Neenah & Fox Crossing

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INSIDE



Park plans Arrowhead project ideas aired at forum Page 7

Yeast in beer

How one ingredient changes everything Page 6

Golfers teeing off

Zephyrs, Rockets bring talent to the course Page 11

ThedaCare, Froedtert set to merge

Health systems plan agreement by end of year Neenah News

ThedaCare and Milwaukee-based Froedtert Health have signed a letter of intent to combine their medical care organizations into one health system. The two regional entities announced Tuesday that over the next several months they will work on details of a definitive agreement for the combined health system. Pending negotiation of agreements, board of trustee approvals and regulatory approval, the goal is to launch the combined health system by the end of the year. Froedtert Health has six hospitals and other health centers, home care, laboratory, health insurance, employer health services and workplace clinics, and digital health solutions. ThedaCare, with eight hospitals and 180 points of service, delivers care to more than 650,000 residents in 17 counties and with about 7,000 provid-

SEE Merger plans ON PAGE 9



New carpeting for the second floor of the library requires significant shuffling of bookshelves.

Photo by David Hall

Bookshelves on the move at Neenah library

Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library is a hive of activity in the center of the city. Early in the morning cars often line up to return books. Multiple activities happen every day, from ukulele jams to mahjong to yoga sessions.

That popularity has led to the need for a carpeting project that started last year on the first floor and resumed this month. Library staff are diligently moving whole bookshelves on the second floor in preparation for the work at 240 E. Wisconsin Ave.

The 50,000-square-foot building opened in June 2000 at a cost of \$6 million. The project included renovation and renting of temporary quarters, moves to and from the temporary quarters, demolition of the old building, asbestos removal, and building and equipping the new facility.

From the Neenah Public Library's beginnings of serving 6,000 residents, it now has a service population of 46,845 and is the seventh busiest in the state.

The carpet originally installed on both floors was a single piece. This made it challenging to clean and maintain the carpet for more than 20 years. The carpet installed on the first and second floor is carpet squares. This will enable the staff to easily replace worn or damaged carpet. The second floor is about 40% larger than the first floor, making it especially challenging to replace the carpet. Specialized hydraulic equipment is used to lift entire bookshelves and move them to one side of the floor.

The carpet will get ripped out by a contractor and carpet squares will be installed. All the shelving will be moved again and the process repeated for the other side. This provides staff the opportunity to reimagine the layout of the second floor as the new carpet is being installed.

The work is anticipated to be completed by the end of April.

New housing proposal for Shattuck site falls short

School district says

the city rezoning the site for development. The Common Council voted against rezoning in December after hundreds of residents attended meetings and contacted council members to voice their opposition. The primary concerns were that the apartments inside the Shattuck building would attract drug addicts, sex offenders and crime. Andy Dumke of Northpointe repeatedly took up those concerns at council meetings, stating the stringent screening and income requirements that rental applicants would be be enforced / Page 4 subjected to. Mequon-based Lakeside Development became interested in the property in February after some residents took it upon themselves to recruit alternative developers.



sale criteria not met

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District rejected an offer from Lakeside Development to purchase the Shattuck Middle School property at a special Board of Education meeting last week and reiterated its intention to move forward with selling the property to Northpointe Sign ordinance can't

Development. The 27-acre site on Elm

Street will be vacant later this year due to district restructuring with the completion of a new high school in

Fox Crossing.

The district listed the property for sale in early 2021 and only received one offer from Oshkosh-based Northpointe. In July, the district agreed to sell the property to Northpointe, with the sale contingent on

Last month, Lakeside and JG Special Projects submitted an offer to purchase

SEE Shattuck site on Page 8

Neenah News

The future of the 95-year-old Shattuck Middle School and its campus remains undecided with a new development plan rejected.



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

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

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

Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407 karen@oshkoshherald.com



On the hunt

The Village of Fox Crossing hosted an Easter Egg Hunt last Saturday at O'Hauser Park where children worked to fill their baskets with holiday treats. The Easter Bunny also was on hand to greet and talk with visitors.

Doty Island connection being restored

Racine Street bridge prepares for reopening Neenah News

Doty Island is regaining its other

Menasha connection with completion of the new Racine Street bridge, which kept some Twin Cities traffic rerouted and temporary business signs scattered throughout the neighborhood for the past year and a half.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation project manager Bill Bertrand said the bridge opening is set for Wednesday with Menasha city officials planning a 5 p.m. ceremony marking the occasion.

The extra northern access to Neenah-Menasha locations on the island, including ThedaCare medical facilities, will be a welcome return to many residents and businesses.

Multiple delays due to supply-chain and weather issues pushed the bridge's opening to this month as contractors

NEENAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Final drawbridge testing was being conducted ahead of the Racine Street Bridge being reopened next week.

completed balancing and testing of the new drawbridge.

Work began on the \$33 million project in October 2020 and the span closed to traffic the following September, rerouting residents over the Tayco and Washington street bridges.

The project was set to be completed in late 2022 but was delayed to mid-January and then again until this month.

The state Department of Transportation replaced the older span with a new movable bascule design to accommodate Fox River traffic. There is a higher clearance section for boats without opening the bridge.

Menasha Mayor Don Merkes said it will accommodate most boats except sailboats when the dam isn't open.

"When the dams are open the current is very swift there and boats may have difficulty using that area and will go through the regular lift section," he said in a recent Facebook post.

The project also added new roundabouts at the Racine intersection with Main Street on the north side of the river and Ahnaip Street on the south side.

The reconstruction has a slightly different alignment and reconfiguration

Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027 editor@oshkoshherald.com

Corrections

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

About the newspaper

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Band on wheels

The Neenah-Menasha Jaycees band performs on an old fire truck called The Firehouse 5 + 2 in this undated photo. of adjacent intersections.

Improvements include a two-lane movable drawbridge, increased lane widths and shoulder, improved vertical clearance for marine traffic and accommodations for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Correction

APRIL 7, PAGE 4: In a story about the Octagon House, information about its history was misstated. The structure is not four stories and no longer includes a cupola. The first owner of the house was Edward Smith, was not designed by William Waters and was occupied by families until it was purchased in 1993 by the Neenah Historical Society, which was founded in 1948.

Details on the building's history are at www.neenahhistoricalsociety.com.



