styles in his own while his kids are less inclined to go off and explore the world as he did as a child.

"(Both of my kids) are less inclined than I was to go off into the woods somewhere and not be found for eight hours," he said. "Some of that is the melding of my upbringing, whereas my wife was much more bookish, probably either in a library or at home reading, watching a movie. That's also an interesting dynamic of the more conservative but not an apologetic way, just not as risky.

"Growing up back then was much more permissive; we had a very free flowing, whatever you want to do lifestyle. I carry on a little bit of that, go on an adventure and try dangerous things safely. But at the same time, I know where they are at all times"

BellCorelli said that while some parents want their children to succeed because of the fears they have in society, he wants his children to "become the thing the world needs them to be."

"I've learned not to have those expectations because the kid is going to become who they're going to become," BellCorelli said. "Being aware of the world outside themselves is our goal and what we're hoping to instill in them. I think that was a big thing that was part of our parenting philosophy – how do we help them design and develop a foundation so these other things aren't as big a concern?"



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## A sesquicentennial is worthy of a special, historic beer

A few days ago, the city of Neenah kicked off a yearlong celebration of its sesquicentennial. City Hall was filled with music (courtesy of Neenah High jazz band), cake was served, and city officials commemorated 150 years of the city being an incorporated community.

But that's just the beginning. Throughout 2023, various events are planned, including historical tours, a photo contest, a commemorative coin hunt, trivia contest, bike tour, an outdoor party in August, and more. See ci.neenah.wi.us for details.

Our favorite way to celebrate, of course, is by raising a cold, frothy pint of beer. A wise request by Mayor Lang and Alderman Steiner has inspired Lion's Tail Brewing Co. to craft a special commemorative beer.

Named "1873," the lager will be medium to deep amber in color with a balance of malt and hops. Planned to be released in cans and on tap in early April, the 150th anniversary beer is based on styles brewed in the 1870s.

"I thought it would be cool to do a historic beer for the occasion, so I reached out to author and beer historian Lee Reiherzer, who I'd seen do a few presentations on Neenah's brewing history," said Alex Wenzel, owner of Lion's Tail.

Reiherzer, who writes the incredible "Oshkosh Beer" blog (oshkoshbeer. blogspot.com), did some digging into Neenah's brewing past to recreate a recipe used 150 years ago.

Here's the short version. Jacob Lachmann, trained as a brewer in his homeland of Württemberg, Germany, purchased a portion of Lot 4 in Block 30 of Palmer's Map of Neenah (now 129 N. Lake St.) on May 21, 1856, and began building Neenah Brewery.

To provide some context regarding this area at that time, the population



was about 1,296 in 1856, not even close to Neenah's current number of about 27,525.

Located on the shore of Little Lake Butte Des Morts, Neenah Brewery was one of 11 operating in Winnebago County by 1870. Reiherzer studied tax records from that brewery to help determine ingredients and get an idea of the brewing techniques used at the time. From that research, Wenzel wrote a recipe.

"We'll hopefully give Neenah beer drinkers a taste of what they were drinking in 1873," said Wenzel. "Although we don't malt our own locally grown barley like (they were) doing in 1873, we'll get as close as we can with both ingredients and process."

Lion's Tail will be making a standard 15-barrel batch of "1873," yet may brew it a second time if demand is high. The plan is to release the beer in early April via cans for grocery stores and beer stores, plus kegs for on-tap sales at Neenah bars and restaurants.

A bit more history before we go. According to Reiherzer, Neenah Brewery was operational from 1856 to 1910, more than 50 years, until more efficient breweries - mainly using mechanical refrigeration instead of harvested ice in stone cellars - created a competitive disadvantage too great to overcome, and

Brewing didn't return to Neenah until November 20, 2015, when Wenzel opened Lion's Tail in the Equitable



Images courtesy of Oshkosh Beer blog

Above: The original Neenah Brewery (right) with the later added icehouse/brewhouse (center) on Lake Street circa 1887. At right: The recipe for Neenah's 150th anniversary beer was inspired by the brewery, once located at 129 N. Lake St.

Reserve Association Building at 116 S. Commercial St. So, having Wenzel brew the city's 150th anniversary beer seems fitting.

Speaking of throwback recipes, tomorrow in Oshkosh, Bare Bones Brewery is releasing a beer based on the 1959 version of "Peoples Bock," using the original process and recipe created by Wilhelm Kohlhoff, the lead brewer at Peoples Brewing Co. in the 1950s and 1960s.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Are you thirsty? Today, Barrel 41 is tapping a draft-only version of Coffee On The Cliffs, its Irish milk coffee stout with



cherries added. Grab some of this limited-release brew. Also today, Lion's Tail is releasing Wildberry Crumble, an imperial sour with blackberry, blueberry, strawberry, graham cracker and vanilla (contains lactose). Cheers!

Wife + Husband = Beer is a monthly column exclusiveto 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

## **Conservation Congress session set in county**

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host an open house in each county the week of April 3 to answer questions about resource management and discuss local issues of importance.

The WCC will also hold elections for two of the five delegate seats in each county.

Winnebago County's open house is set for April 5 at Webster Stanley Auditorium, 915 Hazel St., Oshkosh.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for a meet-andgreet and obtaining election ballots. WCC elections begin at 7 p.m. for county resi-

A panel discussion with DNR staff and

WCC delegates will follow the elections.

# fter Dark

**Sweet Celebration of Youth Art** Thursday, March 23, 2023 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Join

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass for a night of sweet treats, and...



