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Image from Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

A two-dimensional art mockup created by Michelle Sharp of Farmers City Studio in Neenah is being used by Fused By Numbers participants to recreate the work in glass.

Historic artwork sparks female collaboration

Fused By Numbers project ready to make connections

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass is offering a free community program for women to create a fused glass mural throughout the year, with the final piece honoring inspirational women from Wisconsin.

The Kimberly-Clark Corp. provided two grants to the Bergstrom-Mahler meant as a way to connect women to glass art during the height of COVID-19.

Education and community program manager Kourtney Kositzke said the initial plan was to use the grant funds to offer a virtual way for women to connect by providing take-home art kits.

"A lot of statistics during COVID showed

that there was a large group of women suffering from mental health concerns, so we really wanted to help during that time and the present time," she said. "We feel that art is a healing form for mental health concerns."



Kositzke

With most pandemic-related restrictions now lifted, Kositzke and studio manager Taylor Moeller-Roy came up with the concept for Fused By Numbers.

"Many women and girls have been greatly impacted by the myriad effects of COVID-19," Kositzke said. "The program provides a much-needed gathering space for women and girls to learn from each other,

SEE **Art project** ON PAGE 8

Police calls, crime stats reviewed

Overdose deaths up from last year's pace

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A newly released report from the Neenah Police Department shows calls for service decreased by about 10% during the first quarter of 2023 compared with last year, while fatal overdoses are on the rise.

Police responded to 5,516 calls in the first three months of 2023; with 741 of those calls attributed to traffic stops.

The percent of crimes against property, people and society remained largely the same, at 49%, 26% and 25%, respectively. 232 people were arrested during the first quarter of 2023, compared with 229 arrests this time last year.

It was noted in the report that a traffic safety officer was added in May 2022, with responsibilities that include moving radar units, conducting Flock training, leading the Bike Patrol and assisting on major accidents or emergency calls requiring additional units.

Traffic citations decreased by 53% to 306 in the first quarter of 2023. Parking citations also decreased from 904 in the first quarter of 2022 to 490 this year, a difference of 46%. The greatest number of parking tickets were issued in Silver Lot at 119 W. Doty Ave., Blue Lot at 214 S. Church St. and to vehicles parked on West Wisconsin Avenue.

The city saw a sharp 73% increase in reportable automobile accidents, from 80 in the first quarter of 2022 to 138 this year. Eight people were arrested for operating while intoxicated, compared with 14 at this time last year.

Overdoses continue to be a leading cause of death countywide. There have been four fatal overdoses, with one toxicology report pending, already this year. Last year's data showed only one fatal overdose in the first quarter.

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Court reporting demands create new digital path

FVTC program looks to fill ongoing demand

By Kaitlyn Scoville
NEENAH NEWS

Digital court reporters have been called to action to offset the continuing shortage of stenographers either through retirement exacerbated by the pandemic or low graduation rates for the certified profession.

Fox Valley Technical College began a one-year digital court reporter program in mid-2020 to help offset the ongoing threat to courtrooms that are required to be on the record.

Alongside traditional stenography is a digital recording alternative that is slowly but steadily growing into an important complement to secure the court record and offer a more mobile model for filling a need statewide and nationally.

FVTC was among the first in the nation to meet a demand for this, and Winnebago County is the first to reap the benefits as FVTC's first graduate of the one-year program is working out of Oshkosh to serve courtrooms there and elsewhere in the five-county 4th Judicial District.

Jeff Meverden, FVTC's department chairman for paralegal and related pro-

grams, said casual conversations with friends and associates from the legal profession sparked his interest in developing the curriculum. Matching career trends with trades and industries is something the college keys on as an education priority.

"I'm kind of pre-programmed after working at (FVTC) for so many years that when you see a need for employees that's kind of what the technical college does," said Meverden, who was a private practice attorney before joining FVTC in 2001. "It fills in those holes."

He was able to develop the technical diploma curriculum with the help of his

paralegal advisory committee in a short-time frame than other programs usually take, with a "digital court reporter" title to make it more specific than the court system's digital audio recorders (DAR) label.

"If I created a program for digital audio recording, I would probably have every wannabe music maker taking the course," Meverden joked.

The 27-credit curriculum focuses on court reporting fundamentals, hardware training and maintenance, transcription skills, other standard information software and lab classes where students

SEE **Court reporting** ON PAGE 8

Neenah News

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County gains more opioid funding

Neenah News

Winnebago County was among 22 counties and three tribal nations awarded \$8 million in grants this week by the state Department of Health Services (DHS) to help fund treatment related to the problem use of opioids or stimulants through September.

Winnebago County will receive \$313,422 from the DHS to be used to connect people to treatment approaches that include approved medications—buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone—as well as therapy and other recovery supports.

“Improving access to treatment is a critical part of our plan to reduce the hurt and heartbreak caused by the epidemic of problem drug use we’re living with state-

wide,” DHS Secretary-designee Kirsten Johnson said in making the announcement. “These grants will enable our local partners to remove the financial barriers to effective treatment, allowing more people to experience the promise of recovery.”

People with an opioid or stimulant use concern in need of financial assistance or other support to access treatment should contact the county Health Department or human services agency.

The grant awards are funded by Wisconsin’s nearly \$34 million share of the latest installment of the two-year State Opioid Response Grant Program through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The money is part of the \$400 million the state is receiving in annual install-

ments through an agreement with major pharmaceutical firms. \$130 million of the total amount goes to the state through the DHS, while the remaining 70% is to be divided among counties and municipalities.

DHS director of opioid initiatives Paul Krupski said the funding plan was developed with input from more than 4,000 state residents through a survey that he said captured opinions from all professional sectors related to the crisis.

The County Board decided in February that any funds received after attorney fees go into its Opioid Abatement Account. County Executive Jon Doemel is chairman of the Wisconsin Counties Association’s Ad Hoc Task Force on Opioid Abatement Strategies and District Attorney Eric Sparr serves on the panel.

Stamp Out Hunger effort set to deliver

Neenah News

Local mail carriers are hoping to have more work to do in their delivery areas when the Stamp Out Hunger food drive returns May 13 in an annual national effort to restock area food banks.

Conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), it is the largest one-day food drive in the country. Since 1991, mail carriers have been picking up and delivering nonperishable food items that residents place by their mailboxes.

The pandemic took away the food drive’s momentum nationally by preventing two years of collections before it could be revived. Neenah mail carrier and NALC Branch 700 union president Dustin Clark said the normal 10,000 to 17,000 pounds collected locally dropped to about 750 pounds last year.

“With last year’s numbers that really hurt (food banks), so we’re just trying to do everything that we can that’s possible to try to get the word out,” said Clark. The Neenah Post Office serves about 30,000 customers in the area.

Stamp Out Hunger and the Boy Scouts drive in March make up significant sources for food banks each year. Among the many local volunteer groups that help are the United Way, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, National Guard units, veterans groups, Boy/Girl Scouts, Rotary clubs and AARP groups.

Clark, who has been a local carrier for more than a decade, said his co-workers take a personal interest in the food collection that serves customers they see every day.

“We deliver to every single address and we’re in the community, so we know there’s a need for it,” he said.

The NALC’s national effort to help fight



NALC photo

The annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive returns May 13 through local mail carriers.

hunger in America started with a pilot drive in 10 cities in 1991 that immediately expanded. In 2010, the drive surpassed the 1 billion pound mark in food collected over its history.

Contact a local letter carrier representative, email fooddrivesocial@nacl.org or Stamp Out Hunger on social media for more information. The Neenah Post Office can be reached at 920-725-0577.

Program offers gardening tips

Master gardeners Deby Voyles and Dan Higgins present the fundamentals of garden design in a free program called Suburban Homesteading-Garden Design and Landscaping at 6:30 p.m. May 4 at the Neenah Public Library.

Participants can learn to create a cohesive and functional layout, select appropriate plants and incorporate features such as paths, borders and seating areas, and gain ideas for adding interest and visual appeal through color, texture and focal points.

For more information, contact 920-886-6315, email Library@neenahlibrary.org or visit neenahlibrary.org.



Neenah Historical Society photo



At the plate

Young boys take part in baseball practice at Neenah’s Washington Park in the late 1940s.

