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Protest petition rules reviewed

Council to consider process on rezoning

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah will vote in June on whether to evaluate its ordinance that allows property owners who oppose a proposed rezoning to submit a protest petition, which triggers an extraordinary vote requirement for passage.

The Common Council is expected to

consider whether to direct Community Development and the city attorney to examine the ordinance after protests late last year against the rezoning of the Shattuck Middle School property triggered its use.

Under current ordinance, a rezoning requires a supermajority vote of three-fourths of council members if at least 20% of the owners of the properties in the vicinity of the rezoning submit signatures in a protest petition.

Hundreds of neighboring residents who opposed the Shattuck rezoning formed

groups, displayed signs in their yards and voiced their opinion at city meetings late last year. The residents also submitted three petitions opposing the rezoning in advance of the council's vote in December.

Although the first two petitions did not meet the requirements for the supermajority vote, the third petition had 846 signatures – 22% of neighboring residents – which met the ordinance requirement that the rezoning may only pass if 75% of

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Softball success

Neenah rolls to regional victory

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Ordinance suit

City points to support for rental policy

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Photo by David Hall

Neenah High from the sky

An aerial view looking north at the new Neenah High School campus in Fox Crossing shows the sprawling campus that will welcome students and staff this fall.

Mayor reflects on first year in office, looks ahead

Lang notes progress, challenges for city

By Patti Lee
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Mayor Jane Lang sits in the sunshine at the comfortable round table in her City Hall office. It's the first bright day in a long time and the mayor says she's doing fine.

"It's very busy," says Lang with a tentative laugh. "There are a lot of things going on right now."

She believes the city is in a good place with a lot of projects that were just on the horizon as Lang came into office.

"We hadn't quite begun to experience the fallout from COVID last April," she said. "Supply-chain issues had just begun cropping up. There are labor shortages, and inflation is huge. People don't usually think of inflation impacting a city but it does. The city has to fill its vehicles with

gas too."

Budgeting has subsequently been challenging, with big lags between ordering and receiving.

"We have to be both in the present and the future, always thinking creatively about financing. It's not the most exciting creativity but it's necessary," she said.

It is a busy time for Neenah with transitions across the board. Long-term employees have given way to new, buildings and businesses are springing up and the capital improvement projects are in full swing.

"Spring is such a hectic time," Lang noted. "May is just a busy month. There's so much going on in schools with the end of the year activities, graduation and everything that entails."

Lang smiles, adding that her son is getting married at the end of the month. "It's a Neenah wedding so all four kids will be home – first time in a long time. All my

siblings will be together for the first time since pre-COVID. It will be big – but I know it's going to go by so fast."

Despite the high level of activities, she said she feels great.

"Except I wish I could get out of the office a little more," she added. With that in mind, the mayor has initiated a "let's take a walk" invitation: "Anybody who's available at 12:30, let's take a walk and get out from behind the desk. I'd like folks to have the opportunity to get outside, just hang out a little and chat with fellow employees about other stuff besides work."

A picnic table was recently added to the side of the building; Lang said she's been as bad about eating at her desk as everyone else.

"Often I'm eating at the computer, reading email or proposals or whatever. That's not good. In summertime we need to take

SEE **Mayor Lang** ON PAGE 7



Photo by Patti Lee

Neenah Mayor Jane Lang sports Neenah 150th Birthday apparel in her office during a recent interview.

Neenah News

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City notes support for rental rules

Realtors group gave endorsement in 2017

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah submitted evidence last week showing that a local branch of the Wisconsin Realtors Association (WRA), who is suing the city over its tourist housing ordinance, evaluated and endorsed the ordinance in advance of the city enacting it in 2017.

WRA first filed suit against the city in September, alleging the tourist housing ordinance violates state law and landowners' rights to use their property as a short-term rental. Last month, WRA filed a motion for declaratory and summary judgment and asked the court to enjoin the city from enforcing the ordinance.

The city responded to the latest filing last week and included an email and memorandum from representatives of the Realtors Association of Northeast Wisconsin (RANW), an affiliate of WRA. The June 12, 2017, email and memorandum states that RANW supports the city's tourist housing ordinance, which was under consideration

at the time.

"Our board of directors believes that the permitting process as outlined provides a reasonable framework that protects the rights of individual property owners to offer their home for short-term rental on a limited basis, while also protecting the rights of surrounding neighbors and the community as a whole," RANW wrote in the email.

Deputy director of community development Brad Schmidt wrote in an affidavit that between 2017, when the ordinance was enacted, and 2022, when the lawsuit was filed, there have been no questions, complaints or other communications from RANW or WRA regarding the city's rental limitations.

City Attorney David Rashid wrote in legal filings last week that no one affiliated with WRA has applied for a tourist housing permit in Neenah or been denied issuance of a permit.

He argued that WRA has no standing to bring the lawsuit and no justiciable controversy exists between WRA and Neenah.

WRA's lawsuit challenges several specific requirements in the city's ordinance: That tourist housing properties

must be the primary residence of the applicant, may be rented no more than 120 days within a calendar year and require a permit that may be revoked with cause.

The city contends that the ordinance does not change the definition of "residential dwelling," but restricts the rental privilege to residential dwelling properties that are owner occupied.

Documents say state statute permits a municipality to enact an ordinance regulating the rental of a residential dwelling and requiring renters to obtain a permit to do so.

The city conceded that its 120-day rental restriction per year is at odds with the state's 180-day limit, but noted the state statute was not enacted at the time the city ordinance was approved. Rashid wrote that irrespective of the court's ruling, the city will amend its ordinance in that respect.

Rashid wrote that the ordinance's cause provision for revocation may be reasonably inferred to mean that a permit may be revoked when the tourist housing property no longer complies with the established standards.

Both parties are due in court on the matter July 19.

Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day program planned

Neenah News

The annual Memorial Day celebration Monday is being presented by Twin Cities veterans organizations, including Neenah American Legion Post 33, Menasha American Legion Post 152, Menasha VFW Post 2126, and the cities of Neenah and Menasha and Village of Fox Crossing.

Ceremonies begin at 8 a.m. at the waterfront on Mill Street in Menasha where a wreath and flowers will be placed in the water to honor veterans lost at sea.

Music will be performed by the Neenah High School Marching Band.