- Music by The Brigade
- Candy necklaces in partnership with YouthGo
- Glass art created by Fox Valley area high school students
- Ice cream bar
- Make your own zine with Farmers **City Studio**
- Candy stops throughout the museum
- Glass art project in the Glass Classroom (additional cost)
- Our galleries and shop will be open late

We thank our generous sponsors:





# Calendar of events

## 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.

## Monday, March 20

Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "The Widows of Malabar Hill," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Wednesday, March 22

Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Thursday, March 23

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

History Program: Fox River Valley and Native American Heritage, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

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

Ukulele Open Jam, 6 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Sunday, March 26

Sunday Concert: Sylvia Hong and Michael Rector, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Monday, March 27

Book Club: "Bell Jar," 10 a.m., Neenah Public Library

## Tuesday, March 28

Movie Talks: "Slumdog Millionaire," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Wednesday, March 29

Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Thursday, March 30

Ukulele Open Jam, 6 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Friday, March 31

The Rocke Brothers, 6:30 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

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## Senior among tops in state high school journalists

By Bethanie Gengler

A remarkable Neenah High School senior was named a finalist for 2023 Wisconsin Journalist of the Year by the Wisconsin Journalism Education Association.

Robert Barthell, 17, of Neenah, Kadjata Bah from Madison East and Jasleen Kaur from Sussex Hamilton were in the running for the award, with Bah selected as the recipient.

Barthell is the assistant editor-in-chief of the Neenah High School newspaper The Satellite and he's the creator, editor and producer of the school's Rocket News, which is a video shown in classrooms at the start of each week.

Barthell said he became interested in journalism during middle school while playing choose-your-own-path videogames, many of which were set in high schools. He said some of the characters in the games were student journalists, which inspired him to want to replicate that experience.

He began writing for The Satellite during his freshman year at Neenah High. He excelled in broadcast journalism, making individual video pieces about topics for about two years.

By the time his junior year came around, he realized that although the videos were being played in classrooms, very few students paid attention to them. Frustrated



Barthell

with this, Barthell talked with his classmates and asked for feedback, which included adding sports and increasing the variety of topics he covered.

"That same day, I walked around the school and confidently strolled into the prac-

tices for every sport in the school, plus a few clubs that had events that week," he said. "Just that simple tweak had mind-blowing results. Everyone started paying attention to what the videos said, so I adopted that new format."

In January 2022, Barthell detached the weekly videos from The Satellite and gave them the name of Rocket News.

Although Rocket News was already in

existence, he noted the previous format was more a collection of informal video skits with little newsworthy content.

"Since then, I've made one (video) for every week of school and haven't missed a week," he said. "I could go on and on about the incredible benefits it has delivered to my interpersonal communication skills and technological expertise."

Barthell said he prefers to cover stories of interest to his peers, which often include school sports. He added that his topics include "just about everything."

His biggest challenge as a student journalist is getting his classmates to read his

"I've lost count of the times I've put heaps of effort into composing and writing pieces, trying to share them, only for said pieces to get little to no engagement among my target audience," he said.

He noted that his generation has a short attention span, which makes it challenging to interest them in walls of text.

"I have personally found that a vastly larger proportion of the student body engages with the videos I make as opposed to the stories I write," he said.

His articles are available for viewing at neenahsatellite.com/staff\_name/robert-barthell.

Barthell has won several awards through the Northeast Wisconsin Scholastic Press Association (NEWSPA), which holds a competition for student journalists each year. He also participates in swimming and diving, orchestra, cross country and debate.

After graduation, Barthell will be attending the University of Illinois, studying aerospace engineering.

"Even though it won't be my main job in the future, I cannot discredit the massive role that being a student journalist has played in developing who I am today," he said.

He plans to continue writing freelance and for the university newspaper.

"Not only have I gained a tremendous reputation around the school for my work making news, but it's provided me with critical leadership roles and volunteer experience that I need to shine as both a member of my community and to adequately prepare for my future," he said.

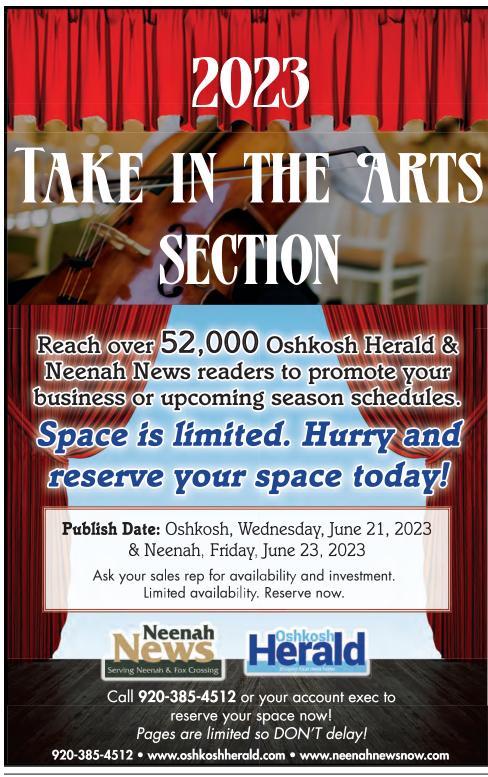
## Roosevelt walk-through offered

The public is invited to rekindle their memories and experiences at Roosevelt School with a walk-through of the century-old building from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday.

Self-guided tours of the school that will close at the end of the 2022-23 school year are encouraged. There will be photos and memorabilia posted around the building and staff members will help answer questions and provide assistance. There is no need to register in advance and people

are welcome to arrive anytime in the two-hour window.

Roosevelt has been sold for \$1 million to John Bergstrom, who hasn't yet announced his intentions for the property. The building houses one class at each grade level, along with the Alliance Charter Elementary School. Current students will attend Horace Mann Elementary in 2023-24, while Alliance will occupy the Wilson Elementary School building in the fall.



## **ARPA** funding

from Page 1

tures.

"This is not fishy," he said. "This is not misallocation or manipulation. This is exactly what the U.S. Treasury is saying we're allowed to do under the final rule in using the ARPA funds."

The designation would then create a surplus of \$18.2 million in the general fund and \$15.2 million in the Park View Health Center fund.

Park View financial services manager Doug Petraszak previously expressed concerns that the maneuver could affect \$5.4 million in supplemental payments that it received from the state. The ARPA Commission noted last week that Park View would not be affected by the plan.