High school resource officer agreement remains pending

Police staffing efforts shift to Fox Crossing

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

With only four months left until the grand opening of the newly constructed Neenah High School, the village of Fox Crossing has yet to secure an agreement with the Neenah Joint School District for two school resource officers (SROs) at the high school.

The district has been in negotiations with Neenah and Fox Crossing since last year over the SRO agreement. The position, formerly called a school liaison officer, is responsible for law enforcement activities during school hours and improving school safety.

Historically, Neenah police supplied one SRO at the high school and one for the middle and elementary schools. With the new high school situated in Fox Crossing, village police will be responsible for supplying SROs at the school.

Once the high school is complete, the district will reconfigure, and Neenah police will be responsible for supplying SROs at the one middle school, nine elementary schools and one 4-year-old kindergarten elementary school in Neenah.

The district hesitated at funding two Neenah SROs and two Fox Crossing SROs due to the added expense and staffing. In February, Neenah entered into an agreement with the district to supply two SROs at the middle and elementary schools, with the city picking up a greater share of the costs.

Under the contract, the district will pay 75% of the costs for two SROs for 39 weeks of the 52-week school year. Neenah will fund the remaining 13 weeks, an estimated \$50,000.

Village of Fox Crossing Manager Jeff Sturgell said the village has included funds

in its 2023 budget to place two SROs at the high school, along with the necessary equipment, based on the formula the district previously used with Neenah, with the district reimbursing the village 75% of the cost of the two SROs for the 52-week school year.

It was noted at a meeting last year that the biggest change to the Fox Crossing police department's 2023 budget is the onboarding of the two SROs at the high school, as the officers will need vehicles, weapons, shields, tactical helmets and other equipment to perform their duties.

Sturgell said in January that the village hoped to secure an SRO agreement with the district by the end of March.

"The village was in discussions with the school district to finalize the contract, but unfortunately, the school district has not responded to the village's proposal since January," he said.

Sturgell said the village sent another letter to the district earlier this month, but had not yet received a response other than an acknowledgement that the district received the letter.

Communications director Jim Strick said there are no updates on the district's SRO agreement with Fox Crossing, as negotiations are ongoing.

A public tour of the new school, scheduled for late March, was canceled due to concerns over a lack of proper fire safety equipment.

The new \$171 million high school is being constructed on a 220-acre site on County II. The two-story school will have 460,000 square feet of occupiable space, making it the second largest high school in the state.

Photos and videos of the high school are on the Forward Together page at neenah.k12.wi.us/forward-together.cfm.

The new Neenah High School is expected to be complete by July 5, with a public dedication and grand opening set for Aug. 13.



Neenah News

The next tenant coming to the former Shopko building on Green Bay Road is a Big Lots retail store.

Retail chain selects former Shopko site

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A Big Lots store is the newest business moving in at the former Shopko location in Neenah after a developer purchased the building in 2021.

Ohio-based Big Lots has more than 1,400 stores in 47 states; selling furniture, food, home decor, clothing, seasonal items, electronics, toys and gifts. The only Big Lots in the Fox Valley is on College Avenue in Appleton, with nearby locations in Green Bay and Fond du Lac.

A project listed in Construction Journal indicates the developer was accepting bids for a Big Lots at the former Shopko at 699 S. Green Bay Road, with construction expected to start last month.

A Big Lots was formerly situated in the 900 block of South Green Bay Road but closed in 2010 and demolished in 2011. A Goodwill store opened at the site in 2014 and an Aldi grocery store opened in 2016.

Shopko filed for bankruptcy and closed all locations in 2019. Brothers Phil and Larry Langohr of AIG Properties purchased the 94,000-square-foot Neenah building for \$1.6 million in 2021. The Langohrs own

the adjacent Festival Foods building and completed development on the Walmart and Kohls on the city's west side.

The Langohrs are redeveloping the former Shopko under the name Spring Creek Center II. Since purchasing the Neenah location, the building has been under construction, with the Langohrs transforming it from a single retail store into a building which will hold up to seven tenants.

A Planet Fitness opened in the building last year. A Noodles & Company constructed on a new lot south of the main entrance is set to open May 10.

In January, Community Development director Chris Haese said the Langohrs had secured two additional tenants for the site and were close to securing a third, which would leave two small spaces available in the building.

A Big Lots corporate representative confirmed this week that it will open a location at that address later this year. Phil Langohr did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The city is providing an annual assistance payment totaling \$950,000 to help rehab the Shopko building for new tenants.

Bell Street shooting leads to arrest

Neenah News

Neenah police arrested a person in connection with a shooting that took place in the 100 block of West Bell Street on Sunday night.

Around 8:30 p.m. April 23, police responded to a report of gunshots heard at the Bell Street residence. A victim with gunshot wounds was later located in the 1100 block of South Commercial Street.

A post in the Fox Valley Scanner and Local News Facebook page indicates the victim sustained a gunshot wound to the

left back side of the body. The victim was sitting in a vehicle in the Marco's Pizza parking lot while an officer applied pressure to the wound.

Police said a person of interest in the shooting was detained and the public was not in danger. No additional information was released due to the active investigation.

Anyone with additional information about the incident is asked to contact the Investigative Services Unit at 920-886-6000 and reference 23-006140.



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Group works on pathways for post-prison life

By Kaitlyn Scoville
NEENAH NEWS

You have the right to not remain silent. Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing (EXPO) of Wisconsin recently visited the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh as part of a project for an applied sociology course taught by professor Paul Van Auken. The focus of one of his groups was recidivism, or the tendency for formerly incarcerated individuals to reoffend.

Since 2014, EXPO has worked to end mass incarceration, eliminate all forms of structural discrimination against formerly incarcerated people and restore formerly incarcerated people to full participation in their communities. It then became a 501(c)(3) organization in 2021.

EXPO functions as an extended family, a community where every member helps others. Everyone is both a giver and a receiver in an "each-one-teach-one" process.

They are value-based in a solid traditional faith/family value system that stresses the work ethic, mutual restitution, personal and social accountability, responsibility, decency, integrity and caring for others in a mutually beneficial approach.

In addition, courts and the Department of Corrections have made it clear a person



Neenah News

Dante Cottingham, Marianne Oleson and Jeffrey Watson participated in a panel discussion at UW Oshkosh to discuss their experiences being incarcerated in the state prison system.

who has been sentenced for a felony conviction loses their right to vote. The statewide organization strives to help formerly incarcerated people regain their rights after completing a sentence.

Among the group in attendance was EXPO's Fox Valley chapter president and executive assistant Marianne Oleson. She served seven years in state prison and is on supervision until 2040.

"It's all just analytics to shed some light

on what's going on in our criminal justice system and hopefully move the needle a little bit for some change," Oleson said.

Only 20% of Wisconsin prisons provide college courses and 44% provide vocational training. Forty percent of people released from prison return within a year; Wisconsin ranks 23rd in the country with a rate of 31%.

Since 1980, according to the Vera Institute of Justice, Wisconsin has increased

the incarceration rate of women by 897%. The Sentencing Project also notes that Wisconsin, for the second time in 10 years, has incarcerated black men at a higher rate per capita than any other state.

"They can keep you forever, and they typically do," EXPO member Jeffrey Watson said. "The fact that we sit here is a miracle. There's a lot of men and women who benefit from being connected to people who understand. I absolutely love doing what I do and I'm extremely thankful for that."

Oleson said Wisconsin's length of sentences are third highest in the Midwest, sixth highest in the nation.

"It doesn't feel like rehabilitation, it feels more like a setup," she added.

The organization also continues work fighting bills that further penalize incarcerated individuals, such as one last year that said if someone with a child under age 12 was incarcerated for four years or more, they would permanently lose custody.

"EXPO killed that monstrous bill," Oleson said.

They have also begun a Safe Housing Network out of Madison that will help formerly incarcerated people resettle safely into society.

Dangers of distracted driving highlighted

More than 10,000 crashes involve distracted driving every year in Wisconsin. Preliminary numbers show 40 people were killed and more than 2,700 were hurt in distracted driving crashes in 2022.

The state Department of Transportation's newest safety campaign aims to put a face to those statistics, featuring close call stories from the workers who are most at risk when a driver becomes distracted on the roads.

In a new video advertisement, State Patrol Trooper David Yang shares his experience when his parked cruiser was side swiped by a semi on the interstate. The driver had briefly looked away from the road ahead.