There will be a rifle salute by the Neenah-Menasha Veterans Honor Guard and Taps sounded.

Neenah-Menasha Rotary members will pass out American flags along the route of the procession that starts at 9 a.m. at Second and Milwaukee streets in Menasha, proceeds on Milwaukee to Main Street and continues to Tayco Street, then to Commercial Street in Neenah to Main Street where it ends at the Ascension Clinic at Main and Doty Street.

The procession will mark the 150th birthday of the city of Neenah and is the 127th annual event in the twin cities.

At about 10:45 a.m., the celebration moves to Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah for military honors for all deceased veterans.

The event includes a guest speaker, student speakers from St. Mary Catholic High School and the Neenah High School Marching Band.

There will be wreaths placed at the military monument in the cemetery and a rifle salute from the Neenah-Menasha Honor Guard.

After the ceremonies the public is invited to the annual brat fry and bake sale at Lucky Dog's on Green Bay Road in Neenah put on by Legion Post 33.

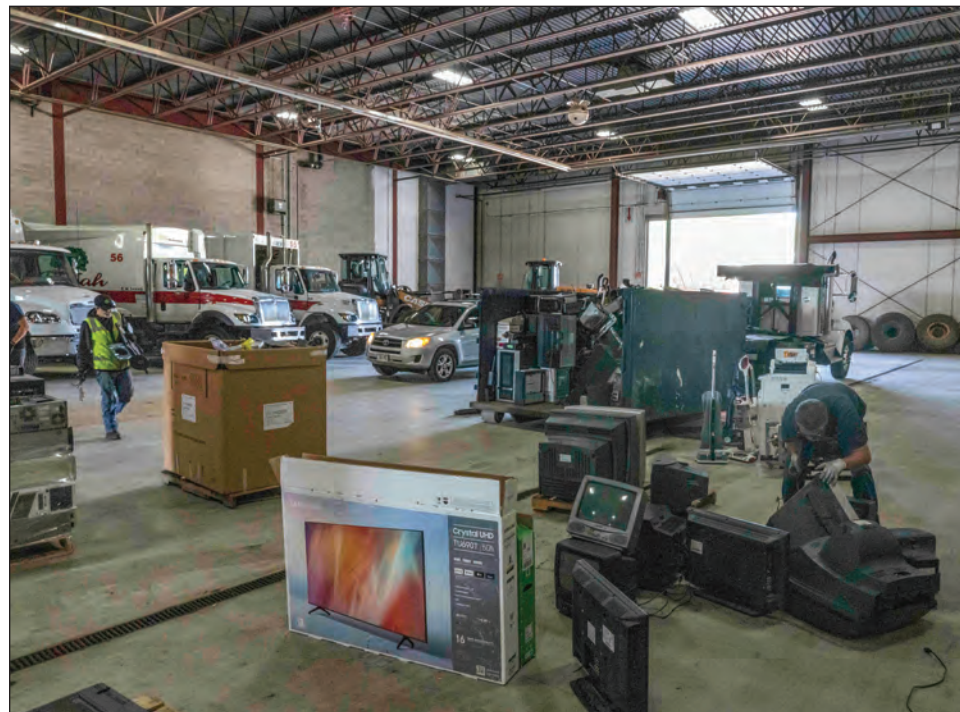


Photo by David Hall

Electronics turnover

Electronics recycling was offered at the Neenah City Garage on Tullar Road last weekend where unwanted or obsolete computer equipment and other devices were being accepted. The effort allows metals and materials to be salvaged while conserving natural resources and reducing landfill use.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Past parade

Police officers marching in the Memorial Day Parade turn the corner from Wisconsin Avenue to Main Street in this photo from about 1945. The Twin Cities Memorial Day Parade has been an annual tradition for more than 115 years.



Neenah News

Oak Hill Cemetery's chapel, built in 1924, is being rebuilt with private funding.

Century-old cemetery chapel being restored

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Construction is currently underway at Oak Hill Cemetery to restore the chapel to its original condition.

Situated on Oakridge Road, the cemetery has been owned and maintained by the city of Neenah since 1848.

Records from the Wisconsin Historical Society indicate the cemetery chapel was built in 1924 by D.W. Bergstrom, who donated it to the city.

The chapel was designed by Eschweiler and Eschweiler out of Milwaukee and features a Tudor Revival style. The inside of the stone structure showcases stained glass windows and chandeliers.

The chapel has been used for funerals and services during inclement weather. In recent years, it has fallen into disrepair and has only been used for storage.

Mayor Jane Lang said a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous has undertaken the process of restoring the chapel.

Along with the chapel restoration, Lang said the donor is supporting construction of a storage unit for equipment being stored in the chapel. There is no cost to the city for either of the projects.

"The goal is to make this beautiful chapel again available to the public for gatherings at Oak Hill Cemetery," Lang said.

Construction is expected to be substantially complete by early July.

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Fox Crossing fire chief retiring

Neenah News

Fox Crossing Fire Chief Brian Harbison announced his retirement earlier this month after five years as chief of the village's Fire Department. Assistant Chief Todd Sweeney has been named as the next fire chief.

"I am grateful to the Village of Fox Crossing for the opportunity to serve, honored to have been part of the FCFD family, and can honestly say that this opportunity has been the highlight of my career," Harbison said in a statement.

Harbison has more than 30 years of service in the fire industry, including maintaining his career with the U.S. Navy

Reserve where he is currently with the national staff of NAVSEA SurgeMain/RMC program. He has taken on more responsibility in his military role and said it was the basis of his decision. He and his wife, Tomiko, will be moving to the Houston area in support of that role.

Sweeney has 27 years of experience in fire and emergency service management, starting at the Town of Menasha Fire Department as an on-call firefighter in 1996 and rose through the ranks of driver, lieutenant and captain. He was promoted to full-time division chief of training in 2006 and assistant chief of operations in 2015.

He will be officially sworn in as fire chief July 10.

Business news roundup

Anthology Salon & Co. has recently opened at 106 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Neenah with professional stylists offering pharmaceutical-grade plant treatments for the health of hair and scalp. The salon specializes in blonding color services, hand-tied hair extensions and hair health treatments.