The \$33.4 million would then be pulled from the Park View and general fund and placed into a newly created Spirit Fund to bypass federal reporting requirements for the ARPA money and enable the county to use it for general government service.

"What that means is, we no longer have to go through the strict regulations to have projects done under the ARPA regulations," Kaiser told the board last week. "The money could be voted by the board to put into the general fund, but the recommendation was to create a special revenue fund, whether we call it the Spirit Fund or whatever it's going to be called."

He added that moving the money to a special revenue fund will allow it to be tracked, reviewed, maintained and presented to the board, rather than placing it into the general fund where it could be spent on anything.



Supervisor Koby Schellenger said he has ongoing concerns over the use of the ARPA money.

"I don't think that this board should be taking the money and moving it over here so we can do whatever we want with it," he said. "I think the funds should be spent for the purposes of ARPA and that's what's giving me the biggest concerns"

Kaiser said the purpose of the ARPA Commission is to ensure the funds are spent on ARPA projects. He said the issue is that the county board hasn't taken action on using the funds and the money needs to be spent by December 2024 or the county loses it.

"To get things done and taken care of in the timeframe we have left now, since we've done nothing since 2021, that is the reason for looking at this; to be able to keep the money and do the ARPA projects we want to do without having to forfeit the money back to the federal government," he said.

The commission deliberated on spending 25% of the ARPA funds on nongovernmental community projects, 25% on county government projects and 50% on community projects designated by the county. It voted to postpone the ARPA spending framework discussion until its next meeting.

The commission approved several expenditures for the ARPA funds, including:

- \$3.03 million for future conservation projects within the county.
- \$145,000 to each town or municipality in Winnebago County.
- \$925,000 for the purchase and installation of an emergency generator at Sunnyview Expo Center.
- \$300,000 for a countywide building condition assessment study.
- \$175,000 for the County Executive's Office for assistance with strategic planning and priority-based budgeting.
- \$2.72 million for radios for county departments.

Similar ARPA fund allocations were previously approved by the commission but stalled due to the Spirit Fund proposal failing to pass the county board.

The latest Spirit Fund proposal and ARPA spending decisions must pass the board of supervisors before the county can start using the money.

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## Orthopedic surgeon offers tips on pickleball safety

ThedaCare Communications

Pickleball is one of the hottest games in the world of sports activities. A combination of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, with a little chess finesse thrown in, pickleball is played with a racquet and a ball, similar to a whiffle ball, on a smaller court.

After becoming mainstream in the early 2000s, pickleball participation has doubled since 2014 according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association. With the addition of outdoor courts, the game became even more popular during



Linkous

the COVID pandemic, especially with adults over 50. Visit your local YMCA and you'll likely find an active group of pickleball players.

"Pickleball is a great recreational activity," said Dr. Nickolas Linkous, sports medicine orthopedic surgery specialist at ThedaCare Medical Center-Orthopedic, Spine and Pain. "It engages many muscle groups and provides cardiovascular exercise. It's also easy to learn and is a social activity."

As with any sport, there's the potential for injury. Because it's an easy game to learn, pickleball can be deceptive of the demands it places on one's body. A 2019 report in the Journal of Emergency Medicine highlighted 19,000 pickleball injuries in 2017, with 90% of those injuries happening to people over the age of 50.

"It's easy for people to overexert themselves if they are not well conditioned before they begin playing pickleball," Linkous said. "Overuse injuries are common, especially in those who may have previous joint injuries and arthritis. People over 50 are also more susceptible to strains, sprains, and fractures, which are some of the more common pickleball injuries."

Linkous offers advice to help avoid pickleball injuries:

• Recognize your physical limitations.

Start playing the game slowly to build up your endurance. Listen to your body; stop playing when there's pain.

- Make time to warm up muscles before beginning a game. Jog in place, walk or do light running, stretch all the major muscle groups, including the calves, quads, hamstrings, inner thighs, lower back, shoulders, elbows and wrists.
- Use the right equipment. Make sure the racket fits your hand properly, and tennis shoes, not running shoes, are more appropriate for pickleball "Proper shoes are very important," Linkous said. "Pickleball is a game of fast starts and stops and sideto-side movements that can contribute to falls, ankle sprains and Achilles injuries."
  - Take a few pickleball lessons to learn

proper form.

• Follow an exercise recovery routine. Cool down by walking, stretching the large muscle groups and rehydrating.

Linkous again stressed that playing pickleball puts more stress on the body than people realize.

"Because it's an easy game to learn, people aren't as aware that it's important to be in fairly good physical condition before playing," he said. "Strong core muscles, reasonably good balance and some level of agility are needed before jumping into pickleball. Someone who hasn't been working out for some time should do some basic exercise and stretching routines for a while to get their muscles in shape and then ease into the sport."

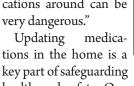
## Update medications to safeguard your health

ThedaCare Communications

Many people have prescriptions scattered throughout their home in places like medicine cabinets, pill holders, on top of the dresser or in kitchen cabinets. The start of the new year is a great time to take a medication inventory that includes prescription drugs that should be updated and ones no longer needed.

"Many people I talk to have expired medications in their homes," said Dr. Suzanne Nadra Nouri Havican, a ThedaCare family medicine physician. "For a number of rea-

sons folks may choose to keep them on hand but it is incredibly important to understand keeping expired medications around can be very dangerous."





Havican

tions in the home is a health and safety. One

big concern doctors have is many unused medications can end up in the hands of those who should not have them. Despite childproof packaging, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says 50,000 children went to Emergency Departments each year from taking medications that belonged to an adult.

Even pets are at risk with the ASPCA reporting more than 20,000 calls a year due to pets eating prescriptions or medications meant for humans.

In particular, opioids should be disposed

of properly to keep them out of the hands of children and others as they can lead to addiction or cause serious illness or death.

