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Neenah

MARCH 24, 2023 I NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM



### INSIDE



**Hoop dreams** 

Rockets, Zephyrs enjoy successful seasons Pages 5-8

### **Alternative ARPA funds** plan approved

Neenah News

Winnebago County supervisors Tuesday approved establishing a "Spirit Fund" to consolidate \$33.4 million in federal pandemic relief funds after months of discussion on how to best use the money for countywide purposes.

Among the expenditures immediately approved after the Spirit Fund's establishment was to grant each of the county's 21 towns and municipalities \$145,000 for general purposes, totaling \$3.04 million.

A special American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) commission had recommended spending 25% of the federal money on nongovernmental community projects, 25% on county government projects and 50% on community projects designated by the county. An amendment to remove the nongovernmental portion - which includes nonprofit groups and quasi-governmental entities - and split the money between government and community projects in general was approved 21-11.

Introduced by District 1 Supervisor Rachael Dowling and supported by several supervisors after discussion before the Spirit Fund vote, the amended resoThedaCare opens new ER space

#### **Construction continues** on \$100M modernization

Neenah News

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center has opened its new emergency department space in Neenah as the next major milestone of a \$100 million investment to modernize the medical campus on Doty Island.

Since the groundbreaking last spring, construction crews have been working on multiple areas of the transformation that will allow the health care system to enhance and expand services.

The new ER space includes a designated emergency department (ED) entrance, large waiting area, eight additional emergency care rooms and three triage rooms. The existing department remained open during the initial construction process and work will now focus on modernizing that space.

"We designed our construction phases to ensure our teams could continue providing critical services for our patients and families. We are proud to celebrate this milestone in our Modernization Project," said Lynn Det-



ThedaCare Regional Medical Center has opened its new emergency department.

terman, senior vice president of ThedaCare South Region.

In this project phase, the hospital doubled the previous ED care space. There will be 20 exams rooms, including specialized rooms for trauma and behavioral health accompanied by the latest technology.

The design plan also includes more negative pressure rooms, also known as isolation rooms, which provide a safe space for those with infectious illnesses.

"The health care team's workstation will

SEE ThedaCare ON PAGE 11



Roosevelt Elementary School, which replaced Third Ward School on the site in 1923, will reach the 100-year mark as it closes its doors.

# Historic school celebrates a century

#### Community bids farewell to Roosevelt Elementary

By Patti Lee News contributor

Roosevelt Elementary is saying a long, last and loving farewell to its historic old schoolhouse.

The school stands on the site of the Third Ward School, a six-room structure erected in 1888 at a cost of \$10,000. Theda Clark attended Third Ward School. So did Mathilda Krueger Lamping, a Red Cross nurse who practiced in Serbia and was awarded a meritorious service medal from the Greek government for her work. So did Jessie Kerwin Clark, instrumental in the founding of Theda Clark School of Nursing and the local chapter of the Red

That former schoolhouse was razed and ground broke for a new elementary school on Oct. 21, 1922. At a whopping cost of slightly over \$78,000, the school opened Sept. 17, 1923.

With post-World War I urging from the American Legion, schools were being renamed in honor of U.S. presidents. That is how Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School came into being.

One year later - nearly to the day - a brand-new gymnasium was added and hailed by the Appleton Post-Crescent as "One of the most modern of its kind in the Fox River Valley." The gym hosted Neenah varsity boys basketball from 1924-29.

There were modifications to the school

over time, including a 1969 classroom, a 1990 storage area and a multipurpose room addition in 1996. But the foundational bones of Roosevelt Elementary have remained in place at 215 E. Forest Ave. on Doty Island for a hundred years.

This centennial year is bittersweet. As Doty Islanders celebrate the anniversary, it's also the last year for classes and the site has been sold for \$1 million. The school closure is part of the \$114.9 million Neenah Joint School District referendum of

Principal Garrett Zimmerman was hired in the spring of 2021, moving to Neenah from La Crosse and bringing expertise in transitioning schools. While students and

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March 24, 2023

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# Block grant recipients pending

Neenah News

The city will soon review and approve its 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund recipients for 2023, totaling just over \$207,000.

Last week, there were public hearings regarding these allocations and written comments will still be accepted until Monday.

According to city documents, "The City of Neenah has drafted the 2023 Annual Action Plan, which includes a program of activities to be funded by the 2023 (CDBG) to address the priority needs and objectives identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan."

Carol Kasimor, with the Community Development Department, said the city has been a federal CDBG recipient since 1984, and a formula determines the amount received annually.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awards grants to community grantees to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services, she added.

Of the \$207,088 funds expected from the federal government, 15% of the funds are proposed to assist public service programs, 65% are budgeted for economic, housing and neighborhood development projects, and 20% are planned for fair housing, planning and CDBG administration expenses, Kasimor said.

"Organizations that apply for funds in the public service category complete an application that qualifies the activity according to the federal regulations, and explains the organization's mission, activity requested to be funded and the impact of the activity," she said. "Staff reviews the applications and provides information to the Common Council for their review and approval. Organizations must demonstrate need for and positive impact of the services and ability to comply with federal requirements."

Some public service organizations are slated to continue receiving funds from the CDBG program, including \$7,000 each for Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Advocap and Pillars. Reach Counseling Services is proposed to get \$6,000 and Limited Emergency

Assistance Valley Ecumenical Network (LEAVEN) to receive \$4,000.

\$134,000 of the funds are proposed to be disbursed for housing and economic development, including for property acquisition, neighborhood improvements and facade improvements.

The Fair Housing Center of Northeast Wisconsin is set to get \$11,550 to provide services to households encountering discrimination in the housing market, and to provide technical assistance to housing providers and the city, documents say.