Smart Real Estate Group has opened an office at 314 S. Commercial St. in Neenah offering home buying and selling services in the Fox Valley region. Contact Dylan@smartteamhomes.com for more information.

Nominations are open for the 12th annual **NEW Manufacturing Alliance's** Excellence in Manufacturing/K-12 Partnerships Awards being held Oct. 24. The event will spotlight best practices of manufacturing and education collaborations throughout Northeast Wisconsin. Nominations for schools, educators, manufac-

turing companies, community organizations or manufacturers are due by June 9. The schools that win will receive a \$500 cash award from the alliance.

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah and ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Appleton have earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit upholding the standard of patient safety in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. The recognition is awarded to organizations that aim to prioritize patient safety by protecting patients from preventable harm and errors. The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns a grade to general hospitals across the country based on more than 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

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Armed robbery, drug dealing brings charges

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A Neenah man and a Monroe teen were arrested after a drug deal and armed robbery at an apartment complex on Bell Street last month left the teen seriously injured.

Kyle Lamb, 20, of Neenah, is facing charges of possession with intent to distribute about 2,400 grams of THC, maintaining a drug trafficking place and bail jumping after the shooting.

Prosecutors have referred multiple counts of endangering safety by reckless use of a firearm and armed robbery for Donavyn Mueller, 17, of Monroe.

According to the criminal complaint, on April 23 around 8:30 p.m. police respond-

ed to a report of the sound of gunshots and yelling. Lamb was located outside the Bell Street residence with blood on his face. Officers found a handgun on the ground and a hole in the wall near Lamb's apartment door.

Simultaneously, an officer responded to the Marco's Pizza parking lot on South Commercial Street and found Mueller with multiple gunshot wounds. He was taken to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center where he underwent emergency surgery and was hospitalized for several weeks.

Lamb was out on bond at the time of the shooting, stemming from 2021 felony charges in Fond du Lac County for possession of THC with intent to deliver, maintaining a drug trafficking place and misde-

meanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

Documents say Mueller and an accomplice who authorities have not publicly identified arrived at Lamb's apartment under the pretense of selling him about \$2,000 worth of drugs.

Authorities reviewed text messages that Mueller sent a few days before the incident that indicated he was planning on robbing someone.

A witness whose name was redacted from the probable cause statement said she and two other women were in the living room of the Bell Street residence when Mueller and the other man arrived and began walking down a hallway toward a bedroom with Lamb.

A short time later, the woman heard a gunshot and grabbed a gun off the couch. Mueller entered the room and began shooting at her and the two other witnesses.

The woman dropped behind a couch footrest. She said she heard five or six shots go off when she began firing back. She stopped firing when Mueller turned away and was no longer pointing a gun at the witnesses.

Mueller fell to the floor and was dragged outside the apartment by his accomplice. The woman ran to close and lock the door and then the witnesses checked on Lamb.

Lamb was lying on the floor, choking on his own blood and did not appear fully conscious, witnesses said. He was later outside and told the first officers that arrived that he had fallen.

Lamb was taken into custody and police executed a search warrant at his apartment with assistance from the Lake Winnebago MEG Drug Unit. Officials seized two handguns, a tactical rifle, ammunition, handgun magazines and fired bullets.

Authorities also confiscated about 800 grams of THC wax, 820 grams of marijuana, 800 grams of marijuana edibles, cocaine, psilocybin mushrooms, LSD, a suspected drug ledger and \$4,600 cash.

Lamb was released from jail on \$4,000 cash bail five days after his arrest. He entered a not-guilty plea and is due back in court Wednesday.

District Attorney Eric Sparr said that because of the extent of Mueller's injuries, a special hearing took place last week to set bond in advance of criminal charges, which are expected to be forthcoming.

Mueller was released on a signature bond, with conditions that he not leave Wisconsin, not possess firearms, not have contact with Lamb and not use or possess controlled substances without a valid prescription. His next hearing is set Thursday.

Hunting violations add up for prosecution

Neenah News

A Fox Crossing man and an Appleton man are facing a combined total of 102 charges for dozens of illegal deer hunting violations in Waupaca County spanning years.

According to the criminal complaint, the state Department of Natural Resources investigation was initiated Nov. 10 when the decapitated carcass of a deer was found near County U in Waupaca County.



Feavel

Two days later, a DNR warden received a report of someone shining for deer around midnight near Weyauwega, about a quarter-mile from where the carcass was located.

Under Wisconsin law, shining wild animals is prohibited between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. from Sept. 15 to Dec. 31. Shining wild animals while hunting or possessing weapons is prohibited year-round.

The warden located a vehicle traveling slowly while shining deer with a handheld flashlight from the driver's side of the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop.

Eric Feavel, 40, of Fox Crossing, was identified as the driver and Travis Vander Heiden, 37, of Appleton, was a passenger. A background check determined Vander Heiden's hunting license was revoked and Feavel was wearing an ankle bracelet while out on bond.

The warden located a cocked crossbow on the seat owned by Feavel. Bolts, a crossbow projectile used for hunting large game animals, were found on the floor of the vehicle. A blood-stained tarp was in the back.

Wardens matched a bolt found near the recently discovered decapitated deer with bolts seized from Feavel.

Vander Heiden admitted to authorities that Feavel shot the deer with a crossbow out of the passenger side of the vehicle on Nov. 9 or 10. Vander Heiden said he and Feavel have been shining and shooting deer in the area since 2019.

In the fall of 2021, Vander Heiden said he shined and shot at about 15 deer and Feavel shot at about 20 deer and hit eight of them. He and Feavel recovered only three of the deer.

In the fall of 2022, Vander Heiden told wardens that he shot at about ten deer with Feavel's crossbow and recovered two of them.

The subsequent investigation revealed that Vander Heiden's ex-girlfriend registered a buck harvested by crossbow in both 2021 and 2022. She told authorities that although she registered the two bucks, they were harvested by Vander Heiden.

Authorities found more than 30 photos on Feavel's phone depicting dead bucks, deer carcasses, a buck head in a trash can and others sitting on a tarp.

Feavel was charged in February with one count of failing to obtain required deer hunting approval, 25 counts of illegal shining of deer as a party to a crime and 25 counts of felony bail jumping. He pleaded not guilty last month and a jury trial is set for Aug. 10.