"Trooper Yang was just inches from a serious injury or even death that day," Bu-

reau of Transportation Safety and Technical Services Director David Pabst said. "We ask drivers to remember that Wisconsin's law enforcement officers, first responders, and maintenance workers are in danger every day they go to work. Safely operating a motor vehicle always requires a driver's full attention."

State law prohibits the use of a handheld mobile device when driving through a construction zone and emergency or roadside response areas. Drivers with an instructional permit cannot use a phone at all and texting is banned for all drivers in any location.

Anything that takes a driver's attention off the road is considered a distraction, including cell phones or other electronics, eating, and even passengers.

Wild Ones prepares for annual plant sale

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area is holding its annual native plant sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 20 at the Wild Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road, Neenah.

Starting a native garden or adding natives to an existing garden helps pollinators and attract birds. They have evolved with Wisconsin natives and provide the most benefit.

There will be plants for different habi-

tats, including host and nectar plants for monarchs, trilliums for woodlands, other flowers, grasses and ferns. The plants are nursery-propagated in 4-inch pots, and Wild Ones members will help pick out appropriate plants.

Check foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/resources for plant lists and preferred habitat and contact wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com with questions.

Public library calendar

May 3

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

May 4

5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night

6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

6:30 p.m.: Suburban Homesteading-Garden Design and Landscaping

May 5

9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Boot Camp

10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga

May 6

10:30 a.m.: Pint-Size Prom (For ages birth to 5)

May 7

1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)

2 p.m.: Sunday Concert: The Crystal River Trio

May 8

1 p.m.: Monday Matinee: "Living"

7 p.m.: Short Story Night at Lion's Tail

May 9

4:30 p.m.: Free Legal Assistance Clinic

May 10

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

May 11

5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night

6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

May 12

2 p.m.: First Friday Concert Series: Linda Sparks & Steven Paul Spears

May 15

1:30 p.m.: Memory Cafe: Kentucky Derby Party

6:30 p.m.: Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book

Club: "The Long Call by Ann Cleeves"

May 17

4 p.m.: Library Board meeting

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

May 18

5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night

6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

6:30 p.m.: Suburban Homesteading-Container Gardening

May 19

9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Balance & Strength

10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care

10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga

May 21

1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)

2 p.m.: Sunday Concert: Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble

May 22

10 a.m.: MMBK: "Firekeeper's Daughter"

May 24

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

May 25

5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night

6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam. All skill levels welcome

May 27-29

Library Closed

May 30

6:30 p.m.: Movie Talks: "Airplane!"

May 31

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

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Nonprofits express concerns over ARPA funding

Neenah News

Winnebago County nonprofit groups are hoping they still have a seat at the table on how federal funding will be used to cope with the impact of the pandemic after being excluded from any direct support through the county.

County supervisors approved establishing a "Spirit Fund" to consolidate \$33.4 million in federal pandemic relief funds at their March 21 meeting after months of discussion on how to best use the money. A special American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) commission had recommended that one-fourth of available money be designated for nongovernmental community projects but that was derailed just ahead of the final vote.

An amendment introduced before the Spirit Fund vote to remove the nongovernmental portion – nonprofit groups and quasi-governmental entities – and split the money evenly between government and government-managed community projects

was approved 21-11.

Oshkosh Area United Way president Beth Oswald, who was a member of the ARPA Strategies and Outcome Commission, told the county board at its April 18 meeting that supervisors were misinformed on both the intended focus of the ARPA fund categories and how nonprofits serve the direct needs of residents.

She said nongovernmental community projects serve small businesses most impacted by COVID illnesses and restrictions by providing social or community benefit.

"I want to make it clear that nonprofit is not a business model, it's simply a tax status," Oswald said.

She said taking nongovernmental community projects from the federal funding mix when those groups have been at the forefront of the post-pandemic crisis suggests a distrust of nonprofit groups and the panel's recommendation while lumping the money into general government purposes.

"Basically you're saying infrastructure

should supersede basic needs," she told the board. "When ever would streets and sidewalks supersede or be a priority over people?"

"ARPA is not a basic function of government."

Oswald said the sole mission of nonprofits is public protection, and the Spirit Fund advisory panel had agreed that ARPA funding was intended for workers, families, small businesses and industries that nongovernmental agencies serve.

"How can our community experience economic growth when 16,400 households in Winnebago County – that's a third of our county – are working yet they live just above the poverty level but below the cost-of-living for Winnebago County?" she asked. "These households rely on nonprofits for their basic needs like housing and food."

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services staff in Oshkosh also made a direct plea for county help through the Spirit Fund that would support its capital fundraising campaign to expand its transitional housing with a planned move into the Beach Building on Algoma Boulevard.

District 31 Supervisor Ralph Harrison asked County Executive Jon Doemel

whether the commission's amended proposal will be flexible enough to consider nonprofit groups in the county, which he said numbered around 1,000. Harrison said he has received several contacts from residents and those representing nonprofits saying the amendment failed to recognize their work related to pandemic struggles.

"Maybe be acted too quick to take that away from them because there are a lot of needs out there," Harrison said.

Supervisor Jim Wise of District 8 in Neenah also asked about amending the decision to take away the nonprofit designation but was told it would likely require rescinding the overall Spirit Fund package approval.

Doemel said that while he understands both sides of the funding argument, he doesn't believe all nonprofits should be eligible for county funds, but "I still think there are things in that 50% (of community project funding) that can help." He added that all funding would still need county board approval.

So far about \$3 million of the \$33.4 million fund went to each of the county's 21 towns and municipalities \$145,000 for general purposes.

Event to highlight bladder, bowel treatment

More than 37 million adults in the United States — almost one in six — suffer from overactive bladder and nearly 18 million are living with fecal incontinence, both of which can limit their lives socially, professionally and personally.

As many as 45% who suffer from symptoms do not seek treatment and even more stop using medications within six months due to intolerable side effects or unsatisfying results.

A free educational event that will review treatment options for bladder and bowel control is being offered by Dr. Erin Salter from Wisconsin Institute of Urology at 6

p.m. May 10. The event is being offered both online and in person at the institute at 1265 W. American Drive. To register, visit tinyurl.com/DrSalterTAP.

"Bladder and bowel incontinence is common, but it's not a normal part of aging. It's annoying, inconvenient and frustrating, and can significantly impact a person's self-confidence, exercise, activities and even intimacy," Salter notes. "The good news is it's treatable."

A new device that can normalize urinary and fecal incontinence by communication from the bladder or bowels to the brain will be demonstrated.

Crime statistics

FROM PAGE 1

Non-fatal overdoses remained steady at 10 compared with eight this time last year. The data showed the greatest number of overdoses in the first quarter of 2023 involved drugs that were labeled as other or unknown, while pills were

identified as the leading cause of overdoses in both 2021 and 2022.

Neenah is in the 42nd percentile for safety, according to crimegrade.org, meaning the city has a slightly higher rate of crime than the average U.S. city. Neenah's crime rate is 29.98 per 1,000 residents during an average year, with the west part of the city considered the safest.

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May 2023 **The GRAND OSHKOSH**



Photo by David Hall

Planter ideas

The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass presented a class on turning a wine bottle into a self-watering planter as an Earth Day project last Saturday with Taylor Moeller-Roy shown demonstrating the project.

Mahler's glassware collection holds special space

By David Hall
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When one thinks of the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, the mind drifts to paperweights because they were the centerpiece of the Bergstroms' collection. But there are many different kinds of artistic glass in the museum collection.

Indeed, glass as an artistic media dates back at least to Europe in the 1600s. The other namesake of the museum, the Mahlers, had a love of European glassware and their own special collection added to the momentum for the museum.

In 1954, Ernst Mahler was elected chairman of the effort to create the museum. Mahler had purchased the esteemed Kurz collection of Germanic glass for his wife Carol's Christmas present in the 1930s to begin their own love of collecting glass.

Part of the Mahler's collection is now on display at the museum just inside the front door on the right. With vibrant colors and intricate patterns through the use of traditional glass-making techniques, the collection has pieces from the Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo periods. Multiple types of glassware are on display including Ranftbecher, Humpen, Stangenglas and Zwischengoldglas.



Photo by David Hall

Zwischengoldglas glassware from Ernest Mahler's Kurz collection of Germanic glass is in the museum's entrance.