As a part of a community health initiative to combat opioid abuse, overdose and accidental poisoning in children, ThedaCare installed medication take-back drop boxes at several locations in 2019 to allow the community to safely dispose of unused medication.

"Flushing unused medication down the toilet is a huge no-no as drugs can contaminate the public water supply," Havican said. "Dropping off your unneeded and expired prescriptions at the proper location will help protect your family and friends, and our precious regional lakes and rivers."

Take unused medication and drop them into any of the permanent and secure medication take-back drop boxes open 24 hours a day. Take-back boxes are available at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah and ThedaCare Cancer Care-Oshkosh during clinic hours.

Take-back boxes are also available at other local facilities such as police stations and pharmacies.

Items accepted include expired and no-longer-needed prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, medicated ointments and non-aerosol sprays. Items not accepted are needles, lancets, syringes, thermometers, IV bags, diabetes test kits, personal care products, inhalers and liquids. Ask a provider's office how to safely dispose of them.

## Robotics teams advance to world competition

Neenah had a high school and a middle school robotics team qualify for the 2023 VEX Robotics World Championships for their performances at the state meet in Green Bay last weekend.

The Neenah Joint School District had a school-record 11 teams participating in the meet, including five high school teams and two sixth-grade teams.

Jack DeMenter and Jack Henry qualified for the World Championships at the high school level and won the Amaze Award for the most consistently high-scoring and competitive robot.

At the middle school level, the team of Oliver Bontorno, Sam Bontorno, Jacob Perry and Nolan Manteufel actually triple-qualified for the world championships with three different awards. They earned the Excellence Award, which is given to the top team in multiple categories. They took first place in skills, which is a combination of their driving score and programming score. Their combined score of 301 puts them at 63rd in the world. They also won third place in the teamwork challenge.

The World Championships will be held April 30-May 2 in Dallas.



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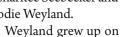
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## Alice in Dairyland finalists named

The six top candidates to become the 76th Alice in Dairyland were announced last Friday by the Wisconsin Department

of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, including one from the Neenah area.

The candidates are Ashley Hagenow, Shannon Lamb, Lydia Luebke, Jackie Rosenbush, Charitee Seebecker and Jodie Weyland.

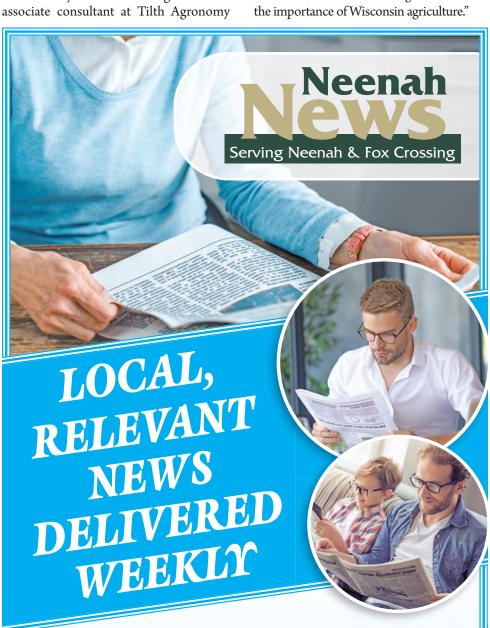


her family dairy farm in the Neenah area with her parents and three older siblings. She was actively involved in FFA and other activities where she could share her farm story. Weyland studied agronomy at Fox Valley Technical College and is an Group. She also serves as a Winnebago County Fair ambassador.

Over the next several weeks, the candidates will prepare for the three-day Alice in Dairyland Finals, scheduled for May 11-13 in Walworth County. The threeday process includes agribusiness tours, media interviews, an impromptu question-and-answer session, individual interviews, and candidate presentations.

The new Alice in Dairyland will begin her term July 5.

"While the goal of this process is to name the 76th Alice in Dairyland, the journey these six women will go on over the next two months is one they will all benefit from," said Taylor Schaefer, 75th Alice in Dairyland. "One of these finalists will carry on the tradition of traveling the state to teach audiences of both urban and rural backgrounds about



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## **Business news roundup**

Bricks and Minifigs Fox Valley is coming to Fox Crossing in April at a location off U.S. 10 and County CB in the same building as Stuc's Pizza, Xe54: a Wine & Cocktail Lounge and Evolution Cycle Studio. Bricks & Minifigs is a franchise toy store for buying, selling, and trading aftermarket LEGO. The location is the third in Wisconsin, with others in Fitchburg and Kenosha. The 3,070-square-foot store is owned by Joe and Sarah Schmidt from Neenah.

Bedrock Coffee Roasters recently launched a full-service cafe in its roastery at 214 W. Cecil St. in Neenah that will include hot batch brew coffee and iced espresso drinks. Cafe hours are 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Under general manager and co-founder Jeff Conner, the small batch

specialty coffee roaster also sells a selection of grinders and other brewing equipment.

The Sensory Club Neenah, which focuses on the special needs community with sensory gyms and multi-sensory environments, held its grand opening Saturday for its newest Wisconsin location at 976 American Drive, Suite 8. The Sensory Club first started in Wisconsin in 2016.

Go Pack Storage with Fox Valley locations has been acquired by U-Haul Co. of Wisconsin, a moving truck, trailer and self-storage rental company, including those in Neenah at 453 S. Green Bay Road and Fox Crossing at 2927 W. Shady Lane. Go Pack locations have been independent dealers serving U-Haul.

## Rental, telemarketing complaints top state list

The state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) receives tens of thousands of requests for assistance and resources each year, and last year worked to resolve more than 11,000 consumer complaints, reached settlements in several investigations and returned millions of dollars to consumers.

DATCP reported its top 10 complaint categories in 2022:

Landlord/tenant issues: Consumers filed 1,912 complaints when disputes between landlords and tenants could not be resolved between parties, a slight increase from 2021. Issues included security deposit returns, eviction, unauthorized entry, mold damage, inadequate disclosures and unsatisfactory service.