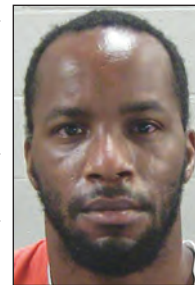
Vander Heiden was charged with one count of failing to obtain required deer hunting approval, 25 counts of hunting after revocation and 25 counts of illegal shining of deer as party to a crime. He has not yet entered a plea. His case is set for an initial appearance June 6.

Fox Crossing stabbing suspect convicted

Neenah News

A jury found Phillip Dellar guilty last week of stabbing his girlfriend more than 70 times in a Fox Crossing apartment in 2021, causing her death.

According to the criminal complaint, Dellar, then 26, lived with Leianna Mule, 30, in an apartment in the 1100 block of Valley Road. Dellar called 911 shortly before 7 p.m. July 25, 2021, and frantically told dispatch "someone killed my girlfriend."



Dellar

Responding officers found the main entrance to the apartment complex locked and used a knife to gain entry.

Officers found the apartment was dirty and in disarray. Dellar was crying and covered in blood. He and Mule's child was in one of the bedrooms with a full diaper that was leaking.

Mule was found in a back bedroom lying face down on the floor covered with a blanket. She had been stabbed multiple times and was determined to be deceased.

Dellar told officers that he left the apartment briefly and when he returned he found a man stabbing Mule. Dellar claimed he tried to fight off the intruder and was stabbed himself, with the injury requiring surgery. Nurses found Mule's long black hair wrapped around Dellar's injured hand and fingers.

Dellar at first was unable to provide a physical description of the attacker but later described him as a black man wearing black sweatpants and a black, long-sleeve shirt.

Officials reviewed surveillance footage of the apartment but were unable to locate anyone matching that description entering or exiting the apartment. The footage also showed that Dellar did not exit the apartment during the time period when Mule was stabbed.

Police conducted interviews with some of Mule's acquaintances and were informed that Dellar was abusive and Mule was planning on leaving him. One woman told police she overheard Dellar tell Mule, "If I can't have you, no one can."

Dellar was convicted of intentional homicide after a four-day jury trial last week. He faces life in prison at sentencing, which is set for Sept. 6.



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TheaCare photo

TheaCare and Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin and Volunteer Fox Cities packed 1,000 boxes with nonperishable food for distribution last fall.

TheaCare program extends community health reach

Neenah News

TheaCare is launching a program called Life Inspired, an approach based on better understanding the people in the population, getting ahead of health events before they occur and providing care immediately when health issues begin.

TheaCare started the Life Inspired movement internally in 2021 by uniting team members around the vision to reinvent health care and is now offering ways for community members to get involved.

“Most health systems were designed decades ago, for a generation since past,” said Dr. Imran A. Andrabi, TheaCare president and chief executive. “The focus then was to reactively treat those who were sick or injured, with little thought to how to proactively keep everyone healthy.

“Health care is not fit for the needs of today’s lifestyles. What we need today is something different and better – for our families and our communities. What we need is a movement to create a healthier future in the lives of every member of our communities.”

Some outreach efforts will include opportunities to get involved as a volunteer or by attending an event, being an advocate who shares the passion of creating a

healthier future, and sharing health and well-being tools and resources.

To empower residents with tools, resources and information to find access to care, TheaCare is launching TheaCare.org/lifeinspired.

“If people take care of their health, it can be part of creating a powerful chain reaction,” Andrabi said. “For example, if a person gets their annual wellness visit, does recommended screenings and is current on recommended vaccinations – all of that can help our communities. We can all help get ahead of health problems before they occur.”

After food insecurity was identified as a common, major concern for the people in the region, TheaCare’s Community Health Improvement team worked with Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin and Volunteer Fox Cities to pack 1,000 boxes with nonperishable food for distribution throughout the region.

Earlier this month, TheaCare and community members packed 2,500 food boxes for distribution to patients in need. Each box was filled with enough food for seven meals. The boxes will be provided to patients leaving TheaCare hospitals and clinics to put food directly into the hands of anyone who needs help.

First Career EXCErate students receive skills to enter workforce

Career EXCErate Wisconsin celebrated more than 30 students last week who earned educational certificates through the new program operated in partnership with Goodwill of North Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley Technical College and Rawhide Youth Services.

The program, which began in summer 2022 with support from a state Workforce Innovation Grant, was offered at no cost to individuals who want to launch a lasting career but are struggling and would benefit from individualized support to advance in their profession, enter a career or return to the workforce.

The program focuses on providing tracks that have future career development options. Students in the spring cohort completed certificates in nursing assistant, early childhood teacher aide, professional truck driving, welding fundamentals and woodworking technician.

Korie Hansen, a student in the first co-

hort, completed her Early Childhood Teacher Aide certificate to launch her career and dreams of being a teacher in a 4-year-old kindergarten classroom. Her mental health and finances were big hurdles.

“It has given me the confidence to know that I can go back to school and do well. It’s given me a refresher on a lot of vital skills,” she said. “Confidence is a big one, just knowing that I’ve got the support has been amazing.”

The program is enrolling students on an ongoing basis for all career educational certificate programs. Those interested in earning a certificate can complete the application form at CareerEXCErateWI.org.

Employers can partner with Career EXCErate to recruit qualified candidates by contacting careerexceleatewi@goodwillncw.org. Prospective students can be referred by a local agency, nonprofit, employer or personal contact.

K-C awards Bright Futures scholarships

Kimberly-Clark has awarded 2023 Bright Futures college scholarships to 23 Fox Valley students in recognition of their academic achievements and leadership in their schools and communities.

Among those awarded scholarships were Neenah High School seniors Ian Cowell, son of Christine and Brian Cowell, who plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Matilda Hughes, daughter of Dave and Stacy Hughes, who plans to

attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville; and St. Mary Catholic senior Chloe Vogel, daughter of Nathan and Christy Vogel, who plans to attend UW-La Crosse.

The Bright Futures program provides scholarship grants worth up to \$20,000, or \$5,000 per school year, to children of Kimberly-Clark employees in North America. Recipients are selected based on academic achievement, community service, work experience and extracurricular activities.

State jobless rates continue historic decline

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw a dip in its unemployment rate from 1.9% to 1.8% in April, according to nonseasonally adjusted data from the state Department of Workforce Development.