Zwischengoldglas, "gold sandwich glass" in German, is a type of decorative glass that was popular in Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is characterized by its layered construction, which includes a layer of gold leaf or foil sandwiched between two layers of glass.

The process of making Zwischengoldglas was complex and time-consuming, and it required the skills of artisans. The glassblower would start by blowing a bubble of clear glass, which would be coated with a layer of gold leaf or foil while it was still hot. This layer would then be covered

with a layer of clear glass, and the process would be repeated until the desired thickness was achieved.

The resulting glass had a unique appearance, with a warm, glowing quality that was created by the layer of gold. The gold layer was often decorated with intricate etched or engraved designs, such as floral patterns, landscapes or portraits.

The Mahler collection is among other permanent exhibits at the museum along with the ongoing exhibits Under the Sea: Marine Life in Glass and Antique French Paperweights.

Rocket Players on stage this weekend

Neenah High School's Rocket Players are presenting its spring comedy, "Bad Auditions by Bad Actors" through Sunday in Pickard Auditorium.

The performances started Thursday and continue at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, as well as 2 p.m. matinee performances Saturday and Sunday.

Written by Ian McWethy and produced by special arrangement with Playscripts Inc., the play tells the story of a young woman, Carol Danes, who must pull together a production of "Romeo and Juliet" to save her community theater from closing. The play goes behind the scenes of the auditions leading up to the show.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students and can be purchased either at rocketplayers.com or at the door, though seating is limited.

Woodcarving club brings annual show

The 47th Annual Mid-Wisconsin Chippers Woodcarving Show returns to the Oshkosh Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 7.

More than 80 woodcarvers and pyrographers will exhibit their artistry, including dozens of master carvers and wood artists from throughout Wisconsin. Many will be competing for blue ribbons in a judged competition that includes 28 categories with four skill levels.

The Mid-Wisconsin Chippers Woodcarving Club's show is the oldest of its kind in Wisconsin.

The club has more than 80 members from area communities, including Neenah and Fox Crossing, and meets monthly in Neenah.

Wrestling event planned

The Ron Einerson Fieldhouse will host "Rocket Way Blastoff – The Final Countdown," a night of pro wrestling at 7 p.m. May 12.

Organized by Neenah High School students, the event will feature local wrestlers from ACW Wisconsin, including some NHS alumni and NJSD staff members.

Former WWE wrestler Hornswaggle will be part of the event and will speak to students during the day. The night features a meet-and-greet with participants before and after the show.

Admission is \$5 with limited ring-side seating for \$25. Tickets are available in advance at NHS Door 3 or at the door the night of the event. All proceeds benefit high school clubs and activities.

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Joyce's Forest builds tree planting donation mission

By Kaitlyn Scoville
NEENAH NEWS

Planting one tree at a time, helping one person at a time.

Oshkosh area resident Greg Killian started an organization that plants trees across the Fox Valley, some in memory of a loved one who has passed on.

The idea stemmed from Killian and his mother, Joyce, sharing a bond over bonsai trees. One day 11 years ago, though, she took her life.

"She spent most of her adult life as a teacher and loved helping young kids develop into the adults they were meant to become," Killian said. "She and I always had a connection with trees, so Joyce's

Forest was born in her memory. I miss her every day and if we can plant some trees to make this world a better place, then I know she is smiling down on all of us."



At his former home in Madison, Killian's bonsais would get stolen. But coming back to Utica, he found that the previous homeowners didn't finish landscaping and left behind more than 70 maple saplings in his backyard.

He has been given permission to visit forests on other people's land and dig up

some saplings to donate and is sowing more than 100 on his property.

Joyce's Forest's mission is to plant as many trees as possible to help improve the Earth. Any extra money raised goes to buying next year's trees and helping buy winter coats for the unhoused community.

Every \$1.50 donated plants one tree in the Fox Valley.

Killian established the organization in December and looks forward to his first year of planting and helping enrich the community.

"We have received more silver maple tree requests than we could have imagined. From planting trees at local colleges,

small businesses and donating trees to Girl Scout troops, Joyce's Forest is happy to be helping over 100 people in our first year and hoping to plant over 500 in its first five years," he said.

While still in its early stages, Killian said he's aspiring to have more tree species options and plans to give back to the community in several ways.

"I hate to say it but it's completely selfish. I miss my mom and I like seeing it," he said. "It reminds me of her and it helps me feel better."

Joyce's Forest is on Facebook, joycesforest.org, opencollective.com/joyces-forest and by email at joycesforest@gmail.com.

Dog fitness center closes doors

After only two months in business, Neenah K9 Rec Center has closed.

Nita Diaz opened the gym for dogs in February in the former location of Gym 35 Fitness, 1526 S. Commercial St. The business offered private rental of the 1,000-square-foot space, an indoor agility course, dog fitness equipment and training classes.

In an email last week, Diaz wrote that the gym has closed due to unexpected circumstances. The gym's website has been removed.

Gym members who signed up for an upcoming class will receive a full refund. Gym memberships purchased in April will also be refunded, while older gym memberships may receive a partial refund, Diaz wrote.

According to the email, agility classes may move to another location and class members will be notified by email if that becomes a reality.

Diaz did not respond to an inquiry regarding the motivation behind closing. She thanked gym members for their support.

Business news roundup

Engineering and architectural firm **McMahon** has hired **Mark Jorgensen** and **Mark Wiegert** as public safety specialists, and **Kelley Woldanski** as a public management specialist in McMahon's Public Safety and Municipal Management division. Jorgensen has been a master electrician for more than 20 years and will work as a commercial building inspector. Wiegert comes to McMahon after 29 years with the Calumet County Sheriff's Office, where he was sheriff for the last four years. He will work with the Public Safety and Emergency Management and Security teams. Woldanski brings more than 25 years of municipal experience and will join McMahon's Public Management team.

Pierce Manufacturing Inc., an Oshkosh Corp. company, has announced that **Bob Schulz** has been appointed to serve as company president. As part of the overall vocational strategy, Schulz will have responsibility for Pierce, Airport Products and Frontline Communications brands. Schulz, who has an MBA from Marquette University, joined Pierce in 2004 and

during his 18 years with Oshkosh Corp. has held roles in finance and most recently Aerial general management.

Kundinger, a Wisconsin and Michigan company delivering products and solutions in fluid power, automation and process control to a range of industries, has hired **Luke Moravec** as a system engineer. Moravec has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Milwaukee School of Engineering. Kundinger's Neenah operations on Progress Court include its Wisconsin office, Service & Repair Solutions, Technology Center and Parker Store.

The Better Business Bureau of Wisconsin recognized **J. J. Keller & Associates** among Wisconsin businesses with the highest standards of ethics and trust with their employees, customers and local communities. The BBB Wisconsin Torch Awards for Ethics is an annual program of the BBB of Wisconsin Foundation. J. J. Keller received recognition as a runner up in Category 4 of the awards, for companies with 501 or more employees, where WPS Health Systems placed as the winner.

Hero Ceremony honors two from community

Neenah High School's Fusion Academy honored the legacy of two school district and community leaders in its sixth annual Hero Ceremony last week.

The Friday ceremony in the Pickard Auditorium lobby was held to posthumously recognize Andrew Thorson and Fred Hrubecky.

Hrubecky, who died March 11 at age 85, was a 1955 Neenah High graduate and class president whose career at Kimberly

Clark in Neenah included development of KC's first disposable diaper along with other feminine care products. He also worked extensively on the product Starfire charcoal with his KC development team and outside of the company.

Thorson, the school district's former deputy administrator for business services, passed away suddenly Aug. 15, 2020, at age 38 as he was beginning his 10th year in the district.

Neenah, metro area unemployment rates decline

The city of Neenah's unemployment rate dropped to 1.7% in March compared with 1.9% in February, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development reported Wednesday with its release of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Preliminary March unemployment


rates fell in all 12 metro areas over the month, including the Oshkosh-Neenah area, which dropped from 2.1% to 1.9%.

Jobless rates decreased in all of the state's 35 largest cities over the month. Over the year, 34 Wisconsin cities had unemployment rates decrease.