Kasimor said the program will continue to fund commercial exterior improvement projects in the older commercial areas that need redevelopment. Additional projects will be reviewed in 2023 and 2024 that redevelop commercial and residential areas and improve neighborhoods.

Written comments may be directed to Kasimor at ckasimor@ci.neenah.wi.us or Department of Community Development by Monday. The Common Council will review and vote on the proposed fund allocations at its April 5 meeting.

# Rural housing program eligibility reviewed

Neenah News

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development division has undergone a review in its jurisdiction to identify areas that may no longer qualify for its rural housing programs, including in the Neenah area.

The last rural area reviews were performed in 2017-2018 using 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) data and are reviewed every five years, according to a USDA release.

This latest review will use data from the 2020 census.

The public will have until June 6 to submit comments regarding the potential loss of eligibility for rural development housing programs.

Lisa Paulson, USDA Rural Development Wisconsin acting housing director, said its Single Family Housing Direct Home Loan Program works with low- and very-low-income families in rural areas to assist them in purchasing decent, safe and sanitary housing using a 33-year fixed-rate mortgage.

Paulson said a community with a population under 20,000 when not in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is an eligible rural community, which means

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Neenah is an ineligible community.

"A community in an MSA needs a population below 10,000. If it is over 10,000 then the population density needs to be below 1,000 people per square mile. If the population density exceeds 1,000 people per square mile then it is no longer rural in nature and will not be eligible any longer," she said.

As Neenah was already ineligible in its last review – Paulson said it likely was even back when the program started – it is being reviewed this year to assess newly annexed land.

Comments should be sent to wi-rd-stateoffice@usda.gov. For details, or questions about specific changes, contact 715-345-7611.

# Pianists in concert at public library

Internationally acclaimed pianists Sylvia Hong and Michael Rector will be in concert at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Neenah Public Library.

The duo will perform works by Mozart, Rachmaninoff and Brahms. Winners of the 2021 Ellis Duo Piano Competition, they have played recitals at the Kennedy Center in Washington and the Lotte Concert Hall in Seoul. They live in De Pere and teach at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

If accommodations are needed to attend this free event, contact the library by Saturday.

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Photo from Neer



### Ice block

In 1938, a massive ice shove formed along County Road A near Adella Beach. The ice shove began just before midnight March 28. It completely covered the lake road and traffic had to be rerouted to U.S. 41. Snowplows were unable to clear the road and a power shovel had to be brought in to remove the ice.

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Neenah Joint School District photo

#### School work in session

The new Neenah High School under construction in Fox Crossing will be open for public viewing from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday as the last such walk-through before its dedication in August. Miron Construction staff will lead visitors through the site and the different stages of the construction. Visitors should be prepared for muddy conditions on the site.

# Calendar of events

#### Sunday, March 26

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

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

#### Tuesday, March 28

Movie Talks: "Slumdog Millionaire,"

6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

tours, 4 p.m., County II, Fox Crossing Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

#### Thursday, March 30

#### Friday, March 31

Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Berg-

#### Sunday, April 2

Giants of Jazz Series: Lawrence Jazz

#### WPS Health tabs president with local roots

WPS Health Solutions has Wendy Perkins, its current chief management officer,

as its next president and chief executive after a nationwide search.

Current CEO Mike Hamerlik announced his impending retirement last year after more than 10 years of

Perkins, who grew up in the Neenah area,

joined WPS in 2016 and has extensive experience in driving strategic growth. The company said her experience at WPS and with other major industry players makes her an expert at understanding how to

**Perkins** 

compete and perform in the health care and government sectors.

She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a bachelor's degree in accounting. She completed the Strategic Leadership Program at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. Before WPS she held leadership positions at Anthem and at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Wisconsin.

"I'm honored to be selected as president and CEO and value the trust the WPS board and transition committee has placed in me," Perkins said. "WPS is in a growth phase with rich opportunities on the horizon."

Perkins will take the reins April 1 as the company's fifth president and the first female to lead the company in its 76-year history.

Library Monday, March 27

Red Cross blood drive, 1 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road

#### Wednesday, March 29

Neenah High School construction

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

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

#### Saturday, April 1

strom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Quintet, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library



### Memory Care Respite

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#### **Roosevelt school**

FROM PAGE 1

teachers are moving to new spaces and opportunities, they are also saying goodbye to hallowed grounds and the only school on the island.

The enormity of it does not escape Zim-

"While people are sad to say goodbye, we are doing our best to build relationships with the community and make this a positive, celebratory year," he said. "This effort has culminated into the event that is happening here."

The "happening" was an emotional, meticulously planned walk-through of the school this past Sunday. Every wall, every floor - even ceilings and long tables set on the gym floor – were laden with memorabilia. Yearbooks, photos, artwork and artifacts from the earliest days to the present tugged at the heartstrings of attendees who ranged from 20-somethings sprinting up the stairs to nonagenarians with canes and walkers.

"We had no idea how many would come. We've had a nonstop stream of people," Zimmerman said. "To be honest with you, I'm speechless. I've heard so many stories in less than an hour, people saying, 'I went here in 1966,' or noting how things have changed."

Clearly moved, Zimmerman added, "I knew this was going to be an emotional event. I didn't realize the magnitude of it all. It's amazing."

Zimmerman has found Neenah, as a whole, to be amazing.

"I remember being told, 'You've got to go to the homecoming parade.' My life experience was that homecoming was mostly for the kids, until I saw what Neenah rolls out for homecoming – holy cow.





Photos by Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski

A walk-through was held Sunday at Roosevelt where history and memories were shared with the community.