With a statewide unemployment rate of 2.4%, it’s the third straight month it has fallen to a record number and is now a full percentage point below the national rate.

Last April’s jobless rate in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA was 2.3%.


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Young scholar cited for making early impact in school

By Jenny Grunwald
NEENAH NEWS

Roosevelt Elementary School student and Neenah resident Alex Izquierdo was recently named a winner of the 2023 Carson Scholars Fund.

Alex and her family traveled to Pittsburgh last month to attend the Carson Scholars Awards Banquet at Acrisure Stadium, where she and other Carson Scholars were honored.

Special this year is that Dr. Doug and Kay Horan of Neenah drove to the banquet and attended with Alex and her parents. The Horans have sponsored Roosevelt Elementary School for the past nine years, offering fourth- and fifth-graders an opportunity to become Carson Scholars. They're also the Izquierdo family's neighbors on Doty Island.

With many scholarships sports-related, Kay said she recognizes the importance of academic scholarships for students. She

and her husband decided to attend the banquet because they're dedicated sponsors and support Alex in her success.

"They are learning at a very young age through writing an application," Kay said. "It really touches all kinds of areas."

The Carson Scholars Fund was founded in 1994 by John Hopkins pediatric neurosurgeon Benjamin Carson and wife, Candy Carson, who wanted to inspire children to achieve academic success. Carson also served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Trump.

They were motivated after reading a study that ranked America's students toward the bottom in academic achievement in comparison with other countries.

The requirements for a student to be eligible include a 3.75 or greater GPA and participation in at least one community service project. Once a student is nominated, he or she must submit an application, essay and a letter of recommenda-

tion. Some schools hold essay contests to determine that nominee.

Students are selected for the program by educators who observe them academically. Recipients are considered a role model among peers at school, exemplifying academic excellence and humanitarian qualities such as developing solutions to community issues.

Alex was nominated by Roosevelt teacher Jennifer Wunrow, who is a big supporter of the program. Wunrow shared that research shows 94% of Carson Scholars feel that being selected has helped them become role models in their schools.

"The aim is to reinforce academic achievements and to refocus the spotlight on education," Wunrow said.

Carson winners receive a \$1,000 college scholarship, medal, certificate and an invite to a celebration in their honor. Schools that choose to be part of the program and have a student selected also receive a trophy.

One special aspect of the program is the eligibility for students to reapply and be selected multiple years, although repeat winners do not receive an additional financial award.

Alex's mother, Amanda, said the family had a wonderful time traveling to Pittsburgh to attend the awards banquet.

"She was one of the younger kids, so she felt really proud of herself," Amanda said.

In its first year in 1996, the program awarded 25 students with scholarships. It now awards more than 500 to students each year. In its entirety, the program has supported 10,500 students nationwide.

Wunrow said the impact of the program extends from individual students and fam-



Alex Izquierdo, recently given a Carson Scholars Award in Pittsburgh, is shown with neighbors Dr. Doug and Kay Horan, who have sponsored Roosevelt Elementary School students for the honor.

Elder abuse gets focus with awareness day

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is being marked June 15 with individuals and organizations worldwide highlighting the importance of the rights of older people, as well as the prevention against their mistreatment.

The Winnebago County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) will be hosting a Walk Against Elder Abuse at noon at the main entrance of the Oshkosh Human Services/ADRC building, 220 Washington Ave. There will be a short walk to Opera House Square where snacks and refreshments will be available as speakers from the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's office and the ADRC are heard.

Elder abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust such as a family member or friend. The abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological or sexual, and can include mistreatment and neglect.

The Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline Program is available for residents to contact for assistance in obtaining needed resources and making referrals to local authorities. Learn more about the signs at ReportElderAbuseWI.org and make a report through Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline at 833-586-0107 or in Winnebago County at 877-886-2372.

ilies to schools and classrooms.

"Carson Scholars encourage other students in their schools to strive for excellence and serve as peer role models," she said.



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Rezoning rules

FROM PAGE 1

the council members voted in favor of the change.

To pass the council after the protest petition was submitted, the Shattuck rezoning needed seven of the nine council members to vote in favor. Five voted against the rezoning, while four supported it.

The failed rezoning left the fate of the school property in limbo. It will permanently close after the last day of school May 31, with a final public open house from 1 to 3 p.m. June 4.

The school district's initial plan was to sell the Shattuck property to Northpointe Development of Oshkosh, which planned to construct apartments inside the building using historical renovation tax credits and also build single-family homes on the site.

A second developer, Lakeside Development of Mequon, is currently in negotiations with the district regarding the property. Lakeside proposed demolishing the Shattuck building and constructing 24 duplexes, 24 townhomes and 70 single-family homes. Lakeside's plans would also require the site to be rezoned.

Neenah resident Alex Collins told the Board of Education last week that residents weren't opposed to a future rezoning of the Shattuck site.

"Back then, many of us were not saying, no, not ever for rezoning," he said. "But we were saying, hey, if you want such a drastic rezoning to facilitate a sale, you need to go back and market the property a little more widely."

Collins' statement is in contrast to the dozens of signs reading, "Don't rezone Shattuck Middle School, leave R-1 alone" that currently remain in their yards. The city is engaged in both a federal and Win-

nebago County Circuit Court lawsuit in relation to its efforts to have the signs removed.

At last week's Common Council meeting, Alderman John Skyrms requested a council directive to review Neenah's protest petition ordinance and make a recommendation for appropriate action by the end of June.

In 2017, Wisconsin Act 243 repealed the protest petition process at the state level but allowed municipalities to create an ordinance outlining a similar process.

Several municipalities, including Oshkosh, Appleton and Madison, have made changes to their ordinances to remove the protest petition provision in recent years.

Deputy director of community development Brad Schmidt said no protest petitions have been submitted in Neenah in the past decade. One was submitted in 2010 for the rezoning of what is now the Western Avenue Townhomes.

In March, the city's Plan Commission was expected to consider a measure to eliminate the public's ability to submit protest petitions in opposition to rezoning. That measure was removed from the agenda several days later, with Mayor Jane Lang telling media outlets that the removal was in response to residents' concerns surrounding rezoning requests.