**Telemarketing:** DATCP received 1,651 telemarketing complaints in 2022, a decrease from 2021. The complaints included robocalls, phishing and spoofing, imposter scams, harassment and Wisconsin Do Not Call Registry violations.

**Home improvement:** These concerns accounted for 1,216 complaints in 2022, more than double compared with 2021. Top issues included failure to provide services and materials, failure to honor warranties, failure to properly disclose lien waivers, deceptive and misleading representations, poor workmanship, improper installation, billing disputes, and incorrect charges.

Telecommunications: DATCP received 655 complaints in 2022, up slightly from the previous year. Consumers reported issues including billing disputes, unfair termination of service, deceptive and misleading representations, refund/ adjustment policies, and failure to cancel services when requested.

Identity theft: With 513 complaints in 2022, DATCP reported only a third of the complaints it received the preceding year. When a consumer reports identity theft, DATCP helps victims to recover and secure their identity against further fraud.

Medical services: Complaints increased 60% with consumers filing 440 complaints. Issues include billing disputes, deceptive and misleading representations, and unsatisfactory service. In 2022, new federal consumer protection laws went into effect against "surprise billing," when an insured patient unknowingly receives care out of network and receives an unexpected bill.

Travel: This category covers a variety of issues, including motor vehicle rentals, airlines, hotels/motels, and travel company service bundling. DATCP received 224 complaints in 2022. Billing disputes, refund/adjustment policy adherence, failure to return deposits and payment, and unsatisfactory service were commonly re-

Health and medical products: New to DATCP's top 10 in 2022 are health and medical products, with 217 complaints involving billings disputes, delivery failure and refund/adjustment policy concerns.

Furniture/home furnishings: Also new to the top 10 list is furniture/home furnishings, receiving 189 complaints. Specific issues include failure to provide services or deliver goods, failure to honor vendor policies, deceptive and misleading representations, and refund/adjustment policy concerns.

Auto sales: For new and used auto sales, DATCP received 184 complaints. Common were reports of inadequate disclosures as well as deceptive and misleading representations in direct-mail flyers.

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## Neenah gears for another trip to state tourney

By Steve Clark Neenah News

The Neenah boys basketball program has been through this state tournament rigamarole before.

For the second straight year the Rockets are in Madison on the final weekend of the season and it's the third time in the last five seasons the team will play its final game of the year in the Kohl Center.

Yet, for this year's version of the Rockets, it's pretty much a brand-new experience. Only two players saw more than a minute's worth of court time at last year's state meet and only Brady Corso registered any points in Neenah's two games in Madison a year ago.

"We tried to talk to them at the start of the year about that there were a lot of different ways to be successful and get to the spot where we are in now. The kids were given an opportunity and took advantage of it," Neenah head coach Lee Rabas said. "Obviously happy for the kids. Any time you are still playing and still able to practice and still working at this time of year, that's a good thing."

Neenah will take on powerhouse Arrowhead in the second of the two Division 1 state semifinals Friday night at the Kohl Center. The two teams will take the court following the first semifinal between De Pere and Kettle Moraine, with the winners of each game playing in the title game Saturday night.

It's Neenah's state-record 29th appear-

## **WIAA State Tournament**

At Kohl Center, Madison
Division 1

#### Friday's semifinals

De Pere (28-0) vs. Kettle Moraine (18-10), 6:35 p.m.

Arrowhead (26-2) vs. Neenah (18-10), 20 minutes after first game

ance at the state meet.

"As a kid, everybody's dream is to get to the Kohl Center and to have that feeling go through you again, it's just a dream come true," said Corso, who averaged 12 points in the Rockets' two games at the Kohl Center last March. "The job is not finished, though. Our goal at the end is to get the gold ball, but it is one step at a time."

Corso, along with senior Jackson Schlomann, played in both state games last year while a handful of Rockets got onto the court for the final seconds of the title game against Brookfield Central.

One of those was senior Cal Klesmit, who watched nearly every second of last year's march to the state title while recovering from a summer knee injury. Getting the chance to actually play at the state tournament is going to be special.

"Last year, I still went but I wasn't able to be a part of it. Definitely more special for me this year getting the chance to go back to Madison," Klesmit said. "This was



Photo by Robert Barthell

Senior Cal Klesmit had 21 assists in Neenah's sectional win over Superior last Saturday.

my biggest goal the whole year and to be able to do it, it feels good."

The Rockets seem to be hitting their stride at just the right time.

After an up-and-down second half of the season, Neenah has gotten things to click in the postseason, winning all four tournament games by double digits, including a 93-65 thrashing of Superior in the sectional final last Saturday.

Four players finished in double figures in the win over the Spartans, led by Schlomann's 24 points on 11-of-11 shooting from the field and 2-of-2 at the free-throw line. Luke Jung followed with

a season-high 19 points, while Corso had 16 and Sam Coulthard added 15. Klesmit had only six points, but finished with a whopping 21 assists.

But the best may be yet to come for the Rockets.

"I feel like we're playing better right now definitely, but I still feel like we can play better," Klesmit said. "I'm a believer in that you can always get better so I feel like we can always get better. Hopefully, Friday we play our best basketball."

Playing at their best will be key for the Rockets against an Arrowhead team that

See **Neenah hoops** on Page 11



Photo by Robert Barthell

Senior Sam Coulthard pushes the ball up the court against Superior last Saturday.





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## St. Mary Catholic tops Auburndale to earn state trip

By Steve Clark Neenah News

As the members of the St. Mary Catholic boys basketball team milled around the fan-filled court at Appleton East High School, hugging and high-fiving everyone wearing Zephyr apparel, there was one word that was being said by those who had just registered a 75-70 victory over Auburndale in a WIAA Division 4 sectional final.

That word being repeated wasn't state or tournament or "Kohl Center" scrunched into one utterance without separation. It wasn't win or victory or any reference to what just took place either.