"And that's just it for Neenah in general. It's a small-town feeling on a big, big scale. I see it everywhere in this building. The amount of neighborhood projects that the teachers plan ... I see that spirit nonstop."

The emotion in the rooms and the halls was palpable. Pang Yang browsed a long

"My oldest is now 36. I have five kids, they all went here. It's hard right now," she said. "I live just across the street and every morning I hear the children playing during recess. I'm going to miss that."

Yang is a neighbor to "Grandma Arline" Dabill. "Mrs. Dabill is close to 100 years old now, she is so nice," she said.

Dabill's home is considered the centerpiece of Doty Island to Roosevelt School. In 2019, fourth-grade students honored her 95th birthday with flowers, a celebration and a "Happy 95th Birthday" sign.

"She cares about the children very

much," Yang said. "It's just going to be so sad without the school."

Kelly Ellis Sweetlicky went to kindergarten at Roosevelt. So did her son, in 1991. Kathy Rumsey spent kindergarten through sixth grade there. "That was back in the '50s," she smiled. "Almost everyone walked to school back then."

Ms. Ruby Patt made her way to the tables, stopping to chat with people who remembered her.

"I taught at Roosevelt for 19 years, second grade the whole time," she said. "It was a wonderful school to be at. I have beautiful, treasured memories. I'm looking for some of my students."

Patt recalled class activities. "In the fall we'd make stone soup. The children would bring the vegetables. That class incorporated reading, math, social studies and health. Christmas was a big party, we had lots of big parties back then. In spring we would go to Thousand Island Nature Center and the kids brought fishing poles.

"At the end of the year I always led the parade of children to Doty Park. I had a baton and a big hat that the art teachers made for me. We'd march down there and have lunch, and the teachers would have a water balloon fight!"

As Patt reminisced, a gentleman approached.

"I was just looking at the pictures," he said, addressing Patt. "I was in third grade in 1968 so you would have been my (second-grade) teacher."

Overcome with emotion, the fellow identified himself as Tom Alby. "I thought all my teachers would be dead," he said through the tears.

Both deeply moved by the moment, Patt and Alby agreed that Roosevelt was such a wonderful school. Then arm in arm, teacher and student made their way together to look at the displays.

Mary Pfeiffer, school district superintendent, was on hand for the event.

"The history is very important. Stories and memories that people have to share, both the joy and the sadness. It will be a sad day when this is gone," she said. "But memories are more than a structure, more than the brick and mortar. A building doesn't make a school. The teachers and the kids and the families in attendance they make the school."

The challenge is the complexities of old buildings. Trying to fit modern-day technology into the old would have taken significant reconstruction. Pfeiffer confirmed the building will be razed.

"I really don't know when because we're still occupying the building. It hasn't closed," she said. "We also need time to move and there's a lot involved in that.

"The magnitude of the transition is pretty great, moving into the new high school from the old high school, which will transition to grades 5-8. Movement into there will be Shattuck (7-8), Horace Mann (6), and then all of grade 5. Roosevelt students will go to Horace Mann along with the Wilson students and Alliance will go to Wilson. There are a lot of moving pieces.

"So it's important to have this day, to relive those memories. There are stories that need to be told."

Stories like that of Judy LaCount, who became a crossing guard in 1980 and is still keeping the corner of Third and Forest safe.

"She's been here over 40 years – people come here and they stay here," Pfeiffer said, "here at Roosevelt and Neenah in general. For a small town to cultivate so many great connections is an important piece that kind of tugs on your heart."

Alliance Charter teacher Becky Bardosi will be teaching at Wilson next year.

"It's kind of spectacular to have everybody show up for this," Bardosi said with a smile. "I've spoken to so many in the crowd, wonderful people who were students in the '30s, the '40s, the '50s telling me what the island was like back then, it's just fantastic. There's nostalgia, a little joy, a little sadness that we're closing because there won't be a school on the island."

Jennie Wunrow is a fourth-grade teacher at Roosevelt who spearheaded the walk-through event.

"I'm a huge history buff," Wunrow explained. "We got a new custodian about four years ago, Mrs. (Betsy) Tesch. She took it upon herself to begin cleaning out the spaces in the school. We found a retro Santa that used to be on the roof, so many Christmas trees, paintings, pictures, even the plans for the playground. When she enlisted my fifth-graders to help clean it all out is when I said, 'Hold on a minute, we need to keep some of this stuff!"

They salvaged the Roosevelt Royal banner, a drawing for a past T-shirt and buckets of photos.

"I knew as we were looking through it all that we wanted to share it with the community," Wunrow said. "We started the Facebook group (Roosevelt Elem. School Alumni and Former Staff Neenah) last August because I wanted enough time to gather everything and get people talking about it.

"The outreach has been amazing," Wunrow said. "I'm going to take all the photos and items that are on there and make them into a slide show for anybody who wants it. They will be able to download it from the Facebook page."

As to the closing of Roosevelt Elementary, Wunrow is wistful.

"I love everything about this place, the building, the staff," she said. "I know we've outgrown it but it's still bittersweet. I wanted to retire a Doty Island teacher. Now my kids will graduate from Horace Mann."



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# Rockets flex program's strength with return to state

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

When practice for the 2022-23 boys basketball season officially opened in November, a lot of the faces that Neenah head coach Lee Rabas was looking at had changed.

Nearly all of the group that played meaningful minutes in winning the WIAA Division 1 state title the spring before were gone. And with that in mind, Rabas had some specific thoughts about the team that would take the court for him this season.