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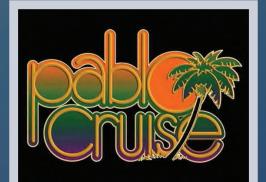




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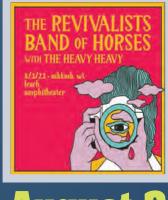
June 29



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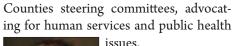
Longtime county board member dies

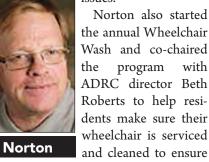
Neenah News

Winnebago County Supervisor Mike Norton, who had served on the county board in south Oshkosh's District 20 since 2000, died April 5 at age 58.

The Oshkosh Police Department conducted a welfare check at Norton's South Main Street home and found him unresponsive. The death is not considered suspicious.

In a statement from County Board Chairman Tom Egan and County Executive Jon Doemel, they said Norton's 23 years of service is the second highest among active board members. He represented the county on Wisconsin Counties Association and National Association of





the annual Wheelchair Wash and co-chaired program with ADRC director Beth Roberts to help residents make sure their wheelchair is serviced and cleaned to ensure

safety.

Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home will be in charge of funeral arrangements.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



LEAVE R-1 ALONE

DON'T REZONE

SHATTUCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Neenah News

Signs opposing a housing development on the Shattuck Middle School property remain up on neighboring residences.

Anti-development signs gain legal ruling support

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

A judge issued a preliminary injunction last week prohibiting the city of Neenah from enforcing its sign ordinance.

The city voluntarily agreed to halt enforcement of the ordinance in February in advance of the judge's ruling in a lawsuit brought on behalf of residents Tim and Megan Florek. The Floreks are represented by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL).

At issue is whether the city's efforts to have signs removed from homes in the Shattuck Middle School neighborhood protesting rezoning efforts for the property as being unconstitutional.

The Common Council voted against rezoning the site to be made into apartments and homes at a meeting in early December. The signs stating "Don't Rezone Shattuck Middle School Leave R-1 Alone" have remained in the yards of dozens of homes to protest any future rezoning efforts.

The Floreks live near Shattuck and were one of about 65 homes who received a letter notifying them that the signs violate city ordinance and giving them until Feb. 8 for removal. Another 10 residents received notices of violation for signs with messaging that was not pertaining to Shattuck.

WILL sent a letter to the city in January, notifying them that the ordinance violates the First Amendment and requesting that 30 on behalf of the Floreks, arguing the city has targeted the Shattuck sign based on its message.

WILL argues that the city's ordinance is unconstitutional because it imposes content-based regulations, with restrictions that vary depending on whether the sign is for construction, political campaigns, promotional, yard sale or subdivision.

WILL Associate Counsel Cara Tolliver cited a 2015 Supreme Court decision in which the court ruled that a city's sign ordinance is not enforceable if it targets specific subject matter for differential treatment.

"This case was decided in 2015 when the United States Supreme Court decided Reed v. Town of Gilbert, Arizona, a case in which the court struck down an ordinance nearly identical to that of the city's here," she said. "It is long past time for local leaders to ensure compliance with the constitution, and WILL is here to ensure that citizens like the Floreks keep their rights."

City Attorney David Rashid said in late January that the city's ordinance is content neutral because it regulates any such signs, regardless of the message appearing on them.

Judge William Griesbach granted a preliminary injunction in favor of WILL last week, preventing the city from enforcing the sign ordinance.

In his ruling, Griesbach noted that signs are a form of expression protected by the

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the city withdraw it.

The city responded by sending the Floreks an amended violation notice, which was substantially the same but with wording removed related to the Floreks' opportunity to display the sign if a rezoning request is filed again in the future.

WILL then filed a federal lawsuit on Jan.



Free Speech Clause and municipalities can only enforce regulations that do not single out any topic or subject matter for deferential treatment.

"For these reasons, defendants appear unlikely to overcome the strict scrutiny standard, and plaintiffs are thus likely to succeed on the merits of their claim that the sign ordinance is an unconstitutional content-based regulation of speech," he wrote.

Tim Florek issued a statement after the ruling.

"The city's sign ordinance is unconstitutional, and we are grateful the court has stepped in to protect our rights while this case moves forward," he said. "This is a good day for freedom and the rule of law."

The judge's ruling is only in relation to the preliminary injunction which will remain in place through the duration of the lawsuit. A telephone conference is scheduled May 8.

Habitat group works to close affordable housing gap

By Cheryl Hentz News contributor

If you've been in the market for a home or apartment recently, you know that home prices and interest rates, as well as rent rates, are mostly through the roof. You may be able to find a deal somewhere, but that's about as easy as finding the proverbial needle in a haystack.

And though some employers are paying as much as \$21 an hour for some fast-food restaurant jobs and other types of work, people still can't keep their head above the affordable housing waters. Besides that, more and more people are being classified as low income. That means more people may qualify for housing through Habitat for Humanity.

"We're seeing more and more people who are in a cost-burdened or extremely cost-burdened state; where maybe half of their paycheck or more is going toward housing," said Eric Cernjar, director of marketing and public relations for the Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity. "We're seeing it all over the coun-



try. I would say that probably the most consistently common concern that people have is how much they're paying for housing in general.

"The need for our type of work has probably never been greater than it is right now. I've

never seen a situation where housing affordability has ever been as extreme as it is right now."

Cernjar said the amount of money left over after people have paid for housing, utilities, food, clothing and education is dwindling.

"When more than a third of your paycheck is going for housing, you have to

Volunteers responsible for Habitat success

2023 marks the 30th year the Fox Cities Habitat has been in existence. It started with just two people and has grown to what it is today.

"We've had several thousand volunteers who have helped support our organization during the past 30 years," Eric Cernjar, director of marketing and public relations with the Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity. "In total, we've had over 80,000 volunteer hours, some of which is by people who volunteer consistently the entire time and some of which were people who volunteered only one time. But collectively, it's impressive what this community has done to stand up together and support those families that are struggling"

They have many "senior" volunteers - those with more seniority than others - including one who has volunteered with Habitat for 25 years and one who has been there the entire 30 years. But whether one year or 30 years, Cernjar said his Habitat affiliate could not do what it does without its volunteers.

"It would be absolutely impossible to do what we do without the volunteers that we have," Cernjar said, adding that the Senior Crew - those who have been there

National Volunteer Week is celebrated during the third week of April to place a spotlight on inspiring people whose invaluable seeds of kindness through volunteering are bettering the community and world.

This significant celebration established in 1974 provides the opportunity to say thank you. It also challenges the community to look for ways to be active participants, join-

the longest and who put in many hours a week, sometimes even two to three days a week - "are the ones who really keep the wheels turning. In addition, many of our corporate sponsors are bringing in their employees for volunteer opportunities.