Skyrms said the council regularly evaluates rezoning requests and the issue may come up again.

"It gives a minority a disproportionate amount of power to block a measure, despite a majority in favor of it," he said.

He added that the purpose of the council directive is to evaluate the ordinance, learn more about it and determine the best course of action for the community.

The council will vote on whether to move forward with the directive to examine the ordinance at its June 7 meeting.

Mayor Lang

FROM PAGE 1

advantage of the good days outside.”

Lang jokingly suggested the picnic table could be an option for meetings.

“But then yesterday we did it. There was a meeting scheduled and we had it outside at the picnic table. It was spur of the moment, but it was great,” she smiles.

A lot of Lang’s past year has been spent learning how the city actually functions. Eight years as an alderperson has informed her work but didn’t reveal the inner workings and challenges of each department.

Lang is passionate about the character and quality of Neenah’s public servants.

“As I speak to various groups around Neenah, I always tell them that the greatest privilege of being mayor is the opportunity to work with the people who work for this city,” she said, visibly moved when talking about her colleagues.

“They are so dedicated and hard working – and it’s not for any other reason than the desire to serve the community.

“You can take a job elsewhere and probably make a lot more money with a lot more flexibility. That fact has really come to the fore during the past few years: People can work from home. We don’t have that option with the city because we are public facing and public serving. We need to be here to deliver for the people and you can’t do that from home.”

Upon election last year, Lang started an initiative for culture evaluation and implementation.

“That has been a wonderful process. Employees need to know they are valued. I want to create a workplace that provides a positive and meaningful experience.”

The city has progressed through much of that process, including multiple employee focus groups and a citywide employee survey. Those results were then taken to department heads to unpack the implications from the responses.

“It was mostly positive and that’s good. We really want to keep that piece.”

Neenah implemented a culture team with representatives from each city department. After three days of training, the team created a mission statement with the values they want the city to embrace.

The next step took place earlier this month with a presentation to department heads. The ultimate goal is a roadmap for the program.

“It encompasses every aspect of how we’re interacting with each other, how we’re interacting with the public,” Lang said. “I don’t think most municipalities undertake this type of process. I believe we’re taking an important step. People are people. They have the same needs to be heard, recognized and appreciated.”

Lang notes the city has a new city attorney, human resources director, finance director and library director.

“It was challenging but I am thrilled with the people we’ve hired. Each one is outstanding and I’m so happy they’ve decided to come work for the city. They’ve already made big contributions and I’m very grateful.”

Lang is also looking to improve relations between the city and Neenah Joint School District.

“I think we’ve made positive steps to-

Library offers state park passes to cardholders

Free day passes for any Wisconsin state park became available to Neenah Public Library cardholders as part of the Check Out Wisconsin State Parks at Your Library initiative. The library is one of 160 across Wisconsin participating in the program.

To receive a day pass, adults must show

ward that end,” she said. “No fault to anyone, there’s a lot of misunderstanding in the community, even as to where one lives. ‘I live in Neenah’ isn’t necessarily true. A driver’s license or postal address says Neenah but the person really lives in Fox Crossing.

“In the same vein, the city of Neenah and the Joint School District are two separate entities with their own boards making their own decisions. The JSD encompasses various municipalities of which Neenah is one. That’s an important distinction. Buildings located in Neenah are property of the JSD.”

Lang decided to remain active in the annual Powwow planning committee from her time as Neenah Historical Society executive director. A bright spot in the face of daily issues, the event holds great passion for her and the people surrounding it.

“I need to keep a little bit of what I was doing before,” she said. “All of us coming back together last year after COVID – I hadn’t seen these people for two years and it was such a wonderful event.”

Lang remains enthused about the Arrowhead Park project.

“That has been a very energizing process. When I came in, the former mayor had talked about creating a task force but it hadn’t happened. I wanted that task force put together and to get it moving. We made it a priority and it became clear that we had to look at it with fresh eyes.”

With so much change and development in the downtown area, the 2017 plan was largely outdated. Lang believed that the 30-acre project deserved a new consideration. RDG created a revised master plan for Arrowhead.

“They are very creative. They’ve done fabulous work all over the country. We are at the end of creating the master plan but need to conduct an updated land survey so we have all the pertinent information in one spot as we go forward.”

That investment will add about six weeks to the planning but the benefits can outweigh the short delay.

“This will ultimately help in creating the very best product for the city. We’ve had input from focus groups, businesses, young people and the public as a whole. It’s been lots of fun and it will all be to the benefit of the community.”

Last but not least for the historian-mayor is Neenah’s 150th birthday celebration.

“I’m wearing the shirt,” she grins, sporting green Neenah 150th Birthday apparel. “That’s the logo we created for the 150th. It’s interesting to reflect on 150 years. I like to bring it up in speeches for various events. I usually say, ‘If you know me, you know I like to talk about history.’”

Lang values the arc of events that built Neenah into the city it is today.

“What I most often think about is the people of the past who were so clearly focusing on the future. They weren’t building for now. The things they were creating and what they wanted the community to be were based upon what we would become.”

Lang is clearly of that same mindset.

“Let’s make sure the decisions we’re making today aren’t just for today. Let’s make decisions in a way that is mindful of our legacy. Let’s build for ourselves but also for those who are yet to come. We’ve got hundreds of years ahead of us. Why not?”

their Neenah Public Library card at the first floor service desk. Staff will assist residents who need to apply for a free library card.

The library will also have state park lists, the spring DNR Guide and other information about enjoying the outdoors in Wisconsin.

Calendar of events

Friday, May 26

Start Fire, 6 p.m., Winncrest Banquet Hall, 2788 Towne Court

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day celebration, starting at 8 a.m., Menasha and Neenah

Wednesday, May 31

Youth Go Summer Open House, 3 p.m., 213 Nicolet Blvd.

Thursday, June 1

Live Music Series: Big and Tall, 6 p.m.,

Ground Round Grill & Bar patio
Open Chess Night, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, June 2

Fused by Numbers: A Women’s Collaborative Mural, 1:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

HAKAS celebration, Barrel 41 Brewing Co., 5 p.m., 1132 S. Commercial St.

Saturday, June 3

HAKAS celebration, Barrel 41 Brewing Co., 5 p.m., 1132 S. Commercial St.