"I thought we had enough to compete for another FVA title and I certainly thought we were capable of competing with any of the teams in our sectional to get back to Madison," Rabas said. "We knew they could be a good group."

A rough stretch in mid-January may have kept the Rockets from challenging for the top spot in the Fox Valley Association, but Neenah did get things righted in time to make another run to Madison.

Competing as the No. 6 seed in their sectionals, the Rockets got things rolling in the postseason and became the first Division 1 team to make state appearances in consecutive years since Stevens Point in 2016 and 2017.

"We just thought Cal (Klesmit) would be back and we knew Brady (Corso) was going to continue to get better," Rabas said. "Then we had a group that nobody but our staff knew what they were capable of. We see them every day and knew what they could be."

The Rockets, who were making their state record 29th appearance at the state tournament, fell short of repeating as state

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Photo by Robert Barthell

The return of senior Cal Klesmit, who missed the entire 2021-22 season because of injury, played a key role in Neenah's success this season.

champions. Neenah lost to Arrowhead, 73-61, in a state semifinal last Friday night at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Neenah never led in the game against the Warhawks and a slow start left them facing a 10-point deficit about four minutes into the game. The Rockets got as close as 25-24 on a Jackson Schlomann basket with a little more than a minute left in the first half but Arrowhead answered with a basket to take a three-point lead into intermission.

A basket by Elliott Swanson a little more than two minutes into the second half tied the game at 30 but the Rockets were unable to take the lead and Arrowhead slow-



Photo by Robert Barthell

Junior Brady Corso was the Rockets' second-leading scorer this year and will return to help lead Neenah next season.

ly built its advantage back to eight points nearing the midway point of the second

Neenah then made another run and got within two points on two different occasions – the second coming on a Luke Jung basket with just less than eight minutes left – but again the Rockets were never able to overtake the Warhawks.

"I thought we had them on the ropes from the 10-minute mark to the seven-minute mark of the second half," Rabas said. "We had them on the ropes but we just didn't make the next play to get over

SEE **Neenah hoops** on Page 6



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#### Neenah hoops

FROM PAGE 5

the hump. I kept thinking if we could get the lead, we could get them to turn to more isolation on offense and maybe start a little bit of a meltdown. We just couldn't get to that point."

Arrowhead shot an impressive 53 percent from the field in the game, while holding the Rockets to just 44 percent shooting. Neenah did make seven 3-pointers in the game, but were out-rebounded by the taller Warhawks, 32-24.

Schlomann finished with 19 points and nine rebounds to lead the Rockets, capping his prep career with a pair of strong showings after totaling 24 points in Neenah's sectional final win over Superior.

"I was happy for Jackson for what he did in the last two varsity games," Rabas said.

Klesmit added 14 points and Swanson finished with 10 points for the Rockets.

Although Klesmit and Corso were the team's top two scorers all season, it was the production from players like Schlomann, Swanson, Jung, Sam Coulthard and others that helped the Rockets have success.

"Those kids we knew could give us scoring on any given night and give us what we needed to be successful," Rabas said. "I thought those kids would be able to do that. To be honest, I hoped that would be the recipe for us to have a better record."

Neenah finished the season with an 18-11 mark and placed fourth in the FVA with an 11-7 record.

Rabas points to a stretch in mid-January when the Rockets lost four straight conference games - there was a nonconference win over Brookfield East mixed in – that was tough to overcome. The rough stretch came after a convincing win over a



Jackson Schlomann scored 43 points in the sectional final and state semifinal combined for the Rockets.

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talented Oshkosh North.

"We weren't ready to play that following Tuesday against Kaukauna and it snowballed from there. Maybe we came in overconfident but we were a little complacent," Rabas said. "But we were able to stop the roll and get ourselves righted and get back on track."

The Rockets closed the regular season winning three of their last five games and then posted four double-digit wins in the tournament to earn the return trip to Madison.

"There were so many varied expectations on them. There were some people who thought we were going to be a topend team and some people who thought that would be ridiculous," Rabas said. "This group was dealing with a lot of different expectations from a lot of different people and just a lot of outside noise. But these guys just stayed the course and competed every night and put us in position





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# Senior-laden Zephyrs put together memorable year

By Steve Clark Neenah News

It took a record-setting performance to derail St. Mary Catholic's postseason run.

The Zephyrs ran into the hot hand of Kenosha St. Joseph's Eric Kenesie in a WIAA Division 4 state semifinal at the Kohl Center last Thursday and saw their season end with an 83-72 loss. Kenesie finished with a state-record 51 points on 15-of-21 shooting, while also picking up eight assists to upend St. Mary Catholic, which was the top seed in the four-team state field.

Zephyrs' head coach Paul Bradshaw said that they tried different defensive approaches to slow down Kenesie, but nothing worked against the junior.

"He was a one-man wrecking crew and he was playing with a lot of confidence," Bradshaw said. "We put a lot of pressure on him with double teams and tried to jump and force him to get rid of the ball and nothing worked. I do tip my hat to him and how he played and the confidence he played with."

Kenesie scored 22 of the Lancers' 30 points in the first half but it was the Zephrys that controlled the first 18 minutes.

After the opening minutes of the game, St. Mary Catholic held the lead the rest of the first half.

The senior backcourt tandem of Danny Griffith and Michael Fairweather spearheaded the Zephyrs' charge in the first half. Griffith finished with 14 points in the opening half, while Fairweather tallied 11 points off the bench, including the team's lone first-half 3-pointer.

Fairweather had been a starter for most of the season until a late-season injury



Neenah News

The St. Mary Catholic boys basketball team finished an impressive 26-3 this season and earned the program's first WIAA state tournament trip since 2009.

limited his playing time.