And those are translating to longtime volunteers, as well. And it's because of the volunteers that we've been able to scale up from building one house every year or two to 16 to 18 houses a year."

There is something for anyone to do. Some volunteers go to the build site and work on construction supervised by professional builders. Not comfortable swinging a hammer? It's okay because there are office and administrative jobs to fill also. Working in Habitat's ReStore facility offers plenty of opportunities for someone who wants to volunteer; or there are spots to fill doing construction logistics and inventory and warehouse jobs.

To make a difference in the community and help people in need, Habitat has a spot for you. No experience is necessary and they'll provide the training. Contact 920-954-8702 or under the Volunteer section of the website at foxcitieshabitat.org.

Volunteer Week highlights selfless work

ing hands to impact communities.

Shining a light on the many volunteers nationwide who take on the needs of individuals and organizations gives a boost to those efforts and a nod to the people who do it without the need to be noticed.

Learn about volunteering or find a volunteer event by going to volunteerfoxcities.org, unitedwayfoxcities.org.

start making some tough decisions about what happens if your car breaks down, if you have a medical emergency, how you pay for groceries, how you'll save for your kid's college education," he said, "or set aside money for a vacation and those kinds of things.

The Fox Cities chapter builds 16 to 18 new homes per year. About one-third are in Neenah. They also do other things during the year, including rehabbing some homes and doing asbestos, lead or mold remediation. But because affordable housing is so hard to find for families earning modest incomes, they plan to increase the number of new home construction to about 20 per year.

"We just received some grant funding – approximately \$1 million – through the Outagamie County's Affordable Housing Grant Program. That will be put toward increasing our capacity over a three-year period, putting our yearly number of new home builds closer to 20 for a few years," Cernjar said. "It's kind of a short-term, one-time, grant-based funding. After those three years, our goal will be to scale up and continue (at that level), even when we use up that funding."

The people they're serving get zero-percent loans and the loan amount is capped at 30 percent of their income.

Habitat houses are meant to be modest, safe, affordable and effective for a family; and they scale up based on the size of the family. But Habitat houses are relatively modest in size on purpose, Cernjar said, adding that they play only one role in working toward resolving the affordable housing problem.

"The need for affordable housing is real

and it's growing. We're trying to be one of the resources that allow hard-working, low-income families to access a safe and affordable place to live," he said. "And we appreciate all the support we can get - whether that's financial contributions, volunteers and whatever else we need. It's going to take all of us to crack this nut. We're here to do so, but we need the help of our community."

Habitat often tries to buy and rehab older homes, and Neenah has a lot of older housing stock. But that is becoming more costly in today's market.

"Buying older homes - like 50 to 100 years old - had been our bread and butter for a while. Traditionally they have been pretty affordable, and we have a handy crew of volunteers and builders who can help us in bringing those homes up to code, making them standard, safe, affordable and in great shape. But it's a lot different now than it was for so many years," Cernjar said.

"A house that we could have bought for \$50,000 six years ago, and put some money into it to improve it, now costs \$100,000 or \$125,000. Then you have to think about everything you're going to have to put into it to turn it around and still make it affordable for that family to be able to afford the mortgage. The math gets a lot harder. You have to look at rehabbing older homes versus doing new construction and figure out which one ultimately makes the most sense. Those numbers have changed quite a bit in recent years."

Anyone wanting to help Habitat in making more affordable housing possible should contact the organization at 920-954-8702 or at foxcitieshabitat.org and on Facebook.







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Yeast is beer's most underappreciated ingredient

Beer is simple. Wonderfully so.

Just four ingredients create the nectar we love so much: water, barley, hops and yeast. That final ingredient, however, historically hasn't received the respect it deserves. In fact, the original version of the Bavarian law — Reinheitsgebot, adopted in 1516 - didn't include yeast, only water, barley and hops.

Officially, yeast was unknown to brewers 500 years ago. Yet, an agent that made beer was regularly transferred to the next batch, so perhaps yeast was seen as a permanent ingredient in the brewing process.

Brewers of old knew of its importance, but a complete understanding of yeast's chemical makeup and how it worked in the fermentation process didn't happen until much later. Today, we'll clear up how yeast works for modern brewers, and explain how a change in yeast can completely alter the characteristics of a beer.

The authors of the "Wife + Husband = Beer" column are not yeast experts - we just love great beer — so we asked one for help. David Hall, also a regular contributor to Neenah News, has studied (literally studied) the use of yeast in the brewing process.

While in graduate school at UW-Madison, a German friend, Walter, invited David to a meeting of the local homebrew club. It was there that they met an up-andcoming brewer named Dan Carey, who shared an experimental batch of beer that was to become Spotted Cow, New Glarus Brewing Company's flagship — and now legendary — beer. How could someone not get hooked after that?

After moving to Appleton to teach biochemistry at Lawrence University, David tried his hand at making cider at home but used a bread yeast in his first recipe. When that produced a "musty" cider, he then tried a champagne yeast, which was equally undrinkable. Those mistakes resulted in disappointing (yet very different) batches, which intrigued David enough to begin exploring yeast's importance in fermenting and brewing.

Along with a colleague who was a professor of computer science and certified



beer judge, David founded a course to explore the brewing process. That team conducted research on beer ingredients, which David found much more satisfying (and tasty) than his biochemistry work on viruses, specifically the common cold.

"The yeast really makes a difference in the flavor (of the beer)," David explains. "Yet, some brewers use a single yeast strain (usually an ale yeast) in all of their beers, regardless of style, and it limits their ability to nail certain styles.

"Take a hefeweizen, for instance. It's got a delicious clove flavor, and that's all the yeast," he said. "It's impossible to achieve any beer style guideline of the BJCP (Beer Judge Certification Program) without using the right yeast." The BJCP app is available for anyone wanting to dive deeper into beer styles, by the way.

The recent fad of pastry stouts is an example of going off-style. "Many beers are cloying, or too sweet, a fault in judges' eyes. The yeast didn't attenuate fully (ferment all the sugars in the wort), or adjuncts were added, such as sugars or artificial sweeteners," David said. However, that unbalance could actually be a conscious decision by the brewer to achieve more sweetness.

The world of beer judging is complex and could possibly be its own Wife + Husband = Beer article someday. The point here is that certified beer judges want to taste specific things that prove a brewer's technical knowledge of ingredients, the brewing process, beer styles and characteristics as well as possible faults in brewing techniques.