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Neenah Joint School District photo

25-year club

Twelve Neenah Joint School District employees were honored last week for 25 years of service with induction to the district's Quarter Century Club. Those honored include (from left) Shelley Dorner, Scott Schneider, Sara Bork, Jeff Leopold, Tony White, Ryan Anderson, Kim Braunel, Beth Altekruise and Bonnie McClone. Others honored but not pictured were Dave Gohlke, Elizabeth Rettler and Cheryl White.

Court reporting

FROM PAGE 1

work with the For the Record program that is standard in most Wisconsin courtrooms.

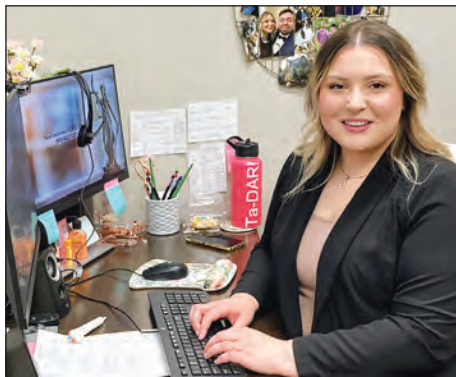
Winnebago County's court administrator in Oshkosh has been witnessing the growing need for reporting staff both on the stenographic and digital levels. However, the digital program over the past few years has been growing "leaps and bounds," according to 4th Judicial District administrator Jon Bellows.

"We've grown pretty rapidly," he said. "We're trying to continue to hire or train and get working new digital court reporters to help keep our Wisconsin courts on record. Most proceedings in the circuit court are required to be put on the record, and that means you need a court reporter, whether it's stenographic or digital. There have been instances where we've had to cancel court sessions because we don't have a court reporter to take notes."

The more rural the community in Wisconsin, the more of a struggle it is for the state to find skilled individuals capable of the task, and more than 20 vacancies exist today still as the pool of court reporters continues to reach retirement age.

"We have as of yet not been able to keep up with the loss," Bellows said. "Despite all the gains we've made in the great progress we've made, the need is so acute that we're going to be struggling with it for some time."

Alexis Gutierrez is a recent graduate of the Fox Valley Tech digital court re-



FVTC photo

Alexis Gutierrez is a graduate of the Fox Valley Tech digital court reporting program.

porting program and said all the pieces just fell in the right place for her.

"It was something I've always been interested in. My senior year of high school we took a field trip to the Winnebago County Courthouse," Gutierrez said. "We were supposed to be taking notes about the court proceedings and how the judge presented himself and conducted the courtroom, and all I could focus on was the stenographer."

"I was like, 'I feel like I could do this.' Once I read more about the program and asked questions, I reached out to people and it just seemed like the right fit. Plus, you can't beat the cost of Fox Valley. It was just a no brainer."

Bellows said states have had digital reporting for years assigned to specific judges using For the Record software to record and transcribe proceedings but said it won't replace stenographers as much as blend into a new reporting model.

"It's not a matter of choosing digital or stenography. We need both and we're going to need both for years to come," he said.

Art project

FROM PAGE 1

develop glass making skills, and build new friendships and community."

Fused By Numbers is a collaborative glass mural with learning sessions open to females ages 5 or older and all skill levels.

Michelle Sharp of Farmers City Studio in Neenah created a 2-D art piece which participants are recreating in glass.

"Her artwork was gridded out and each individual that partakes in the workshop gets to create a different component of the art piece," Kositzke said.

The final mural will depict several influential Wisconsin women:

- Evangeline Bergstrom, whose antique paperweight collection is on display at the museum, and whose family provided the financial support to create the museum.

- Ho-Poe-Kaw, also known as Glory of the Morning, who led the Ho-Chunk people for more than 40 years in the 1700s and is often cited as the first individual woman described in Wisconsin written history.

- Electa Quinny, who was part of the Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohican Indians and opened the first free public school in Wisconsin to teach both native and non-native children.

- Jessie Jack Hooper, who was the first president of the Wisconsin League of Women Voters and advocated for school reform, public health, suffrage, the welfare of indigenous people, and the Menominee Nation.

- Helen Kimberly Stuart, who was part of a prominent family in Neenah who donated the land now known as Kimberly Point to the city to be made into a park and donated the funds for the lighthouse.

- Theda Clark Peters, who helped bring welfare and practical life classes for immigrants to Neenah, advocated for child welfare and arts, purchased the land for the current library and supported fundraising. After her death from childbirth in 1903, \$96,000 was donated per her instructions to build the first hospital in Neenah.

- Helen Farnsworth Mears, a self-taught sculptor from Oshkosh and the first female sculptor to display work in the U.S. Capitol Building. Her most well-known work is The Genius of Wisconsin, displayed in the rotunda of the Wisconsin State Capitol.

- Edna Ferber, of Appleton, who was the first female reporter for The Post-Crescent newspaper, wrote for the Milwaukee Journal, and is often considered the greatest female writer of her time.

- Lorena Alice "Hick" Hickok, who briefly attended Lawrence University in Appleton and became a prominent reporter of the Roosevelt presidency and the Great Depression. She later became involved with the

Democratic Party and advocated for Progressive policies and women's suffrage.

- Ellen Kort, known as the "godmother of Wisconsin poetry," and who became the state's first poet laureate in 2000. Kort founded the Fox Cities Book Festival and hosted workshops that used poetry for healing trauma.

- Peg Lautenschlager, of Oshkosh, who was the first woman to serve as Winnebago County district attorney and Wisconsin attorney general. She served on the state Assembly and as U.S. attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin.

- Ingrid Waskinawatok, of Keshena, also known as O'Peqtaw-Metamoh or Flying Eagle Woman, who worked to re-establish the Menominee Nation as a federally recognized tribe, helped found the Indigenous Women's Network, and served on the UN in various capacities representing Indigenous people and their rights. She was kidnapped and murdered with two other activists in 1999 while traveling to set up a school for a native community in Colombia.

- Mee Moua, who moved to the U.S. during the Vietnam War and became part of the Hmong community in Appleton. Moua advocated for diversity in government and pursuing offices to further Asian American communities, most recently serving nine years as a senator for Minnesota.

The mural work sessions are already underway and will continue throughout the year until it's completed.

Each workshop is limited to 15 women who spend up to two hours per session using glass pieces, frit, stringers, and dots to make segments of the mural, using the paint-by-numbers concept.

"It's kind of like assembling a puzzle," Kositzke said. "We select the designated colors to use within the square and it's up to them to basically make that square come to life."

Although glass art is considered a more expensive medium, she noted that Fused By Numbers is free, eliminating a barrier to participating. Kositzke hopes to have at least 255 women participate in the project.

The final fused glass piece will be 60 by 50 feet and will be owned and displayed by the museum. It may also be used as a traveling exhibit on display throughout the community.

"It is really neat to see different people from different walks of life be connected through something like this and that's kind of the idea," Kositzke said.

Additional work sessions will continue to be added throughout the year and women interested in participating may sign up at bmmglass.com. The museum at 165 N. Park Ave. offers free admission and features glass-work, art, classes and a gift shop.

Calendar of events

Wednesday, May 3

Touch A Truck, 10 a.m., Memorial Park parking lot, 1131 Tullar Road

Thursday, May 4

Suburban Homesteading-Garden Design and Landscaping, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, May 5

Unsolved Mysteries (ages 13-17), 5:30 p.m., Fox Crossing Community Center

Saturday, May 6

Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Downtown Neenah Spring Fling, 10 a.m.

The Plaza Wedding Show, 10 a.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

Doty Island Cleanup Day, 9 a.m., Smith Community Building, 181 E. North Water St.

Day at the Derby fundraiser for Beaming, 4 p.m., BAGO Bar & Grill, 6392 County A

Friday, April 28

Celebrate Arbor Day, 10 a.m., Kimberly Point Park

Rocket Players "Bad Auditions by Bad Actors," 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Saturday, April 29

Bowling for Kids' Sake, 1 p.m., Rolling Thunder Lanes, 934 Byrd Ave.

Rocket Players "Bad Auditions by Bad Actors," 2 and 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Sunday, April 30

Giants of Jazz Series: Blue Note Groove, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Rocket Players "Bad Auditions by Bad Actors," 2 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

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Harwood helps fuel Rockets' success in circle, at plate

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Morgan Harwood didn't start her softball career as a pitcher.

Aside from the "everybody tries pitching" stints, Harwood was settled in at third base when she started playing and was happy playing the hot corner.

But then ...