"The game he played at state was phenomenal," Bradshaw said. "For him to bring that confidence and energy to the team was great."

Griffith's driving layup with less than a minute left in the first half gave St. Mary Catholic its biggest lead of the game at 37-27 before the Lancers narrowed the gap to seven at halftime.

Things just didn't go as well for the Zephyrs in the second half.

Kenosha St. Joseph held St. Mary Catholic to just five points in the first five minutes of the half and then took the lead on a basket with 14:37 left in the game. The basket was part of a 12-0 run for the Lancers than turned St. Mary Catholic's 42-37 lead into a seven-point deficit.

Cole Uhlenbrauck's 3-pointer snapped the Lancer run and St. Mary Catholic would continue to hit shots throughout the second half to keep the game close. The Zephyrs just weren't able to string any points together to make a bigger dent in the Lancers' lead.

"We had a couple of times in the second half where we put small spurts together

and it felt like we were going to make a run, but it didn't happen," Bradshaw said. "Looking back on it now, we couldn't get out in transition the way we like to and a lot of it had to do with how they controlled the ball. They didn't take quick shots. There weren't a lot of rebounds that would allow to us to get our transition game going. When we tried to apply pressure to force turnovers or force quick shots, it didn't happen."

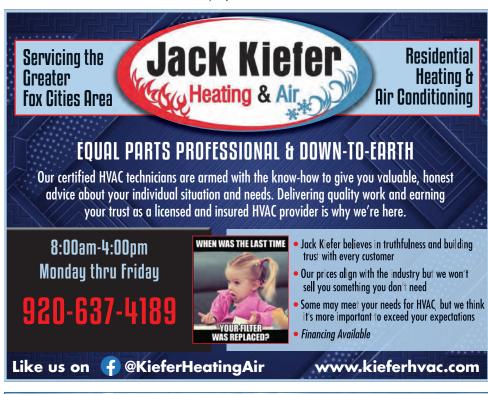
Kenosha St. Joseph kept St. Mary Catholic at bay down the stretch by making 14of-16 free throws, many of which were by Kenesie, who finished 16-of-19 from the free-throw line in the game.

The last gasp for the Zephyrs came with a minute to go when Charlie Nackers knocked down a pair of free throws to cut the deficit to six. But the Zephyrs would not score again, missing all three of their 3-point attempts in the final minute.

Griffith finished with 24 points to lead the way for the Zephyrs, while Nackers finished with 17 points. Fairweather (11 points) and Fisher MacKenzie (10 points) also reached double figures, while Uhlenbrauck scored eight points in his final high school game. MacKenzie also grabbed a team-high nine rebounds.

"Sometimes, you play against a team on a roll or things don't go your way. You have to fight through it and sometimes things go your way, sometimes they don't. This time it didn't," Bradshaw said. "I'm incredibly proud of them. We've been together for three years and we have kind of built this program back up together. I told them not to hang their heads. They gave great

SEE **Zephyr hoops** ON PAGE 8









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March 24, 2023

#### **Zephyr hoops**

FROM PAGE 7

effort and left everything out there. I don't think anybody didn't come with the energy that was needed to get us there."

Making it to the state tournament was something this group had its sights set on all season.

Coming off back-to-back sectional appearances and with a senior-dominated lineup, Bradshaw said that from the start of practice in November, making it to the Kohl Center was in this group's plan.

"We were really excited about this season," Bradshaw said. "It felt like we were going to make a really good run."

Bradshaw said there were a couple of stepping stones along the way that helped propel the Zephyrs.

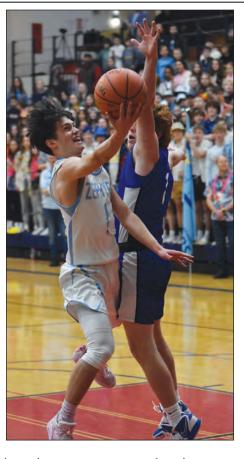
The first came over the holidays when St. Mary Catholic hosted a two-day tournament and posted wins over Lourdes Academy and a talented St. Mary's Springs squad on back-to-back nights.

"It's a long season but after we got through the holiday tournament, it felt like we were on the right path," Bradshaw said. "Springs was ranked No. 1 (in Division 4) and that was our toughest game to that point. To get through that, that felt to us that we were in a good position to make a really deep run."

The two wins at the holiday tournament were part of an 11-0 start for the Zephyrs, but the undefeated run came to an end at the hands of Big East North rival Howards Grove. St. Mary Catholic would also lose its next game to Reedsville before rattling off seven straight wins.

Then came the rematch against Howards Grove and in a jam-packed home gym, the Zephyrs rallied from a late seven-point deficit and notched a 64-63 win







Neenah News

Seniors Cole Uhlenbrauck (left), Danny Griffith (center) and Charlie Nackers (right) were the driving force behind St. Mary Catholic's success.

on a Nackers layup with three seconds to play.

"Howards Grove to a certain extent has had our number over the past couple of years and to actually win that game at the end was phenomenal from a confidence standpoint. Mentally, it got our guys over the hump," Bradshaw said. "We had not had a lot of big games in the past two years at home. We had some on the road, but not at home and to fill that place, we could really feel the energy and we fed off of that."

The win over Howards Grove – which was ranked No. 1 in Division 4 at the time – boosted the Zephyrs through the rest of the regular season, which included a

revenge win over Reedsville, and into the WIAA tournament.

St. Mary Catholic averaged more than 78 points per game in its four postseason wins and rolled into the state semifinal with a 26-2 record.

Although the Zephyrs fell short of their ultimate goal, Bradshaw said there are certainly plenty of positives to take away from the experience.