"Of all the ingredients (hops, water, barley) that brewers regularly manipulate to create the right taste, they never manipulate yeast," David said. "Making a hybrid yeast strain isn't regularly done in the brewing industry. But perhaps it should, to

Pierce honors longest-serving worker

Pierce Manufacturing marked a special milestone in the company's 110-year history this week by celebrating the first documented 50-year service anniversary of a team member.

Dan Genske, a bar operator in the Bar and Fabrication department, has worked at Pierce since 1973. He and his family were driven by a Pierce fire truck to a ceremony

Tuesday at the company's Appleton facility on McCarthy Road for an event with fellow team members where he was presented with a plaque and custom jacket.

"The celebration is a tribute to Dan's unwavering dedication to the company and highlights how his contributions have been vital to Pierce's success," Pierce officials said in a statement.

produce unique, even proprietary, flavors," he said.

"My hypothesis is that different yeasts produce different flavors based on their mitochondria, or what textbooks call 'the energy powerhouses of the cell.' Mitochondrial membrane potentials are associated with each yeast."

As mentioned, during fermentation yeast breaks down sugars and releases flavor compounds – esters and alcohol – that affect flavor by altering the biochemical pathways.

Okay, that's quite complex. How does that translate into tasting beer? A lager beer ferments at a lower temperature, 40-50 degrees, which alters the metabolic profile of how the mitochondria function, reducing the fruity esters typically present in ale yeast.

"Small amounts of copper are very important to a beer's aroma and flavor when it comes to mitochondrial health," David said.

Plus, copper is a great conductor, evenly distributing heat to improve the brewing process. Too much copper will kill yeast, so it is a balancing act. Yet, it explains why traditional beer kettles are made of copper. When those are unavailable (or too expensive), some brewers throw a small copper pipe into a beer's initial boil to have the same effects.

Even the shape of a fermentation vessel influences the way a yeast processes the sugars in a beer's wort, affecting fermentation and flavor. Conical shapes are common when making beer, but wine yeast behaves differently. A completely cylindrical or onion-shaped fermenter works best for the yeasts used in winemaking.

You can trace lineages of yeast strains back hundreds of years to Belgian and Czech breweries, for instance, that isolated yeasts to produce unique flavors known to those regions. To achieve consistency over the years, brewers will brew a beer, save some yeast, and repitch it into the next



Saturday, April 15

Brews with the Bunny, 5 p.m., Fritsch Park, Fox Crossing

Thursday, April 20

History of Indigenous Voices, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

batch. It's about controlling the process as much as possible, with yeast being the easiest ingredient to control.

However, there is a challenge in treating yeast properly to maximize its performance. A dried yeast needs to be reconstituted to get its biochemistry up and running. Only at that point can it do its thing and make the flavors brewers expect. As David puts it, "Most brewers just take a chunk of yeast and throw it into a batch, which could create some off flavors."

As David found out early on, there are strains of yeast that are best for brewing beer, wine, cider, sake, whiskey and just about any fermented beverage. Over centuries, these have been identified, isolated and used in these various beverages.

Regarding Neenah breweries, it's difficult to determine the yeast(s) that Lion's Tail and Barrel 41 use, and they're likely not sharing any secrets. From what he's tasted, David guesses that well-rounded breweries use at least three yeast strains one each for ales, lagers, and hefeweizens because those all demand specific flavor profiles.

So, let's say a brewery reads this, develops more appreciation for the importance of yeast and wants to introduce a new strain into its brewing processes. How does it do that? A different yeast strain may improve a beer's taste, but it's a change that a brewery's loyal customers may not be expecting. Suddenly changing a beer's flavor is a big reason why breweries shy away from updating what yeast they use.

From ancient Egypt to Bavaria to Neenah, the importance of yeast in brewing beer has been significant, if not always fully understood. Let's hope modern brewers will more passionately explore the possibilities of yeast to produce flavorful and unique beers.

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

Sunday, April 23

Lawrence Jazz Quintet's Giants of Jazz Series (Thelonious Monk), 2 p.m. Neenah Public Library

Monday, April 24

2023 Clean Sweep, 3 p.m., City Garage, 1495 Tullar Road

Thursday, April 27

Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society Kitchen Tour, 10 a.m., five locations

Future Neenah 40th birthday, noon, 135 W. Wisconsin Ave.

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



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

Saturday, April 22

Earth Day Algae Program, 10:30 a.m., Recycling Program, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Have a story idea?

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





Mike Bell (left) of RDG Planning & Design presents the group's work on Arrowhead Park to the city's Parks & Recreation Commission.

Arrowhead Park plan ideas aired at community forum

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

The preliminary master plan for Arrowhead Park was revealed at a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting Tuesday, with the design firm incorporating ideas based on feedback from residents who completed an online survey or attended an open house in March.

Since the 1950s, Neenah has been working to develop Arrowhead. Situated along Little Lake Butte des Morts, the 30-acre park sits atop land created from mill waste from Bergstrom Paper Co.

Future development of the park is currently on hold as the city works with RDG Planning & Design to create a new conceptual master plan.

With the plan expected to be complete in late May, Mike Bell of RDG Planning & Design updated the commission on the proposed site development, answered questions and responded to concerns.

Bell said the community provided feedback on three site concept alternatives titled Connections, Campus and The Edge. The Edge was most popular among residents, with 64% of survey participants favoring it, followed by Connections at 22% and Campus at 14%.

"That connectivity to your downtown is really important," he said. "People wanted to take full advantage of the waterfront. People wanted to feel as if they're really connected well to the downtown." Under the preliminary plan, the northwest section of the park would include natural landscaping, prairie grass, woodland, nature trails and hard service trails. The shoreline would include a boardwalk and sidewalk with potential fishing spots. Bell proposed constructing a bridge over the aggregate crossing to seamlessly connect Arrowhead to Main Street and downtown. The plan includes four primary structures: a utility building for park facilities and infrastructure to take care of the larger park; a four-season community building open year-round for recreation and learning; a destination building such as a pavilion with a capacity of up to 600 people available to rent for weddings and other events; and an amphitheater for concerts and entertainment.

The plan includes playgrounds, gardens, a bike park, celebration lawn, recreation lawn, a restaurant and concessions.

"What we consider to be the main focus is water, nature-inspired, it wants to be connected, recreation for all, hospitality and entertainment," Bell said.

The commission discussed several concerns about the plan, chief among them being how the site will generate revenue to cover costs, upkeep and maintenance, particularly with Neenah's ordinance prohibiting alcohol from parks.

With no fence around the structures, discussion centered on how the amphitheater could be used for concerts and other events requiring tickets.