"We had a few pitchers on my team, but they all left for other club teams and nobody else on the team pitched," Harwood said. "Every kid tried pitching but I never really worked at it. I had to work a ton in that offseason to learn how to pitch."

That's when Harwood was 11 or 12 and she has stayed in the circle ever since.

Now a senior at Neenah High School, Harwood is a leader on the diamond for the Rockets and one of the top pitchers in the talent-laden Fox Valley Association.

She was one of just three returning pitchers to earn first- or second-team all-FVA honors a year ago – she was a second-team honoree – and has picked up where she left off racking up 32 strikeouts in 28 innings pitched this season and compiling a 2.50 earned run average as the Rockets have gotten off to a 6-2 start.

"I think the season is going very well right now," Harwood said. "The sucky part right now is with the weather because we haven't been able to play too much. But we have been doing well and we have a very solid team this year."

The Rockets showed the kind of team they were at the tail end of last season when they rattled off five straight wins – Harwood allowed just three runs in those five games – and reached the sectional final.

Neenah fell short of a state tournament berth, losing to fellow FVA member Oshkosh West, so earning a trip to Madison is definitely on the team's mind this season.

"I think (getting to state is) a huge motivation for us," Harwood said. "That's been all of our dreams. We have all been playing with each other since we were 8 or 9 and we have all gotten to the point where we would love to be able to make it to the state championship or even just be there."

First, Harwood and the Rockets have to navigate the FVA, and that is no easy task.

Two-time defending state champion Kaukauna sat atop Division 1 entering this week, while Oshkosh West was ranked No. 8. That duo along with the likes of talented teams like Kimberly, Hortonville and Fond du Lac make for a tough schedule.

But Harwood likes that.

"I would definitely say playing in the FVA is fun. You always have difficult teams to play against but that makes it better. It's always a competitive game," Harwood said. "There is never really an off day in the FVA."

What makes it even tougher for Harwood is that a lot of hitters she is pitching against have seen her before since it is her third year pitching on varsity.

"A lot of kids have faced me a lot, so that makes it difficult," Harwood said. "But it's also super fun seeing kids over and over again. It's always fun pitching against them."

Opposing hitters may not be seeing as much of Harwood this year, though. With the emergence of freshman Kyleigh Manthe, Harwood's workload in the circle has been lessened.

Some players might struggle splitting time with a teammate after handling much of the work solo a year ago – Harwood

Senior Spotlight

pitched 116 out of a possible 154 innings last season. Harwood, though, embraces the time off and believes the Rockets will be better for it.

"There were definitely times last year I was very sore, but I knew I had to pitch. I had to power through it," Harwood said. "It's nice to have someone to back me up knowing that I don't have to worry about whether we are going to win or lose a game. Now my arm will be a lot more fresh when we get to regionals and sectionals. We'll both be able to pitch at a higher level rather than if we had pitched every single game."

Just because Harwood isn't pitching doesn't mean she won't be playing.

Harwood is also one of the top hitters for the Rockets, batting .429 so far this season with a home run and seven RBIs. Last season, she led the Neenah regulars with a .407 batting average, which included four home runs and 17 RBIs.

Although hitting and pitching require distinctly different skill sets, there is an overlap between the two. And Harwood believes that being a pitcher has helped her at the plate.

"As a pitcher, it helps knowing how to track a ball, so knowing the different spins that a girl is throwing I am able to guess which pitch they are throwing before it even comes to me," Harwood said. "As a team, we worked really hard on our batting to get that up."

And if she could only pitch or only hit? "That's a hard choice," Harwood said. "I think I would have to pitch. Pitching, you just feel more in the game."

Softball isn't Harwood's only activity at Neenah. She was also a member of the school's powerlifting team and helped the program win multiple national championships earlier this spring.

Harwood said she got into powerlifting on the urging of a friend her freshman year and has enjoyed being a part of that team as well.

"My parents were hesitant at first and I was like it will be strength building for softball," Harwood said. "I ended up doing very well in it."

Harwood has a max squat of 285 pounds, a max bench of 132 pounds and a max dead lift of 355 pounds and the added strength has certainly benefited her on the softball diamond.

However, it's more than just a purely physical gain that Harwood has taken from participating in powerlifting.

"It's a huge confidence booster," Harwood said. "With a lot of weight there's that fear but you just keep going and push through a heavy lift, even though you just want to give up. That confidence that you can do it, especially on a big stage, like at nationals, certainly makes pitching in front of a (softball crowd) seem easy."

Harwood plans to attend UW-Stevens Point next year to major in biochemistry and continue her softball career.

She said she looked at other schools but believes she found the right spot with the Pointers.

"I really liked Point not only because the major does very well there and they have good programs, but also I loved the team there," said Harwood, who will be joined by catcher Piper Alberg at Stevens Point. "When I met the girls there it was an immediate click and it brought back that family feeling of softball and things like that which was really cool."

There is a similar feeling with her Neenah teammates and that closeness and chemis-



Photo by Art Eichmann

Morgan Harwood was a second-team all-FVA pitcher last season and has helped Neenah start the season 6-2.

try definitely plays a role in the team's success. It's also going to make it hard to say goodbye when it's over.

"I feel like the team chemistry is such a huge thing for our program. We may have errors or things like that but we're always

able to pick each other up and we have fun on and off the field," Harwood said. "It will definitely be hard knowing that it is my last season with these guys. All of the friends I've made, and my coaches, it will definitely be hard."



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Zephyrs pull away to collect win over Hilbert/Stockbridge

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The St. Mary Catholic baseball team's fast start to the 2023 season continued Tuesday as the Zephyrs pounded out a 12-4 win over Hilbert/Stockbridge.

It was the fifth straight win for the Zephyrs, who improve to 7-1 on the season.

Led by an offensive attack that saw the Zephyrs score in every inning and the combined pitching performance from Owen Ripley and Joe Pirllo, St. Mary Catholic grabbed an early lead and never looked back.

"I think we have an overall good performance on the diamond today," junior Fisher Mackenzie said. "At this point in the season, everyone is buying into what Coach Hogenson and his staff are doing with this program. The culture they want

to create feeds into every game. I feel like even when things get tough there is always a positive vibe as everyone is trying to pick everyone up."

Ripley started the game, and gave the Zephyrs four strong innings of two-hit ball as he struck out six. Pirllo took over from there and struck out six in his three innings of work. Both allowed a single hit in the game while all four of the Hilbert/Stockbridge runs were unearned on the afternoon.

Offensively, the Zephyrs benefited from five errors in the field while also putting up nine hits to propel them to the victory.

Despite scoring in every inning, it took them a little bit for the offense to get rolling as they scored six runs in their final two trips to the plate.

In the fifth, Mackenzie's two-run homer

extended the Zephyrs lead to 8-2.

"I felt like we needed a huge boost in that fifth and I felt that my at bat could provide that boost," he said. "We had a runner in scoring position and all I was looking to do was drive him in. When the count went full, I knew I had to get him home and their pitcher threw me a pitch in a spot where I knew I could make hard contact. I put a great swing on the ball and it went over the fence. After that it seemed as if everyone in the lineup started to feed off that energy as we added on late."

A walk to Ripley and a Pirllo single put two runners on base before an RBI single from Matt Betchner extended the lead to 9-2.

Ray Pringel added a sacrifice fly to cap off the scoring in that inning as the Zephyrs broke the game wide open at 10-2.

"We've had a strong start to our season and are picking up where we left off," head coach Jeff Hogenson said. "Our pitchers have done a great job for us this season, but today it was about the offense. So far, our offensive game plan is working and we have had much more competitive at bats than a season ago. I am proud of the players and how much progress we have shown in just one season."

Hilbert answered with two runs before St. Mary Catholic was able to put the game away.

Ripley picked up an RBI single in the sixth while Colin Nigl used an RBI groundout to cap off the scoring.

Along with his strong start on the mound, Ripley collected two hits for the Zephyrs while also driving in two.

Mackenzie and Aiden Birling also had two hits in the game.

Prep sports roundup

BASEBALL

Neenah pulls out win over Wildcats

The Rockets scored two runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to break a tie game and went on to collect a 3-1 win over Oshkosh West in a Fox Valley Association game Monday.