"What we take from this season that as a program, is that we have matured to a point where we know we can accomplish our goals," Bradshaw said. "I think the culture that we have been trying to build here, it's a process. It's how do you get comfortable winning and then how do you get comfortable winning the big games and then it's how do you continue to drive that leadership forward so that the younger players can adapt to it and grow into it, and I think we got there this year.

"We did accomplish a lot, even if we didn't get to our ultimate goal. When these guys were freshmen there weren't many fantasies about getting to state and they got there. They helped to get the program on the right track. There's an expectation we can achieve and there is a confidence through the whole program right now."



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#### **All-conference roundup**

#### **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

### Trio of Rockets honored in Fox Valley Association

Conference champion Neenah landed a pair of players on the all-Fox Valley Association first team and had three players honored overall.

Leading the way was junior Allie Ziebell, who was named Player of the Year in conference and was a unanimous first-team selection. The UConn recruit led the conference in scoring at 25.5 points per game, while ranking second in the FVA in both rebounding (8.6 per game) and assists (4.5 per game).

Joining Ziebell on the 10-member first team was senior Ava Kok. Kok averaged 11.2 points per game and 3.3 assists per game.

Ziebell was one of six unanimous firstteam selections along with junior Kallie Peppler and sophomore Rainey Welson of Hortonville, senior Alana Zarneke and junior Alexa Kians of Kaukauna and senior MaKenzie Drout of Kimberly.

The rest of the first team consisted of seniors Sammi Beyer of Appleton East and Mallory Ott of Oshkosh North and junior Paige Seckar of Oshkosh West.

The Rockets were also represented on the seven-player second team by senior Sammie Buss. Buss, who was playing her first season at Neenah, averaged 9.7 points per game and finished second on the team with 70 3-pointers.

Ziebell also earned all-defensive team recognition joining Welson, Kinas, Seckar and Hortonville senior Trinity Mocadlo.

Neenah's Andy Braunel was named the conference's Coach of the Year after leading the Rockets to their first outright conference title since 1979.

## Vogel tabbed top player in Big East North

St. Mary Catholic senior Chloe Vogel earned first-team all-conference honors for the third straight year and earned Player of the Year honors in helping the Zephyrs to the conference title.

Vogel earned all-conference honors all four years of her prep career, garnering second-team honors as a freshman followed by three years on the first team.

Vogel finished second in the conference in scoring at 17.9 points per game and ranked third in the league in assists at 3.1 per game. She also averaged 5.5 rebounds per game for the Zephyrs.

Vogel was one of three unanimous firstteam selections along with Mishicot junior Julie Koeppel and Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah junior Carlie Fromm. Mishicot senior Kailey Tulachka and Manitowoc Lutheran freshman Marisa Mehlhorn rounded out the first team.

The Zephyrs landed two players on the five-member second team in junior Audrey Norville and sophomore Emily Vogel. Emily Vogel averaged 12.5 points per game, while Norville put up an average of 11 points per game.

Sienna Anderson rounded out the Zephyrs accolades by being named on the honorable mention list. Anderson averaged 7.7 points and a team-leading 3.5 assists per game.

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

### Klesmit leads Neenah's all-FVA selections

Senior Cal Klesmit was named to all-Fox Valley Association first team to lead a quartet of Rockets to earn all-conference recognition.

Klesmit, who missed all of his junior season due to injury, led the Rockets in a number of statistical categories. He was Neenah's leading scorer at 18.4 points per game, while also topping the Rockets in rebounding (5.7 per game), assists (4.7) and steals (1.6).

Klesmit was a unanimous choice to the first team as were all seven members of the squad. He was joined on the first team by seniors Caleb Glaser of Appleton East, Jamariea Dalton of Fond du Lac, August Maurer of Hortonville, Seth Miron of Kimberly, junior Steven Clark of Oshkosh North and sophomore Xzavion Mitchell of Oshkosh North.

Dalton was named the league's Player of

Junior Brady Corso earned second-team all-league honors after averaging 15.8 points per game this season. He led the Rockets with 68 3-pointers and shot 44 percent from behind the arc.

Earning honorable mention honors for the Rockets was senior Elliott Swanson who averaged 7.2 points and 2.9 assists per game.

Rounding out the list of honorees for the Rockets was senior Jackson Schlomann who was named to the league's all-defensive team. Schlomann was joined by Dalton, Mitchell, senior Trent Mullen of Appleton North and Hortonville senior Brett Sommer.

Fond du Lac's Nick Ford was named Coach of the Year.

# Uhlenbrauck, Griffith lead Zephyrs' selections

Two members of the state-qualifying St. Mary Catholic boys basketball team were

unanimous choices on the all-Big East North first team.

Seniors Cole Uhlenbrauck and Danny Griffith landed on the five-member first team for the Zephyrs. Uhlenbrauck led the conference in scoring at 20.7 points per game and made 95 3-pointers this season. Griffith ranked fourth in the league in scoring at 18.2 points per game, while leading the conference in assists at 5.3 per game.

It was Uhlenbrauck's third season being named to the all-conference first team, while Griffith had earned second-team honors each of the past two seasons.

Seniors Jacob Ganga of Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah and Tanner Schumacher of Howards Grove were also unanimous choices on the first team, while Reedsville junior Camden Dvorachek rounded out the squad. Schumacher was named Player of the Year in the conference.

Two other Zephyrs earned all-conference recognition as senior Charlie Nackers and junior Fisher MacKenzie were named on the honorable mention list. Nackers was third on the team in scoring at 12.9 points per game, while MacKenzie averaged 12 points and a team-high 7.1 rebounds per game.