The city would partner with third-party businesses who would operate the restaurant and concessions, with commission member Ted Galloway questioning the legality of how the city would determine the businesses operating in those locations and whether the city would need to use the bidding process.

It is unknown whether the structures can be built in the proposed areas, as some locations on the property were previously designated as no building zones by the Department of Natural Resources.

Bell said the DNR is a responsive organization and not an initiative organi-

Probation ordered on construction project work

Neenah News

A former Neenah business owner was sentenced to a year of probation last week for accepting payments through his window installation business for contracting work in Winnebago County that he never completed.

Tyler Frantz, 32, pled guilty in Winnebago County Circuit Court on April 3 to a misdemeanor charge of theft by false representation. One count of theft was dismissed.

Frantz operated Wisconsin Windows out of a residential home on Washington Avenue from 2017-2022.

Frantz is accused of accepting about \$50,000 in payments from at least 18 customers in several counties and then either never completing or doing the work correctly.

Frantz was charged with two misdemeanor counts of theft by false representation in Winnebago County last September after several local victims reported him to Neenah police.

Documents indicate one person reported that Frantz stiffed them for \$1,000, another victim lost \$2,000 and an elderly couple was out \$1,240.

"Tyler Frantz will contract to do work for a party, take the down payment and not complete the work," documents say.

Frantz was also charged in Door County with a felony count of theft in a business setting, stemming from a complaint made by Martha Baker of Baileys Harbor.

Baker said in 2021 Frantz accepted \$4,000 to replace windows in her home and never completed the work. His next hearing in that case is May 8.

Frantz was only charged in the cases where victims contacted police. In many of the cases, the victims instead filed small claims lawsuits against him.

Frantz filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy last year, reporting he is nearly \$200,000 in debt. The filing showed 34 creditors including 18 Wisconsin Windows customers with losses totaling \$48,337.

Earlier this year, a judge denied Frantz's request to have his bankruptcy debt discharged because he fraudulently misrepresented his financial affairs.

Among the complaints was that Frantz did not provide a satisfactory explanation for the disposition of the Wisconsin Windows customer debts, failed to disclose required information and gave false testimony.

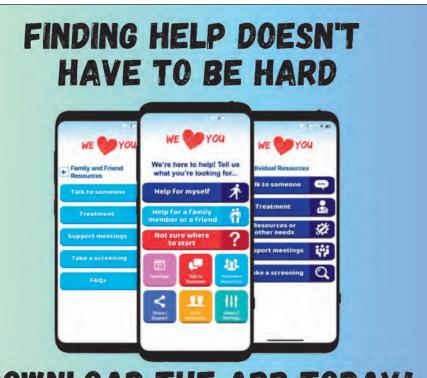
The permanent ban means Frantz will never be able to discharge the Wisconsin Windows customer debts through bankruptcy. None of the customers Neenah News spoke with have been successful in collecting judgments against him.

Frantz has also been charged with five workforce development delinquent and penalty tax warrants totaling about \$16,000.

Dennis Drewa of Neenah, who is out about \$10,000 after Frantz botched a window installation at his home, said he thinks Frantz should be in jail.

"I think he's just a thief," he said. "He needs to reimburse everybody for everything he's done."

Frantz could not be reached for comment.



zation.

"It's not their job to problem solve for you," he said. It's their job to tell us what's wrong with our thinking and we have to have a plan to show them what we're thinking."

It was noted at the meeting that the quality and depth of the water will determine what activities can take place in Little Lake Butte des Morts, as the water is contaminated due to paper mill waste. The commission brainstormed on how rotting algae can be prevented, as its noxious odor is considered a deterrent from visiting the shoreline.

Late next month, RDG will deliver a final master plan, phasing plan, cost estimate and case book to the city. Bell suggested that once the city has approved the master plan, it should evaluate which parts are most important and move forward on taking the necessary steps to complete them.

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April 14, 2023

County panel adds policy on use of electronics

Neenah News

Winnebago County may soon approve a rule outlining the consequences for board supervisors who misuse county-owned electronic devices after a Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting last week.

The measure comes after a county

Shattuck site

from Page 1

Shattuck at \$30,000 more than Northpointe's offer, with the sale including portions of the property not included in the agreement with Northpointe.

Lakeside's proposal included the sale of the adjacent parking lot and the tennis courts, which the district and Neenah Tennis paid about \$300,000 to upgrade. With the inclusion of property not part of the sale, the Lakeside offer was effectively not higher than the Northpointe offer, the school board noted in a press release.

"The board was disappointed in Lakeside's actions to release the plan to the media prior to giving the board an opportunity to review it," the board wrote. "There was also concern about Lakeside's plan having changed since the original proposal."

Northpointe initially planned to construct apartments inside the Shattuck building and duplexes, townhomes and single-family homes at the site. The duplexes and townhomes were eliminated from the plan due to heavy opposition from neighboring residents.

Northpointe's final proposal was to build 89 apartments and 49 single-family homes at the site. A 1.5-acre wet pond board supervisor's iPad privileges were revoked in February and he was removed from committee assignments for using his county-owned iPad to access pornographic websites. Board chair Tom Egan said at that time he was limited in the disciplinary action he could take because county supervisors are elected.

would be installed and 4 acres of green space would be donated to the city to be made into a park.

Lakeside proposed demolishing the historic 95-year-old Shattuck building and constructing 24 duplexes, 24 townhomes and 70 single-family homes. The plan includes three stormwater ponds and less green space than the Northpointe proposal.

Under the Northpointe offer, the Health and Wellness Clinic would remain in place, saving the district more than \$600,000 in relocation and other fees. The Lakeside proposal removes the Health and Wellness Clinic, with no relocation plan or compensation for the district.

The school board noted that the site would still need to be rezoned if Lakeside purchased the property, adding that Lakeside's plan does not align with the goals of Neenah's 2040 comprehensive plan, which calls for a range of housing types for all income levels.

"Lakeside's proposal does not address the complaints of the community, especially with regard to density, multifamily housing and green space," the school board wrote.

The board noted that Northpointe's offer is the only accepted offer for Shattuck. A contract extension gives Northpointe until the end of the month to make a final decision on the sale. When supervisors are issued a device, they sign a computer use policy agreeing that the county's computer system is to be used for business purposes only.

Supervisor Kay Horan of Neenah introduced a resolution last week that would allow the board to disconnect electronic devices and censure supervisors who violate the policy.

According to the resolution, iPads are assigned to county supervisors to use for reading and reviewing meeting material and accessing information pertinent to meeting discussions.

"Winnebago County Board Supervisors hold a position of trust and their behavior should comport with that position of trust," the proposed resolution states.