Trevor Stichman and AJ Price picked up RBIs in the go-ahead rally in the fourth, with Mack Krause and Will Sorenson scoring the runs. Elliot Swanson drove in Price in the first inning for the game's first run.

Krause, Swanson and Ethan Van Dyke had hits in the game for Neenah.

Krause pitched six innings, striking out seven while allowing five hits and an unearned run to earn the win, while Isaac Verbruggen pitched a scoreless seventh to earn the save.

On Saturday, Neenah used a four-run sixth inning to take the lead and collect a 6-5 win over New Berlin West.

Van Dyke finished 2-for-3 to lead the offense, while Stichman finished with a pair

of RBIs in the win. Price, Stichman and Will St. Clair also had hits in the game for Neenah.

Four pitchers combined to allow just three hits in the game with Zak Vanlerbergh pitching 4 1/3 innings of relief to get the win.

On Tuesday, the Rockets were held to just three hits and fell to Fond du Lac 1-0.

Van Dyke, St. Clair and Stichman each had hits for the Rockets, who left five runners on base in the game.

Price allowed just five hits in six innings and had five strikeouts in taking the loss. The run he allowed was unearned.

Zephyrs rack up close win over Southern Door

Owen Ripley went 3-for-4 at the plate and Fisher Mackenzie threw a complete game to lead St. Mary Catholic to the 3-2 nonconference win over the Eagles.

The Zephyrs fell behind 2-0 after two innings but scored a run in the third and then took the lead for good with two runs in the fourth.

Noah Decker chipped in two hits and an

RBI, while Colin Nigl also drove in a run.

Mackenzie allowed just four hits and a walk, while striking out five. The two runs he allowed were both unearned.

SOFTBALL

Saringer's gem boosts Zephyrs to triumph

Neveah Saringer allowed just three hits and one run while striking out four in helping St. Mary Catholic to a 7-1 win over Hilbert/Stockbridge on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs scored in every inning but the fourth building a 6-0 lead before Hilbert/Stockbridge scored its lone run in the top of the sixth.

St. Mary Catholic finished with just five hits but took advantage of nine walks and three Hilbert/Stockbridge errors to put up its runs. Chloe Vogel and Rhiannon Reichenbacher each scored two runs in the game.

St. Mary Catholic scored in four of seven innings, but Xavier plated 11 runs in the third inning to claim an 11-6 win Saturday.

Adela Thiel finished 2-for-3, including a double to lead off the third inning. Rhiannon Reichenbacher drove Thiel home with a single and later scored on an RBI-groundout from Chloe Vogel.

Thiel also had an RBI-single in the fourth inning.

On Friday, St. Mary Catholic dropped an 8-5 decision to Shiocton in eight innings.

The Zephyrs trailed 5-0 going into the bottom of the fifth when they plated four runs, highlighted by an RBI single from Reichenbacher and a two-out, two-run single by Allie Strande. St. Mary Catholic then tied the score in the bottom of the seventh on a sacrifice fly by Chloe Vogel.

Shiocton answered with three runs in the top of the eighth to earn the win.

Strande finished 2-for-4, while Neveah Saringer had a double in the game.

Neenah holds off Fond du Lac for win

Kyleigh Mathe allowed just one earned

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 11

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 10

run over seven innings while also going 3-for-4 at the plate with an RBI to lead Neenah past Fond du Lac 8-5 in a Fox Valley Association contest last Friday.

The Rockets took the lead for good with a four-run second inning and lead 8-2 entering the bottom of the seventh when the Cardinals scored three runs to narrow the final margin.

Savanna Knuth and Morgan Harwood each chipped in two hits. Knuth finished with two doubles and two RBIs, while Harwood had a triple and drove in three runs.

Mathe struck out 10 and walked only one in the complete-game victory.

The Rockets came up short against reigning state champion Kaukauna on Tuesday, losing a hard-fought 3-1 decision.

Harwood scattered six hits and struck out four while giving up just one earned run in the game.

Quinn Marnocha, Savanna Knuth and Kaylee Marhefke each had hits in the game for Neenah, while Taelyn Bauer picked up the lone RBI as the Rockets scored their lone run in the seventh inning.

TRACK AND FIELD

Zephyrs boys, girls win division meets

Both the St. Mary Catholic girls and boys teams captured the titles at the Big East Conference Northern Division meet Monday.

The girls scored 133 points to edge Manitowoc Lutheran by just over two points, while the boys scored 121 points to outdistance second-place Manitowoc Lutheran, which finished with 109.5 points.

Winning events for the girls were Addison Dinka in the 800 meters, Katharine Schoeni in the 3,200 meters, Gabby Ruback in the triple jump and Nolie Anderson in the shot put, while the Zephyrs also took first in the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

Adding second places were Norah Lee in the 400 meters, Ruback in the 100-meter hurdles, Lauren Ripley in the long jump and Anderson in the discus.

The boys were led by a 1-2 finish from Benjamin Schoeni and Tamas Szabo in the 3,200 meters. Alexander Groppe in the 800 meters, Braeden Brenn in the high jump and Ashton Post in the pole vault each took second and John Romnek took third in the discus.

The Zephyrs also took first place in the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relays, while taking second in the 400-meter relay.

Both teams also took third place in the 10-team Rosholt Invitational on Friday.

Lauren Ripley, Nolie Anderson and Charlie Nackers each won individual events to lead St. Mary Catholic.

Ripley won the 1,600 meters, while Anderson finished first in the discus to lead the girls team. Anderson also picked up a second place in the shot put, while Ripley also added a fourth place in the long jump.

Gabby Ruback placed in the top five in three events, taking second in the 100-meter hurdles, while placing fifth in both the triple jump and long jump. Katharine Schoeni added a fifth place in the 3,200 meters.

St. Mary Catholic also placed first in the 3,200-meter relay with a team of Ripley, Alejandra Cunillera Fernandez and Addison Dinka.

For the boys, Nackers claimed the lone individual win by taking first in the high jump. Ashton Post and Alexander Grop-

pel finished second and third, respectively, in the pole vault, while Nackers in the 100 meters and Groppe in the 400 meters were each fourth and Post in the 200 meters was fifth.

Dylan Dwyer added third-place finishes in the 100 and 200 meters and Benjamin Schoeni was fourth in the 3,200 meters.

St. Mary Catholic also won the 400-meter relay with a team of Nackers, Dwyer, Post and Harry Higgins, while the foursome of Schoeni, Groppe, Nathan Seiske and Ethan Auer placed first in the 3,200-meter relay.

Rockets dominate Watertown Invitational

The Neenah boys dominated the field at the eight-team Watertown Invitational, finishing with 177 points, more than 50 points ahead of runner-up Janesville Craig.

Jack Dorner and Braedy Klawikowski posted a 1-2 finish, respectively, in the 3,200 meters with Wyatt Armock and Harmon Posegate taking second and third, respectively, in the 1,600 meters.

Ethan Snider collected a win in the 200 meters, with teammate Jase Jenkins taking third, while Grant Dean in the long jump and Blake Dietzen in the shot put each posted wins.

Adding second places were Charles Fredrickson in the 400 meters, Alex Thayer in the 800 meters, while Dean in the 100 meters and Will Radies in the triple jump each placed third.

Neenah also finished first in the 800-meter relay with a team of Jack Zemlock, Snider, Dean and Jenkins, while taking second in the 1,600-meter relay and third in the 3,200-meter relay.

The boys also took first place in the FVA quadrangular Monday.

Dietzen posted a pair of wins in the shot put and discus, while Connor Briones in the high jump and Trevor McGinnis in the pole vault also finished first.

Dean in the 200 meters and Fredrickson in the 800 meters also finished first, while that duo along with Snider and Owen Wise placed first in the 1,600-meter relay.

The Neenah girls competed in an FVA quad on Tuesday and edged Appleton North by 1.5 points to take first.

Leading the way for the Rockets was Lydia Delene, who placed first in both the shot put and discus. Rachel Dietrich in the 1,600 meters, Jennifer Murphy in the 3,200 meters and Annalise Zenzick in the 100-meter hurdles also earned wins.

Neenah also finished first in the 400-meter relay with a team of Ava Schallow, Julia Rangel, Korianna Bartman and Lilly Granditzke, while the quartet of Mazie Olkowski, Eme Olkowski, Natalie Willes and Lexi Dorner took first in the 3,200-meter relay.