Sunday, June 4

Neenah Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

Monday, June 5

Storytime, 10 a.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

NEENAH COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN 2023

NEENAH News
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Rockets roll past Golden Raiders for tourney win

Harwood fans 11 in four innings to lead Neenah

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

It can be difficult on position players when their pitcher is mowing down opposing hitters without needing any help.

Neenah senior Quinn Marnocha has found a way to pass the time and put it to use Tuesday afternoon as Rocket ace Morgan Harwood was striking out batter after batter against Sheboygan North.

"When Morgan is pitching like that, I just have to stand there and look pretty," the Rocket first baseman joked following Tuesday's 15-0 thumping of the Golden Raiders in a WIAA Division 1 regional softball game. "She has been pitching lights out. She's our senior pitcher and she's going to be carrying us through this tournament."

Harwood was nearly untouchable against the 13th-seeded Golden Raiders.

It took five batters just for Sheboygan North to get a piece of a Harwood pitch – which was fouled off into the fence behind home plate – as the senior struck out the first six batters she faced and totaled 11 strikeouts in the game, which was shortened to four innings because of the mercy rule.

She did allow two singles in the third inning and combined with a passed ball gave the Golden Raiders runners at second and third with two outs, but she calmly fanned the next hitter for the final out.

"She did a really nice job of moving the ball and locating her pitches," Neenah head coach Steven Gross said. "Mo did a phenomenal job on the mound and Piper (Alberg) did a nice job of holding on to everything that came through."

Savanna Knuth's two-out single in the first inning staked the Rockets to a 1-0 lead, but Neenah's bats exploded in the second frame to break the game open.

McKenna Herm opened the second inning with a double and scored two batters later on a Taelyn Bauer single to open up the floodgates. The next four Neenah batters reached base, highlighted by an RBI-double from Harwood, before a two-out run-scoring double by Parker Zipper-



Neenah News

Quinn Marnocha slides safely into third base during Neenah's WIAA Division 1 regional win over Sheboygan North on Tuesday.

er and an RBI-single from Herm capped the seven-run outburst.

"Hitting is so contagious for us," said Marnocha, who had two hits and scored three runs from her lead-off spot. "Once one person gets on, the energy goes up and everyone gets so loud and so hyped and I think we use that to our advantage and just keep rolling. I think that's what helps put up our big numbers."

The Rockets nearly repeated their outburst in the third inning, this time scoring six runs. Bella Coulman launched an

RBI triple, Alberg plated two runs with a single and Zipperer notched her second RBI-double in as many innings as Neenah took a 14-0 lead.

Eight of the nine starters registered hits in the game and scored a run, with Herm leading the way with a 3-for-3 night, while Marnocha, Harwood, Knuth, Alberg and Zipperer each finished with two hits.

Aubrey Oitzinger drove home Keira Tech in the fourth inning for the final run to get the Rockets to the 15-run margin to

end the game.

"Pitching was a little bit slower than what we are used to seeing and the girls did a nice job of making those adjustments early and then continuing to do it throughout the rest of the game," Gross said. "With our group, we do a nice job of being focused regardless of who we are playing. Our seniors did a great job of leading and making sure everyone was ready to go tonight."

Neenah was certainly focused on the Golden Raiders, who had won just eight games all season, but entered the tournament having rattled off six straight wins and reached double figures in runs in each of those games.

But Marnocha said that's the way the team approaches every game, regardless of the opponent's accomplishments.

"I think it was important to do what we have done the whole season," Marnocha said. "We needed to treat them the way we have treated every game the whole season and play like it's a tough game like we always do."

Gross also had to deal with the fact that his senior-heavy roster was dealing with a lot of distractions with graduation this week, but was pleased with the way the group handled the situation.

"There may be a little bit of that Senioritis going on but I remember going through it also so I can't say I blame them," Gross said. "I know the kids absolutely enjoy being here and they love one another and they have a ton of fun. They did a really nice job of making sure they stayed focused and worked through things this week."

Neenah, which came within a game of the state tournament last season, were scheduled to face Beaver Dam in a regional final on Thursday.

A win there would likely mean a showdown with fellow Fox Valley Association member Oshkosh West in a sectional semifinal, with powerhouse Slinger also waiting on the other side of the bracket.

"We know the pitching and hitting we are going to see is solid and we have to be ready and focused," Gross said. "With what is ahead of us (starting Thursday), making sure we got a good win tonight was super important."

Balanced attack leads Rockets to Senior Night win

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah girls soccer team wrapped up second place in the Fox Valley Association and sent the seniors out on a high note with a come-from-behind 4-1 win over a pesky Appleton West squad Tuesday evening.

The Rockets fell behind 1-0 midway through the first half but got the next four goals to claim its sixth conference win of the season.

"This game was the result of a yearlong process of improving every day," head coach Lars Nordang said. "We have a relatively young team that took a while to gel, but things have certainly come together these final few weeks."

The Rockets had a chance at a goal one minute into the match only to see the Terrors come away with a great save. That turned into a quick counter attack and Appleton West drew first blood making the most of their first scoring chance against Rocket netminder Bella Jones.

The Terrors controlled the next 10-plus minutes of the game and had the Rockets on their heels over that span until one shot

single-handedly flipped the momentum.

Neenah made some tactical changes at that point in an effort to combine better passes and it worked in their favor when Mia Wasco tied things up with a wonderful unassisted goal.

"I think that goal acted as the motivator we needed, especially after falling behind early," Wasco said. "That goal not only tied the game, but it helped all of us remember how quick we can score and what this team is capable of doing. It seemed like the entire team played with more confidence after that and we did a tremendous job finishing things off."

Less than five minutes after tying the game, it was the Rockets who struck once again as Leah Kodama-Forget placed a perfectly centered pass to Lilly Kane, who took care of the rest to put Neenah in front for good 2-1.

For Kodama-Forget, this was the first of what was a three-point night for her as she continues to be the leader of this team.

"Leah has been a leader for us during her entire soccer career," Nordang said. "She is a giant of a player and her work ethic is unmatched on the field. She does an enor-

mous amount of work for our team and is one of the more skilled girls in the state. We love her as a player and as a person as she is the glue that keeps us together."