The resolution goes on to state that

supervisors are prohibited from using county-owned electronic tablets for non-county purposes or business. Violating the policy may result in disconnection or deactivation of county-owned devices and other action, including a resolution of censure.

After a lengthy discussion, the Judiciary Committee recommended that Horan change the policy from a resolution to a rule. Horan also was asked to broaden the rule to include all county-owned electronic devices.

Horan is expected to present the updated proposal at an upcoming Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting. It will then be considered by the full board. If approved, the rule will go into effect immediately.

Equine assistance service keys on Parkinson's

Beaming Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted services in Neenah, has launched a new program titled Steady Strides for Parkinson's.

Studies have shown that equine-assisted services as a support to traditional Parkinson's treatment are effective for improving mobility, cognitive abilities and emotional well-being. The movement of the horse can improve balance, strength, tone, timing, coordination and postural control, which can all lead to improved functional ability.

The Steady Strides program was developed using similar curriculum as Beaming's Riding in the Moment dementia support equine program, which the center has been offering since 2019. Participants groom, walk and can ride horses; engage in mind-body emotions exercises; enjoy educational activities, musical performances and guest presentations; and participate in hands-on projects; while caregivers are able to spend time with their loved ones while meeting a support network of others going through similar challenges.

The barn environment and activities are designed to help participants engage in the social gathering and experience the benefits of interacting with the animals and new friends. All activities take place with Beaming staff and trained volunteers.

All dementia support equine programs are offered to residents at no cost through donors and grant support.

The Steady Strides program will begin May 8. Additional sessions will be held June 12 and July 10, with more sessions to be scheduled later this year. To register, contact Katie Samuelson, Beaming center director, at 920-851-6160 or incbeaming@gmail.com.



Neenah Powerlifting Club on a great season 2023 National Powerlifting Champions! **The Rockets are National Champs in:** Girls Raw • Girls Equipped Boys Raw • Boys & Girls Raw Combined



Photo by David Hall

Game focus

Neenah library director Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm (left) takes part in the regular Wednesday evening Mah Jong Meetup in the Storytelling Room at the library. All skill levels are welcome to play between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. A few mah jongg sets are provided, along with cards, and visitors are welcome to bring theirs.

Future Neenah marking 40 years

Future Neenah Inc. is celebrating 40 years as the Neenah area's quality-of-life organization.

The organization was incorporated April 27, 1983, with its original goal being downtown revitalization, but in the early 1990s expanded its scope into the greater Neenah community.

Future Neenah's services and programs fall into three main categories: economic development, community partnerships and community events. The Future Neenah motto is, "Our future, Our Neenah."

Future Neenah will be celebrating on the official anniversary date at noon April 27 at its 135 W. Wisconsin Ave. offices with remarks by executive director Brent Bowman, board members and longtime supporters. There will be cake and the opening of a time capsule that has been hidden since 2003. The public is welcome to attend.

Future Neenah will also host a 40th Anniversary Gala in the fall.

"As the organization charged with programming the city and ensuring a vibrant downtown, we look forward to adding to the cultural opportunities and experiences as we look forward to the next 40 years," Bowman said.

Merger plans

from Page 1

ers and team members.

"ThedaCare and Froedtert Health have a commitment to the people of Wisconsin," said Dr. Imran A. Andrabi, ThedaCare president and chief executive. "We are alike in many ways, and our leaders and our boards have long been asking how we can accelerate our work to make a positive and lasting impact on our state. We have a shared vision for what we can do together to improve the health and well-being of the communities and be proactive partners in health."

The organizations have an existing partnership that includes the Medical College of Wisconsin and joint ventures to create two new health campuses, including a hospital project in central Oshkosh announced in October. That facility is expected to include about 58,000 square feet with an estimated \$76 million investment.

"Both of our organizations have deep, long-standing ties in the communities we serve. Our Wisconsin roots have been instrumental in building creative solutions to meet our communities' health needs," said Cathy Jacobson, president and CEO of Froedtert Health. "The Medical College of Wisconsin will continue to be an important partner in our work together."

Leaders of the two health care systems said the combined organization will provide more access to comprehensive care in urban, suburban and rural areas, be based in Wisconsin and be governed by a parent board composed of current board members from both organizations. The brand names of the existing organizations will continue.

The initial parent board will have 18

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ThedaCare and Froedtert have announced plans to merge by the end of this year.

members, including the presidents and chief executives of Froedtert Health and ThedaCare. The initial board chair will be Jud Snyder, Froedtert Health's vice chair and chair-elect. The initial vice chair will be Jim Kotek, ThedaCare's board chair.

Jacobson will initially assume the role of chief executive, and Andrabi will serve as president. After a six-month transition period, Jacobson will retire from the organization and Andrabi will assume that role.

Several leaders of both organizations will elevate to serve as executive officers of the combined organization:

• Thomas Arquilla, chief strategy officer of ThedaCare, will serve as chief growth officer.

• Scott Hawig, chief financial and administrative officer and treasurer of Froedtert Health, will serve as chief financial officer.

· David Olson, chief business development officer of Froedtert, will serve as chief business development officer.

• Dr. Ian Schwartz, executive vice president and chief clinical officer of Froedtert, will serve as chief clinical officer.

• Mark Thompson, chief operating officer and chief financial officer of ThedaCare, will serve as chief transformation investment officer.



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Prep sports roundup

<u>SOFTBALL</u>

Vogel delivers clutch hit in Zephyrs win

Chloe Vogel smacked a two-out, tworun single in the fifth inning to break a tie game as St. Mary Catholic collected a 3-1 win over Reedsville in a Big East Conference softball game Tuesday.

With two outs in the fifth inning and the score tied at 1, a single by Adel Schneider and walks to Allie Strande and Sammi Weiss loaded the bases. Vogel then followed with a single to center field that plated the two runs for the winning margin.

St. Mary Catholic tallied two of their three hits in the decisive fifth inning. Weiss also picked up a hit in the game.

The Zephyrs first run came in the third inning when Addie Moder scored on Schneider's ground out.

Neveah Saringer scattered seven hits, while allowing just one run. She struck out nine and did not walk a batter.

Knuth belts two homers in Rockets victory

The Rockets jumped to a 9-0 lead after the first two innings and rolled to a 15-3 win over Appleton North in a Fox Valley Association game.

Neenah scored three runs in the first inning, highlighted by a two-out, tworun home run from Savanna Knuth. The Rockets then added six runs in the second inning with Quinn Marnocha collecting a two-run single and Bella Coulman and Keira Tech each driving in a run.