#### **WRESTLING**

## Koch, Schaufelberger earn first-team spots

Neenah senior Eric Schaufelberger and freshman Declan Koch were the Rockets' honorees on the all-Fox Valley Association first team.

Both wrestlers were state qualifiers with Koch being one of two 120-pounders to earn first-team honors, while Schaufelberger was named the top 195-pounder in the conference.

A total of eight Rockets earned all-conference recognition.

Earning spots on the second team were Eli Armatti (113), Jacob Herm (126), Jayden Sheppard (132), Nick Novak (160), Eli Gast (170), while heavyweight Nate Cleveland was an honorable mention honoree.

Kaukauna's Greyson Clark was named Wrestler of the Year in the conference, while the Ghosts' Jeff Matczak was named Coach of the Year.

#### **SWIMMING**

### Rockets dominate all-FVA awards

Neenah sported both the top swimmer and diver in the Fox Valley Association this season, while filling the majority of first-team spots.

Sophomore Drew Gaerthofner was named the conference's Swimmer of the Year, while also earning first-team honors in the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke as well as a part of the 200-yard medley relay and 200-yard freestyle relay.

Earning Diver of the Year honors for the Rockets was senior Ryan Foucault.

Other individual first-team honorees were freshman Tanner Trustem in the 200-yard individual medley and senior Quinn Koeper.

Joining Gaerthofner on the 200-yard medley relay were Trustem, junior Braden Louden and sophomore Joshua Youngwerth, while Koeper, senior David Murphy and sophomore Julian Kuehn joined Gaerthofner on the 200-yard freestyle relay. The Rockets also had the first-team 400-yard freestyle relay consisting of Kuehn, Youngwerth, Louden and Trustem.

Earning second-team honors for the Rockets were Trustem in the 100-yard butterfly, Koeper in the 100-yard freestyle and freshman Gideon Benner in the 500-yard freestyle.

Kuehn in the 200-yard freestyle, Youngwerth in the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard backstroke were honorable mention.

The Rockets' Carrie Raeth was named Coach of the Year in the conference.

#### **BOYS HOCKEY**

#### Kriz earns top honors in Badgerland Conference

Senior John Kriz of the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha hockey team was one of three forwards named to the all-Badgerland Conference first team.

Kriz scored 14 goals this season while leading the Rockets in assists (21) and points (35). He was joined on the first team by senior Connor Schramm, junior Talan Blanck and sophomore Austin Westergaard of St. Mary's Springs, and junior Aiden Heffner and sophomore Spencer Shober of Fond du Lac. Blanck was named Player of the Year.

The Rockets had one player named to second team in senior forward Luke Sutton, who led the team with 15 goals and finished the season with 25 points.

Earning honorable mention honors for Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha were defenders Richie Bernico, a senior, and Calvin Zinda, a sophomore, and senior goalkeeper Caleb Moore.

The Rockets also had three players named to the all-academic team for the conference in Sutton, Ben Kitowski and Beckett Davidson.



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#### **Prep sports roundup**

#### TRACK AND FIELD

#### Rockets shine in relays at Stevens Point invite

Neenah placed in the top four in all three relays, including posting its lone win, to highlight its performance at the Stevens Point boys invitational Saturday.

The Rockets finished first among 24 teams in the 1,600-meter relay, while adding a second-place finish in the 3,200-meter relay. Neenah was also fourth in the 800-meter relay.

Charles Fredrickson and Jack Dorner posted the highest individual finishes for the Rockets, placing third in the 400 meters and 1,600 meters, respectively.

Grant Dean picked up a fourth place in the 60 meters and added a sixth place in the long jump, while Caleb Bartman was fifth in the 400 meters.

Other top 10 finishers for the Rockets were Jared Leal, who was ninth in the 3,200 meters, and Ian Cowell, who was 10th in the 1,600 meters. Blake Dietzen also finished 10th in the preliminaries of the shot put but did not make the finals.

At the girls meet Friday, Mazie Olkowski set the pace for the Rockets by posting a first-place finish in the 3,200

Brooke Veith was the only other top 10 individual finisher for Neenah, tying for eighth place in the high jump. Lilly Graditzke was 10th in the long jump preliminaries but did not make the fi-

Neenah also placed third in the 3,200-meter relay, fourth in the 1,600-meter relay and fifth in the 800-meter relay.

#### Schoeni posts two top 10 finishes for Zephyrs

Benjamin Schoeni registered a pair of top finishes for St. Mary Catholic at the Small School Invitational held at Kolf Sports Center last week.

Schoeni's best finish came in the 3,200 meters where he took second place. He also added a sixth place in the 1,600 me-

The Zephyrs also got a top 10 finish from Ethan Auer, who placed ninth in the 400 meters.

### Fox Cities Marathon early signups begin

The Community First Fox Cities Marathon has opened registration for its weekend of events Sept. 15-17, with early-bird pricing available.

Early registration includes the chance for a \$500 airline gift certificate from Appleton International Airport. Other savings available by signing up by April 30 include signing up for multiple events and referring family and friends.

"The Community First Fox Cities Marathon Presented by Miron Construction weekend of events is for everyone, no matter the distance or pace, and we want to make participating easy, accessible and exciting for those looking to get involved," said race director Julie Johnson.





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#### **County Board**

FROM PAGE 1

lution merges community projects into one funding source for the county board to work from.

The county is using 2022 expenditures as lost wages or revenue, similar to what other Wisconsin counties are using to line up ARPA funds as general service expenditures.

The designation creates a surplus of

\$18.2 million in the general fund and \$15.2 million in the Park View Health Center fund.