Instead, the word seemingly heard over and over last Saturday afternoon was family.

"We are just a family. We hold each other accountable and we play as a team," said senior Charlie Nackers.

Added senior Danny Griffith: "We're such a family that we all trust each other so much. We don't have to feel like the weight is all on one person's shoulders. We can rely on our teammates because we have built so much chemistry and trust."

The reward for last Saturday's win was to take a family trip to Madison where the Zephyrs were the top seed among the four teams in the Division 4 state field. St. Mary Catholic was set to face Kenosha St. Joseph on Thursday evening at the Kohl Center, with the winner advancing to Saturday's championship game against either Whitehall or Lakeside Lutheran.

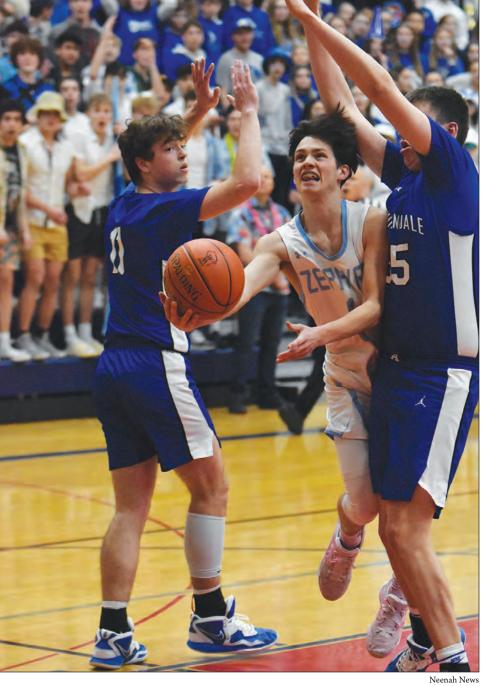
It is the first trip to the state tournament for the program since 2009 and the perfect farewell for a senior class that has helped anchor the team for the past few seasons.

"All of the hard work through the years has definitely paid off and it feels amazing," senior Cole Uhlenbrauck said. "We got our goal done. We got to state."

Auburndale certainly made the Zephyrs earn the trip, though.

The Eagles pounded the ball into the paint and were a menace on the offensive glass the entire game.

After St. Mary Catholic had grabbed the



Danny Griffith splits two Auburndale defenders to get a shot off in the second half of Saturday's WIAA Division 4 sectional final at Appleton East.

early lead in the game, it was the Eagles that led the final nine-plus minutes of the first half and took a 35-32 lead into intermission.

"At halftime, we knew we had to come back and we knew we had to play well,"

Griffith said. "We were down three in the regional final and came back. We just tried to stay positive. We did that and it paid off."

After combining for just one 3-pointer in the first half, Griffith and Uhlenbrauck each knocked down momentous shots

Due to our Wednesday deadline, we were unable to provide coverage of Thursday's state tournament game in this edition.

from behind the arc in the second half to boost the Zephyrs' effort.

Griffith hit 3s on back-to-back possessions early in the second half, the latter of the two tying the game at 43 - the first time Auburndale had not been in front since the 9:32 mark of the first half.

Uhlenbrauck and Nackers hit baskets to tie the game at 45 and 47, respectively, before Uhlenbrauck stepped into a 3-pointer from near the top of the key and drained it for a 50-49 lead with 10:55 remaining.

"That was huge for us from a momentum standpoint," St. Mary Catholic head coach Paul Bradshaw said. "Danny and Cole are such great shooters but of course they (Auburndale was) taking that away. For us to get the momentum going, the rest of the team feeds off that. That helped us take the lead and keep it."

Uhlenbrauck said he could feel the shift when his shot - which Griffith assisted on fell through the net.

"It was huge. It got our momentum back," said Uhlenbrauck, who finished with 19 points in the game. "We knew it was our game for sure."

Five straight points from Uhlenbrauck and a lay-up from Owen Ripley pushed the Zephyrs lead to 63-56 with 6:42 remaining. But Ripley's basket would be the last field goal of the game for St. Mary Catholic.

St. Mary Catholic scored its final 12 points from the free-throw line, going 12of-14 from the charity stripe in the final six minutes. Griffith led the way by going 9-of-10 during that stretch, including hitting five of his six attempts in the final minute after Auburndale had closed the gap to 70-69.

"I've always worked on my free throws because in situations like this where we needed to make free throws to win, I wanted the team to be able to count on me,"

See **Zephyr hoops** on Page 11

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## Neenah hoops

FROM PAGE 9

averages nearly 80 points per game and had only three of their 23 wins come by less than 10 points.

The Warhawks have four players averaging at least 11 points per game and are shooting roughly 44 percent from the field as a team and nearly 38 percent from 3-point range.

"They are just a very talented, athletic team that will be formidable," Rabas said. "We are going to have our hands full."

Arrowhead's leading scorer, Mac Wreeke, averages nearly 19 points per game and is a UW-Green Bay recruit and potentially a future teammate for Kles-

"It will be fun to play against him but they have a lot of good players," Klesmit said. "They are well coached and just a really good team. But we know what we are getting into and we will be ready."

Rabas said one of the keys in trying to contain Arrowhead will be limiting their dribble penetration, while the Rockets will also have to hold their own on the

The Warhawks have five players listed at 6-foot-4 or taller on their roster, while Neenah's tallest starter is Schlomann at 6-foot-2.

"They are big and athletic so they go get offensive rebounds, so we have to limit that," Rabas said. "We have to keep them in front of us. Try to limit how much we are getting beat off the dribble. When you get beat, you get caught in the help situations and closeouts and you are going to give up open shots. We can't afford to do that too much."

Offensively, the Rockets will continue to do what has gotten them to this point work for the best shot on each posses-

What does make Neenah difficult to defend is the best shot on each possession could come from any player on the court. The Rockets, although led in scoring by Klesmit and Corso, don't rely on one or two players to shoulder the offensive load.