TENNIS

Rockets open week with two wins

The Neenah tennis team knocked off a pair of FVA opponents earlier this week, blanking Appleton North, 7-0, on Monday before topping Kimberly 6-1 on Tuesday.

Against the Lightning, the Rockets lost only two games in the seven matches combined en route to the win, including three 6-0, 6-0 wins in doubles. Satchel Moss and Ben Kotchen played at No. 1 doubles, followed by Brady Hildrich and Andrew Werner at No. 2 and Drew Kearny and Zack Bitter at No. 3.

David Murphy, Carl Hein, Tristan Yun and Brady Lawatsch posted singles wins.

Against Kimberly, the Rockets again swept the three doubles matches with Hil-

drath and Werner posting a 6-0, 6-0 win at the No. 2 flight.

Lawatsch dropped just one game at No. 4 singles, while Hein won 6-0, 6-2 at the No. 2 flight. Yun earned a three-set win at No. 3 singles.

The Rockets also participated in the Brookfield East Invitational last week falling to Brookfield Academy 5-2 before knocking off last year's WIAA Division 1 champion Brookfield East 4-3. Saturday's matches were rained out.

Yun and Lawatsch posted singles wins against Brookfield East, while the Rockets also won with the duos of Hildreth and Werner at No. 2 doubles and Kearny and Bitter at No. 3 doubles.

Yun at No. 3 singles and Moss and Kotchen at No. 1 doubles were the winners against Brookfield Academy.

Zephyrs sweep dual meet from Hilltoppers

St. Mary Catholic did not drop a set in sweeping a dual meet from St. Lawrence Seminary on Monday.

Wesley Auth highlighted the victory with 6-0, 6-0 win at No. 1 singles, while Jose Vanquero dropped only one game in winning at No. 2 singles. Nicolas Miller

and Alex Walsh also won at No. 3 and No. 4 singles, respectively.

Winning doubles teams were Grant Bergstrom and Michael Fairweather at No. 1, Harry Bergstrom and John Osland at No. 2 and Ethan Times and George Stander at No. 3.

GOLF

St. Mary Catholic tops conference mini-meet

The Zephyrs edged Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah by three shots to win the Big East North Conference mini-meet held at Winagamie Golf Club on Tuesday.

Cole Uhlenbrauck with a 38 and Spencer Lynch with a 39 paced the Zephyrs, finishing in a tie for second and a tie for fourth, respectively.

Ethon Moschea with a 41 and Dane Anderson added a 42 rounded out the scoring.

SOCCER

Kimberly downs Neenah

Neenah held FVA-leading Kimberly scoreless nearly the entire game but the Papermakers scored with less than five minutes to go to claim a 1-0 win over the Rockets.

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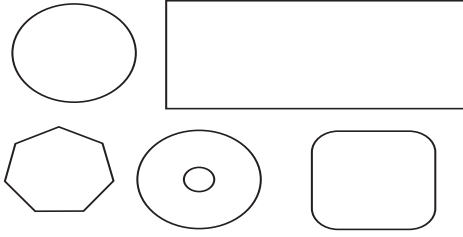
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Money Around the World

The bills and coins you use to buy things in your country can look a lot different from the money, or currency, that is used in other countries.

Standards Link: Economics: Students understand the basic features of market structures and exchanges.

What shapes are the different coins and bills in your country?



Vending Machine

Why do some coins have different shapes? People who have trouble seeing or reading can tell the difference between coins that are worth different amounts of money when the coins are different shapes and sizes.

Which item in the vending machine costs the most? Use the code below to find out.

20¢ 25¢ 15¢ 5¢ 50¢

Why do some coins have different shapes?

People who have trouble seeing or reading can tell the difference between coins that are worth different amounts of money when the coins are different shapes and sizes.

Which item in the vending machine costs the most? Use the code below to find out.



English Money

Use the code to find out what people in England call their money.

In the United Kingdom, they use the . A nickname for the is .

SECRET CODE

- D =
- E =
- I =
- N =
- O =
- P =
- Q =
- R =
- U =



The Euro

The euro is the money used by most countries in Europe. Before the euro was introduced, most European countries had their own currency, meaning their own coins and banknotes.



When they traveled, people had to change money each time they came to a new country. For example, in Germany, you paid in Deutsch Marks, but if you left Germany and traveled to France, you had to exchange your Deutsch Marks for French francs. Europe has many countries close together, which made for a lot of money changing!

Extra! Extra! Chart It!

Look through the newspaper for five numbers with five or more digits. Cut out the numbers and glue each one's digits onto a chart that shows how many ones, tens, hundreds, thousands, ten thousands, or more are in each number.

TEN THOUSANDS	THOUSANDS	HUNDREDS	TENS	ONES
1	2	9	1	3

Standards Link: Number Sense: Understand place value to the millions.

Yuan and Yen

The money used in China and Japan today was developed from the silver dollars introduced by European and American traders. The dollars were called yuan in China and yen in Japan. Translated, these words mean "round object."

Cut out this box and hold it up to a mirror to reveal the world's most popular currency.

The pound sterling is the fourth most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the U.S. dollar, the euro and the Japanese yen.

Standards Link: Economics: Know that different currencies are used in different countries.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Weighty Money

The word peso, meaning weight in Spanish, was the name of a coin that originated in Spain. Peso is now the name of money in several former Spanish colonies.

The countries next to sums with even numbers use pesos.

22 + 5 = Guinea-Bissau	24 + 7 = Brazil
17 + 9 = Cuba	19 + 14 = Panama
31 + 7 = Dominican Republic	18 + 9 = Portugal
13 + 15 = Mexico	44 + 6 = Colombia
11 + 9 = Argentina	35 + 13 = Uruguay
43 + 13 = Chile	14 + 14 = Philippines

Standards Link: Number Sense: Add sums to 100.

Double Double Word Search

MONEY
CALCULATOR
COINS
DOLLAR
FRANCE
EURO
PESOS
BILLS
POUND
FOREIGN
DESIGN
YEN
ITALY

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

T	C	O	H	N	G	I	S	E	D
R	R	E	R	E	C	L	O	I	M
C	A	L	C	U	L	A	T	O	R
Y	L	A	T	I	E	P	N	N	D
S	L	I	B	C	E	E	N	A	N
C	O	I	N	S	Y	D	F	G	U
O	D	A	O	U	N	I	I	T	O
I	R	S	E	R	T	S	A	I	P
F	O	R	E	I	G	N	U	N	O

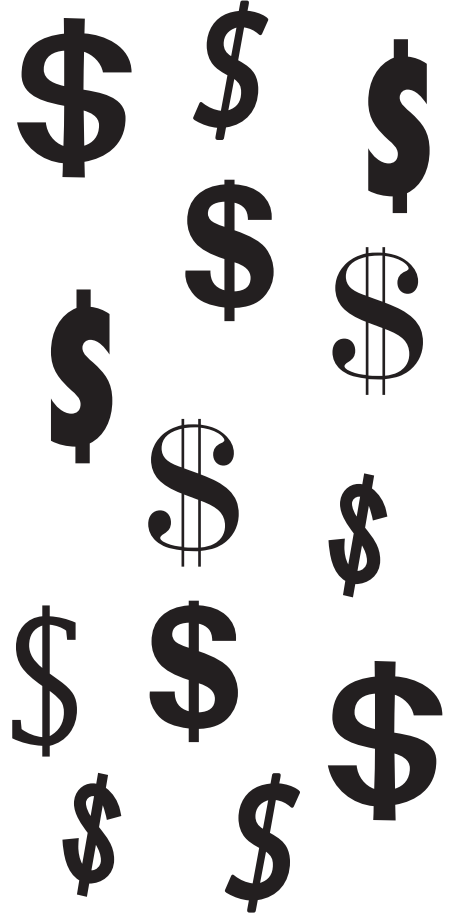
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together: Dollar Signs

The origin of the \$ sign is uncertain. But many historians believe that the P—for either Spanish or Mexican pesos—was accompanied by a small s above and to the right of it when the plural form was used. This pairing of letters was simplified by keeping only the stem of the P and writing the S right on top of it. Voila—the dollar sign!

Dollar Match

Match each of the dollar signs with its identical twin. Look carefully! One dollar sign has no duplicate.



Standards Link: Research: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word CASH in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

	S		
			C
C	A	S	H
A		H	

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