Neenah added a single run in the fifth and then salted the game away with four runs in the seventh as Knuth belted her second two-run home run of the game, and Parker Zipperer and Morgan Harwood each picked up RBIs.

Coulman and Marnocha each finished with three hits in the game, while Harwood and Knuth added two. Harwood struck out eight and allowed just two earned runs in six innings to get the win.

BASEBALL Mackenzie hurls gem to lead St. Mary Catholic

Fisher Mackenzie hurled a two-hit shutout to lead the Zephyrs to a 4-0 win over Reedsville in a Big East baseball game on Tuesday.

Mackenzie threw the complete game on just 80 pitches, walking just one, while striking out eight.

The Zephyrs backed Mackenzie with a single run in the second before breaking things open with a three-run fifth inning.

Mackenzie also paced St. Mary Catholic at the plate, pacing the team's 10-hit attack by going 3-for-3 with an RBI. Aidan Birling and Ethan Plutz each added two hits and drove in a run.

Neenah comes up short against Appleton North

AJ Price and Will Sorenson each tallied two hits to lead Neenah, although the Rockets came up short in a 3-2 loss to Appleton North on Tuesday.

Neenah took a 1-0 lead in the third inning, but the Lightning struck for three runs in the bottom of the sixth to take the lead. The Rockets came back with one run in the top of the seventh but couldn't catch the Lightning.

Beckett Davidson struck out four in 5 1/3 innings but took the loss for Neenah. **SOCCER**

Neenah loses hard-fought tussle with Wildcats

The Rockets were shut out for the second time in as many games to start the season, falling to Oshkosh West 1-0 on Tuesday.

The Wildcats scored in the 10th minute to take the lead but would not muster any-

more against Neenah.

The Rockets finished with six shots on goal.

<u>TRACK & FIELD</u> Neenah girls, boys collect FVA triangular wins

Both the Neenah boys and girls track and field teams pick up wins at a Fox Valley Association triangular meet Tuesday.

The girls scored 85 points to edge Appleton North by seven points, while the boys scored 87 points to outdistance Appleton North which finished second with 57 points.

Lilly Granditzke won a pair of events to lead the girls, while the Rockets dominated the distance events at the meet.

Granditzke won the 200 meters while also finishing first in the long jump. In the distance events, Rachel Dietrich and Mazie Olkowski finished 1-2, respectively, in the 800 meters, Olkowski and Lauren Tears were first and second in the 1,600 meters and Clare Gloudemans won the 3,200 meters.

Lydia Delene had a strong night in the throws placing first in the shot put and second in the discus, while Nadia Marchionda won the triple jump.

The Rockets also won the 800- and 3,200-meter relays.

Adding second-place finishes for the Rockets were Julia Rangel in the 100 meters, Meredith Warner in the 400 meters, Madyson Simonis in the 100-meter hurdles, Annalise Zenzick in the 300-meter hurdles, and Ava Schalow in the high jump.

Eight different Neenah boys won events, with Grant Dean leading the way with victories in the 100 meters and the long jump.

Ethan Snider in the 200 meters, Charles Fredrickson in the 400 meters, Alex Thayer in the 800 meters, Jack Dorner in the 1,600 meters, Blake Dietzen in the discus, Connor Briones in the high jump and Trevor McGinnis in the pole vault also picked up wins for Neenah.

Earning second-place finishes for the Rockets were Wyatt Armock in the 1,600 meters, Nolan Smith in the 3,200 meters and Dietzen in the shot put.

Neenah also had a strong showing in the relays, placing first in the 800-meter, 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

Zephyrs girls, boys take third at Mishicot

Both the St. Mary Catholic girls and boys track and field teams finished third at an eight-team event hosted by Mishicot.

The girls were led by their brigade of distance runners as Lauren Ripley took first in the 1,600 meters, while Addison Dinka and Katharine Schoeni grabbed the top two spots, respectively, in the 3,200 meters. The Zephyrs then finished first in the 3,200-meter relay.

Nolie Anderson picked up St. Mary Catholic's other win for the girls, dominating the discus throwers at the meet to finish first by about 18 feet.

Norah Lee in the 400 meters and Gabby Ruback in the 200-meter hurdles, each finished second, while Ruback in the triple finished third. Madeleine Breen in the high jump and Dinka in the pole vault each tied for third.

Charlie Nackers highlighted the boys performances as the senior was a part of three wins. Nackers finished first in the 100 meters and high jump and then also ran a leg on the Zephyrs' winning 400-meter relay team.

Nackers led a 1-2-3 finish in the 100 meters with Dylan Dwyer taking second and Harry Higgins finishing third.

The Zephyrs were also strong in the pole vault where Ashton Post took second, while Higgins and Alexander Groppel tied for third. Post in the 200 meters and Groppel in the 800 meters were each third.





Senior-laden Zephyrs aim Talented Tigers hand to make noise this season

Neenah News

In one of the toughest WIAA Division 3 golf sectionals last season, St. Mary Catholic certainly made its presence felt, but it just wasn't enough to get the entire Zephyr crew to state.

The good news for the Zephyrs is that all five golfers - including state medal winner Spencer Lynch - return from that team and could be in contention again to make some noise when the postseason

Golf OUTLOOK

as in the talent-laden Big East Conference. First-year head

rolls around as well

coach Jac Johnson said that his team has progressed through the early-season practices and said he has no ceiling for what this team can achieve in the Big East Conference.

"In two weeks, I've seen dramatic changes so there is no predicting where these kids could finish," Johnson wrote in an email to the Neenah News. "... these kids improve each week both physically and mentally as golfers, making better decisions around the course and putting better swings on the ball."

It all starts with Lynch, who finished second in a sectional that included golfers from state powerhouses Kohler, Cambridge, Roncalli and St. Mary's Springs. He lost in a playoff for medalist honors.

Lynch then went on to tie for fifth at the state meet where he shot a 155 and finished five shots behind state champion Trey Oswald of Parkview.

"Spencer obviously benefits from each tournament he plays in, but his success comes from the hard work he puts in outside of the school golf season," Johnson com-

mented. "I have no doubt he'll return (to state), but our goal is to get there as a team."

The Zephyrs appear to have the talent and depth to put themselves into position to challenge for a state berth.

Seniors Dane Anderson, Danny Griffith and Cole Uhlenbrauck are expected to join Lynch in the varsity lineup, while there are a number of candidates that could round out the squad.

Senior Evan Bengel played at last year's sectional for the Zephyrs, while junior Elthon Moschea was in the varsity lineup for St. Mary Catholic's season-opening event.