That's why the Rockets have had seven different players reach double figures in a game this season and forces defenses to be aware of all five players on the court.

"A huge factor is our chemistry. We are a really close group of guys on and off the court and I think that translates to the floor," Corso said. "I think everybody on our team plays a key role and everybody is obviously important. We all trust in each other and we all believe in each other and that's what gets it done."

Neenah also has the experience of playing at the Kohl Center last year which could be an advantage.

Even the players who didn't see much action last year but made the trip got to experience the larger court and the different shooting backgrounds. Arrowhead hasn't played at state since 2017.

"It's a different backdrop, a different floor and that space is different to play and shoot in," Rabas said.

Added Corso: "I feel like having some experience on the Kohl Center floor is an advantage, too, just knowing what the atmosphere is like and the different shooting background."

Last year, Neenah landed at the state tournament with a perfect record and a Lake Winnebago-sized target on their backs. The Rockets obviously met that

This year, with 10 losses on the year and having been a No. 6 seed in its sectional, Neenah enters the state tournament from a different perspective. But after surviving the rigors of the Fox Valley Association and dominating its opponents at the regional and sectional levels of the tournament, they have earned their spot in the field.

And they don't mind if their opponents don't see it that way.

"People will look at our record and say we are not that good. It's fine with us," Klesmit said. "We know how good we are and how good we can be. So, we are just going to go out there with no pressure and play basketball."



A fifth-grade girls basketball team from Neenah took the title at the recent Wisconsin State Invitational Championship

Neenah played in the Division I bracket at Manitowoc Lincoln High School on Feb. 11-12, going 6-0 for the weekend. They defeated Germantown 48-36, Franklin 39-22, Hudson 55-24, and De Pere 39-18 in pool play the first day. The next day, the girls took on Eau Claire Memorial in the semifinals, winning 44-13 before advancing to the championship. They faced Germantown once again and secured the title with a score of 47-27.

This team became back-to-back WSICT champs after winning the tournament a year ago in Neenah. The team includes Farrah Danforth, Marin Stier, Kinley Kulibert, Samantha Zilm, Emily Guden, Izzy Stevens, Olivia Rasmussen, Lawsyn Michalkiewicz, Sena Messner and Abby

Coaches include Alisia Myers, Craig Stier, Abby Danforth, Josh Zilm, Kari Quandt and Justin Freier.

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## **Zephyr hoops**

FROM PAGE 10

said Griffith, who finished 12-of-13 from the line for the game and led the Zephyrs with 24 points. "So it's all the hard work I have put in making my free throws and getting better at it."

Bradshaw said he has all the confidence in the world in the duo of Griffith and Uhlenbrauck - who hit both of his attempts in the final two minutes – to be able to close out games.

"Those two guys, late in the game with the ball, I absolutely, 100 percent trust them to take care of the ball and make the free throws," Bradshaw said. "They have the composure because they have played forever."

The two would add at least one more game to "forever" with the trip to state although the plan on Saturday was to play two games on the trip, with the second ideally earning them a gold basketball.

"We've worked so hard to get to this point. To finally get that feeling of making it to state feels awesome. We just have to take one game at a time. Look at our opponent for Thursday and take it from there," Griffith said.

"(Making it to state) feels good but the job is not finished," said Nackers, who added eight points and a team-high nine rebounds. "We have a couple of more games to go."

Bradshaw, who also saw Fisher Mackenzie score 11 points in the win over Au-

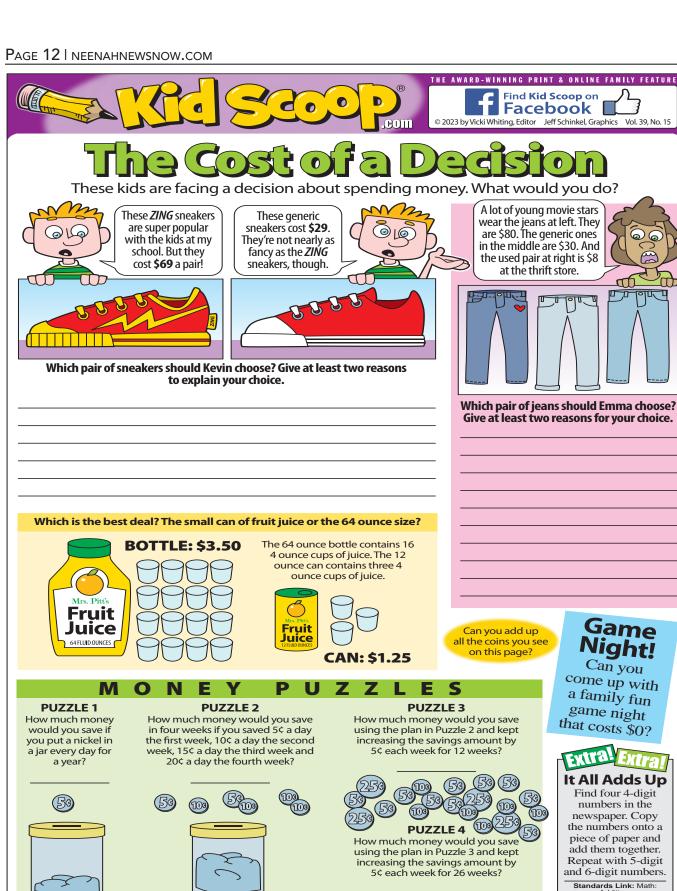


Cole Uhlenbrauck looks to put up a shot in the lane against Auburndale last Saturday.

burndale, said the group earned the state trip and was looking forward to seeing what they could accomplish in Madison.

"We knew it's a tough thing to get through sectionals and to state so I'm just excited for the guys," Bradshaw said. "It's phenomenal for these guys to get to state and enjoy it."

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## Wedding planning for a memorable event

Oshkosh Herald

Your wedding is a day you have been dreaming about since the first time a fairytale was read to you.