County executive Jon Doemel's chief of staff Ethan Hollenberger assured supervisors at the meeting that the move would not affect \$5.4 million in supplemental payments to Park View from the state after consultations with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and other officials.

Director of finance Paul Kaiser has noted that this special revenue fund allows it to be tracked, reviewed, maintained and presented to the board, rather than placing it into the general fund. The money needs to be spent by December 2024.

Some of the expenditures recommended by the commission and approved by the board:

- \$145,000 to each of the 21 towns or municipalities in Winnebago County.
- \$925,000 for purchase and installation of an emergency generator at Sunnyview Expo Center.
- \$3.03 million for land and water conservation projects.
- \$2.725 million for digital subscriber radios for county departments.
- \$300,000 for a countywide building condition assessment study.
- \$175,000 for the County Executive's Office for assistance with strategic plan-

ning and priority-based budgeting.

Supervisors also approved a county pay proposal to upgrade employee compensation and benefits intended to meet the average market minimum and help attract and retain employees. Cost-of-living adjustments and merit pay considerations will be made with a final proposal estimated at \$2.9 million to be voted on in June or July.

The compensation schedule, formed by a consultants' study and the county's Human Resources department, looked at comparable positions in other counties. An amendment was approved that reduced executive assistant Hollenberger's salary increase by \$13,000, originally proposed to go up by more than \$43,000, and sets that position's pay at just over \$82,000.





#### **ThedaCare**

FROM PAGE 1

be located in the center of the area, with treatment rooms on the perimeter, giving teams a direct line of sight into each room," Detterman said. "We recognized there is an increased demand for behavioral health support in the ED. The new space includes designated rooms for behavioral health services, keeping the safety of patients top of mind."

As the modernization work continues, patients and residents can access the updated space by entering Door 4.

The next areas of focus for construction crews:

- Relocating ThedaStar Air Medical Program Helipad adjacent to the ED entrance.
- Creating a spacious physical therapy and occupational therapy suite for patients.
- Developing a new women's center for mammography, diagnostics and imaging, and bone density testing.
- Building a modern cardiac catherization lab and special procedure suite integrated into the Surgery Department. Plans also include the addition of a biplane to support comprehensive stroke services.
- Create a Main Street where key diagnostic outpatient services will be situated on the



Submitted photo

New caregiver stations await patients inside the new ER at ThedaCare.

first floor of the hospital.

- A new dining area on the main floor for visitors and team members.
  - Updating the Family Birth Center.

"We appreciate the community's understanding as we work through construction at the Neenah campus," Detterman said. "It is exciting to see the enhancements taking shape with new areas that will advance coordinated care throughout the ThedaCare service area."

The full modernization is expected to be complete in early 2024. The ThedaCare Foundation-Neenah worked with community donors to raise more than \$15 million of support and released \$25 million from existing assets in support of the project.

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WRIGHTWAY

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Which movie snack does Red Licorice think is the best?

Why?

Which movie snack does Chocolate Mints think is host?

Why?

If you were interviewed for this article,

hile the article below is just pretend, we wrote the article in the format of a real

Woodword knows that when you report on the news, you need to have "balanced reporting." That means that the reporter includes information from people with different opinions about the news.

SNACK STARS DAILY



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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By Reed Enwright

HOLLYWOOD — In an interview Tuesday, Popcorn declared itself the best movie snack in the world.

"Not to brag, but I'm the best-selling movie snack of all time. Obviously, people really love me!"

While signing autographs for fans, Popcorn added, "I'm crispy, buttery salty and delicious. I've been a movie tradition for generations!"

Red Licorice was asked to comment on Popcorn's statement. "It's true that movies wouldn't be the same without Popcorn," Red Licorice said. "But with all that crunching, Popcorn can be kind of noisy. I'm sweet, tasty and quiet, which is good in a movie theater.'

After hearing Red Licorice's comments, Chocolate Mints said, "I'm quiet, too. And I'm in a box that you can close and



take home if you don't finish during the movie. I'm delicious and convenient.

Dismissing concerns about noise, a confident Popcorn replied that "people with good manners know how to eat popcorn quietly in a movie theater."

"Besides," Popcorn added with a grin, "Chocolate Mints can melt in a warm car ride home. Popcorn never melts."

### New ice cream fla

#### Graph It!

Ask some friends which movie snack they like the best and why. Then write a short article explaining which movie snack is the favorite among your friends. Make a graph to show your results.



Extra! Extra! What's Outside the Picture?

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Look at a photo in the newspaper. Cut it out and glue it in the center of a blank piece of paper. Think about what is outside the edges of the photo. Draw or list what you think is outside what you see in the photo. Standards Link: Use visual cues to understand points of view.

### Choose a Photo The photos that go with a news article can give more information and create a feeling about a news event. Which photo would you choose for the above article? Cut it out and glue it into the box in the article above.

Double Word Search Find the words in the puzzle. **BALANCE** How many of them can you find on this page?

BOX **FRIENDS GRAPH HOME** LICORICE **MELTS** MINTS **NEWS OPINION** POPCORN QUIET **SNACKS TRUE** VIEWPOINT

GNKGRAPHSV SOJQSTEQDL ISTBNCMNX LNNEAIITEP EIAILORRIO M P C U A P O U R P NOKQNWCEFC AESMCEIMXO UOWXEILOJR I R M S L V B H D N

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

# Write On! 🐗 I'm a Mosquito! Write about a mosquito from a mosquito's point of view.

Kid Scoop Together

**Fastest Snack** 

Who will reach the movie theater snack bar first? Race against a family member!

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Standards Link: Understand point of view using view

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