Johnson also listed senior Lily Hansen, junior Nate Pable and sophomore Dawson Radosevich as varsity candidates.

Neenah looking to reload varsity lineup

Only one golfer returns from Neenah's lineup that came within four shots of making a state trip last season.

Senior Sam Coulthard played in the No. 4 spot for the Rockets a year ago and will be one of three seniors that head coach Craig Geerts will be relying on to lead the squad. In addition to Coulthard, seniors Luke Abing and Blaise Beckman form a strong nucleus for the Rockets to build around.

Geerts will have a number of golfers vying for the final varsity spots and believes that senior Tucker Brackin, sophomores Dominik Clark and Calvin Zinda and freshmen Nathan Putula and Gavin Eaton will be in the mix.

The Rockets lost only two FVA dual meets last season and despite the roster turnover entering this year, Geerts believes this group could earn another topthree finish in the conference.



Zephyrs Big East loss

By Dustin Riese News contributor

A rough second half for the St. Mary Catholic soccer team led to a 6-0 loss to ninth-ranked Howards Grove in a Big East soccer match Tuesday night.

"The effort is there and that will never be a question with these girls, we are just a young team that is learning," head coach Andy Paroubek said. "We played the ninth-ranked team in the state and they had many more experienced players than we do at the current time in this point of the season."

Having a young team has its advantages as it gives you plenty to work with for the future. However, there are some disadvantages and those showed up Tuesday against the more experienced Tigers.

The Zephyrs offense had a hard time getting anything going consistently, and once the Tigers found a weakness they exploited it, which happened in the second half.

Howards Grove struck fast in the second half, scoring three goals in the first 13 minutes to turn a 2-0 lead into a five-goal cushion.

Paroubek credits the type of program the Tigers have for their ability to make things happen.

"Today's results are what they are and we cannot change that," Paroubek said. "They

Classifieds

found a weakness in our defense, and we were unable to adjust. What we can do is look to improve on a few items from today that we can correct. This should allow for less simple scoring opportunities."

Once the Zephyrs managed to weather that brief storm to begin the second half, the defensive unit of Audrey Norville, Erin Bahn and Mackenzie Barmash-Turner began to take Howards Grove off their rhythm.

It was the same effort in the first half that limited the Tigers to two goals.

Howards Grove managed to score their sixth and final goal with about four minutes left to secure the 6-0 win.

Audrey Wanless tallied St. Mary Catholic's best scoring chance in the 13th minute, but Howards Grove was able to fend off the opportunity and keep the Zephyrs' offense at bay the rest of the way.

"In time, we can correct a few of our issues and build upon better results for (the future)," Paroubek said. "The ultimate goal is to be playing our best soccer heading into the playoffs. While losses like this do hurt, they will make us better when it matters and that is what our goal is going forward."

The Zephyrs will host Wrightstown in a nonconference contest at 10 a.m. Saturday before traveling to Waupaca on Tuesday.

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Garage/Estate Sales

way too many items to list. House, garage and basement. Cash only. Price reductions on Saturday

Miscellaneous

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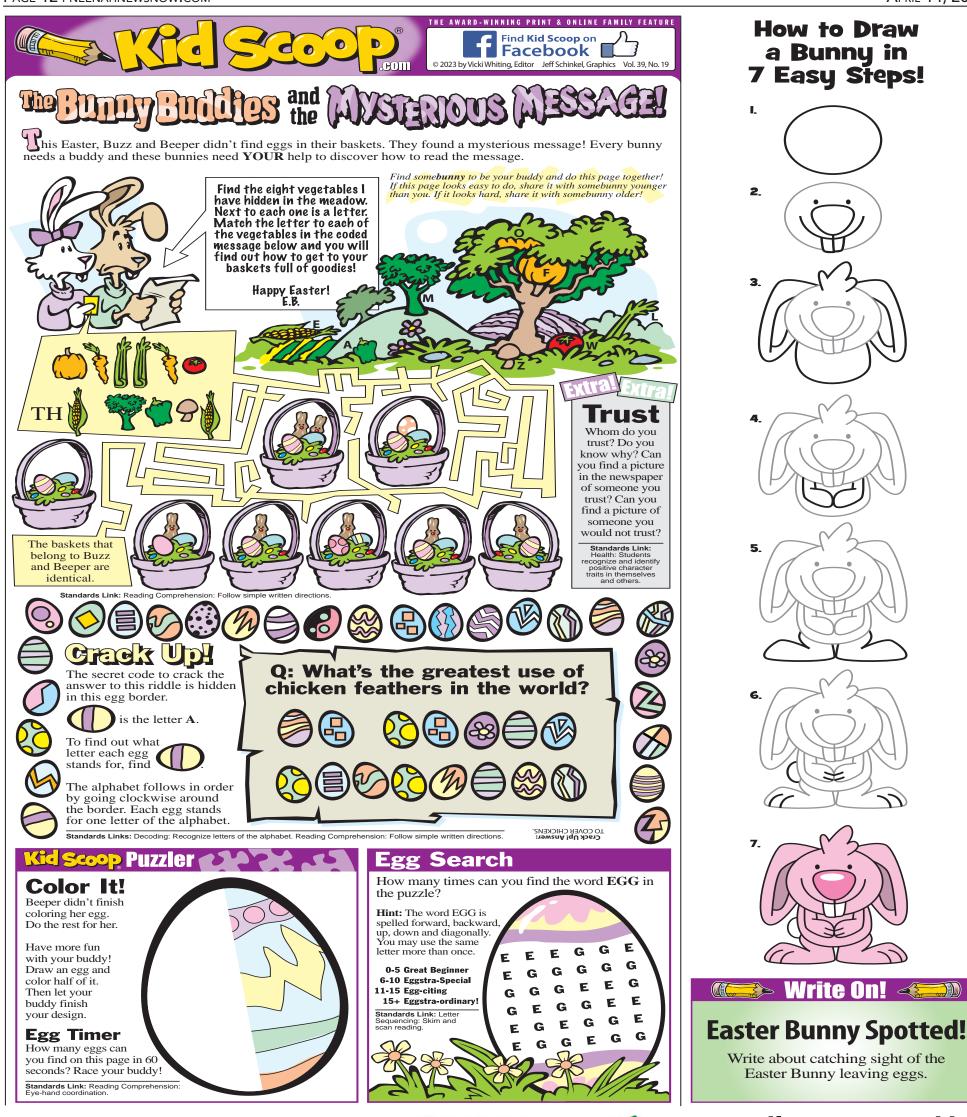
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