But when the planning of that fairytale finally arrives, it can be overwhelming. If a wedding planner is not in your budget, many online tools and resources are available to help navigate the planning and help keep your special day organized and stress free.

Websites like theknot.com or thejoy.com offer tools in planning as well as directing you to other resources to manage RSVPs or even where and how to complete a wedding registry. Most will require a contact email and we recommend creating a separate wedding email address that is used only for your planning and researching purposes. This will keep all your wedding information together and avoid your

normal inbox from being spammed with unwanted and uninvited items.

Start with this timeline to begin planning your big day:

#### 12-months - Budget

Setting your wedding budget and sticking to it are important. Break your budget down into the big key items that you know have to be covered: venue, dress, dinner, flowers, invitations.

The two betrotheds should agree on the budget and have an honest conversation on setting expectations.

#### 11-months - Vendors

Wedding expos can be an opportunity to visit many vendors in one space and get an idea on what products and services are available for your event based on your budget.

The wedding reception usu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3







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ally is the largest portion of a budget. Local reception venues range from a few hundred dollars to thousands.

From a small guest list to hundreds. From casual food trucks to sit-down dinners. Flowers from the farmers market to bouquets which are intricate works of arts. Photographers and packages.

#### 9-months - Say Yes to the Dress

Finding the perfect dress is one thing, dealing with delivery and alterations are others.

Make sure you give yourself plenty of time when ordering

your dress so that some supply-chain snafu time is built in to allow time to schedule alterations after taking delivery and saving yourself unnecessary anxiety.

#### 6 - 8 months - Save the Date

Traditionally invitations are mailed 6-8 weeks prior to the event. Save the Dates have become popular, and it is recommended that they are sent out 6 months in advance or 8 months in advance for destination weddings.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4





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#### 5-months - Honeymoon

Plan out your honeymoon and what additional expenses may be incurred.

Do you need a passport, or does it need to be renewed? Plan, prepare and book your trip.

Is the honeymoon part of your wedding budget? If so, be sure to account for all expenses related to it - travel tickets, wardrobe, transportation, and your spending money.

And remember sunscreen!

You don't want your honeymoon ruined by a sunburn.

#### 4-months - Hair & Makeup; Choose Your Cake

Now is the time to start experimenting with your hair and makeup for your wedding day. We may imagine how we will look with a certain updo in our mind but that isn't how it turns out.

Be sure to give how you want your hair and makeup a test run to avoid any mishaps or disappointment.

Cake, cupcakes, cookies, or

candies. Flavors, designs, layers, colors. So many decisions. Schedule a few tastings with local bakeries or cake decorators for a cake consultation so that this accessory also fits your budget, style, and personality.

#### 3-months - Write Your Vows

If you are planning on writing your own vows, start making notes in advance so you have time to massage the words with reflection without feeling rushed or anxious.

If put off too long, it can seem like a deadline instead of the joy and commitment it is.

#### 2-months - Send Invites

Traditional invites are mailed 6-8 weeks prior to the event. Indicate if RSVPs are necessary and give a deadline.

### 1-month - Seating Chart

Your RSVP deadline should have passed and now is the time to arrange your seating chart if necessary.

#### 1-week - Final Fitting

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## What should be included on the invitation?

One thing to remember about your invitation is that all the information doesn't need to be included on one sheet of paper. Many will include a separate with reception information as well as a separate RSVP card and return envelope with postage.

But for the basics here is a list of what to include:

#### The Wedding Couple

This should go without saying, but sometimes the most obvious items are the ones forgotten.

Name of the Hosts

The hosts used to be the first one listed, usually the parent's of the couple, but it has now become only the parents' if they are financially contributing to the wedding.

#### Date & Time of the Ceremony

Be sure to indicate am or pm and if it's a formal invitation write out the time – four o'clock in the afternoon.

#### Ceremony, Reception Locations

If in the same place, just indicate on the invitation. Please be sure to list the city of the locations as many will depend on navigation. If you are inviting people to the reception only be sure that the reception information is included on the invite received by these guests. It's an unfortunate gaffe if the information is only included on the ceremony invite.

#### **Attire Details**

If you have an expectation of dress be sure to indicate it.

#### Wedding Website Address

This is a great resource for guests to learn more about the venue, area, and answer any

questions they have without needing to contact the hosts.

#### **RSVP Card**

Extra information on the venue. If the venue is hard to find or has parking restrictions, etc. be sure to share the needed info with your guests.

## **Hotel Information**

Many couples will reserve a block of rooms for the guests. Be sure to either have it included or indicate the information is available at the wedding website.

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March 15, 2023

## Protect the 'Wow' wedding moments

Oshkosh Herald

You are excited and may be tempted to share all the details out with family and friends on social platforms, but keep in mind that many of the special moments of your wedding day are the first looks and the joy seen on your guests, and partners, faces.

Here's a small list of items to save for the big reveal:

#### **Dress & Attire**

The wedding attire is usually a jaw-dropping moment. Try to avoid sharing photos of your dress

or attire with others or posting on social platforms.

The special moment when your eyes meet are memories for a lifetime.

#### Hair & Makeup

Like the dress, you planned out your hair and makeup. It isn't your every day look and should be saved for the full impact.

Plus, people may mean well, but always don't communicate constructively and you don't want to start second guessing your choices.

#### **Color Scheme**

Whether it's your wedding party or your decorations, let that "aww" moment happen as your guests arrive for the reception.

This one may be harder to keep quiet if the colors are incorporated into your invitations and flowers, but have a little fun with it.

#### First Dance

It's your moment. Savor it and keep your guests wondering on the song and music chosen to introduce the guests of honor at the reception.

## Guest List

You started out with a budget and your guest list was made with thought and care.

It's not a who's who, or Tier A or Tier B, so by keeping the guest list private you will avoid feedback of the whys or why nots.

#### And of course, the Surprises!

Whether it's a photo booth, engaging games or a choreographed dance by members of the wedding party – keep it a surprise to have the magic memories and moments.



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