Moments after the Rockets managed to take the lead, it was the Terrors who were looking for a quick strike of their own, only to have Jones come away with a huge save. That was one of the last chances the Terrors would have as the Rockets took a 2-1 lead into the half.

Happy with the lead, but not content with two goals, it was the Rockets who struck fast to begin the second half needing less than five minutes to put their third goal on the scoreboard.

Kodama-Forget was in the center of it all yet again, this time finishing off an unassisted goal to stretch the Rockets lead to 3-1.

Kodama-Forget picked up her second assist of the night, playing the ball to Tessa Pagel, who put home the game's final goal.

Getting wins is the ultimate goal, but Wasco felt that winning on senior night carried an even bigger sense of gratitude.

"This senior class has been amazing and



Photo by Robert Barthel

Neenah's Rhyann Brockman (16) keeps control of the ball in front of an Appleton West defender Tuesday.

Talented Kodama-Forget helps fuel Neenah's success

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Talent has taken Leah Kodama-Forget all over the United States playing soccer.

Yet, it took a little motivation to get the Neenah High School senior started on her trek.

"My mom would motivate me with ice cream," Kodama-Forget said. "If I scored five goals or something, I would get to go for ice cream afterwards so that made it fun for me."

Kodama-Forget may still be earning ice cream, even if she is not scoring five goals a game for the Rockets.

The senior is a returning first-team all-Fox Valley Association selection and has been a key factor in Neenah's offense from her spot as an attacking midfielder. Kodama-Forget is equally adept at scoring goals or setting up teammates – she tallied a goal and two assists Tuesday night in the Rockets' 4-1 win over Appleton West – but gets more satisfaction making a perfect pass for someone else to score.

"I'm a fan of the assists," Kodama-Forget said. "I feel more accomplished with the assists than the goals."

Although Kodama-Forget joins the long list of standouts that have donned a Neenah soccer jersey, her path to being a Rocket was different than most.

As a youth – when she was earning her ice cream – Kodama-Forget played in the Appleton Soccer Club, starting when she was 6-years-old.

She graduated from there to join the SC Wave club program based in Waukesha and further developed her skills there. The soccer was great, however, it was a rough experience overall.

"It was a huge commitment to drive down there multiple times a week and we had tournaments almost every weekend in places like St. Louis, Las Vegas, Michigan," Kodama-Forget said. "Anytime we had practice, I had to leave school 20 minutes early and I wouldn't get back until after nine. My homework, I would have to do in the car."

It was a grinding schedule but that was just part of it.

Kodama-Forget was dogged by feeling pressure because of the sacrifices others were making for her to play.

"It was a lot of pressure, I think that was the biggest thing," Kodama-Forget said. "My parents were paying a lot of money and putting in a lot of time supporting me, driving me – because I couldn't drive then – and it felt terrible when I didn't play well."

"Everybody was so good and the coach was one of the best coaches in the region. It was fun, but it was also really tough."

Kodama-Forget played three seasons with SC Wave, a tenure which ended when she started as a freshman at Neenah High School.

With all of her experience, it would



Neenah News

Leah Kodama-Forget earned first-team all-FVA honors last season and was a leader for Neenah in the midfield this year.

seem natural that she would be excited about picking up the sport in high school. Yet, she almost didn't even go out for the team.

"I was very nervous my freshman/sophomore year and even hesitated to play in high school," Kodama-Forget said. "Everyone on the team had grown up in the Neenah Soccer Club and had been playing together for years. It was scary."

What would have been Kodama-Forget's freshman season was wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant it wasn't until her sophomore year that she was able to take the field with her new teammates.

Tuesday and will take on seventh-seeded Homestead.

Although some may see them as an underdog, Nordang will have his girls ready to play and is expecting another hard-fought matchup.

"Our girls are coming together at the right time, which is all you can ask for as a coach," Nordang said. "We have played four of the top 10 teams in the state this season so we know what it takes to not only be competitive, but to win games. That alone should give us the confidence that we can play with anyone as we have seen it all before. Homestead is going to be a tough opponent and we respect that. All we can do is go out there and play our game for 80 minutes and the rest will take care of itself."

Kodama-Forget – who earned second-team all-FVA honors as a sophomore – said that everyone on the team and in the soccer community welcomed her, but that didn't mean there wasn't some nerves and more pressure that first season.

"People look at your grade and they are looking at you when you're young and

Klesmit commits to Northern Michigan

Neenah High School senior Cal Klesmit announced via Twitter on Tuesday that he has committed to Northern Michigan University, a NCAA Division II school located in Marquette, Mich.

Klesmit had originally committed to UW-Green Bay but reopened his recruitment when Will Ryan was fired as the men's basketball coach and Sundance Hicks was hired.

Klesmit was a first-team all-Fox Valley Association selection this past season after leading the Rockets in scoring at 18.4 points per game. He also led Neenah in rebounding (5.7 per game), assists (4.7

Summer Fun Runs return to Memorial Park

The 28th year of Neenah Summer Fun Runs begins with the first of four free events June 4 at Memorial Park based at the George Scherck Shelter.

Groups include ages 6 and under, ages 7 to 9, and 10 to 14 with separate boys and girls run. Registration can be done in advance at neenahfunrun.com or from 6 to

Senior Spotlight

you're playing up and you feel pressure," Kodama-Forget said. "Freshman year, I didn't really feel a part of the Neenah soccer community. But quickly I felt invited and welcome and recognized. I was voted a captain this year which felt great."

As unique as Kodama-Forget's path to the Neenah soccer program was, the roadmap she plans to follow after graduation is equally interesting.

Kodama-Forget will be moving to Japan in June where she plans to live with her grandparents in Skokka and attend Soko Gakuken – a Japanese language school. Her mother, Ai Kodama, is from Japan and Kodama-Forget is a Japanese citizen and she has spent every other summer traveling to the country.

"They are in school when we would have summer vacation so my siblings and I would go to the elementary school that my mom went to when we were there," Kodama-Forget said. "It was super fun. Everyone was so interested and would ask questions even though they couldn't understand."

Kodama-Forget said she has been studying Japanese on her own the past couple of years but does not speak it very well.

And without any members of her family in Japan who speak English, it does make things interesting.

"You have to work as hard as you can to communicate," Kodama-Forget said.

The language isn't the only difference between Japan and the United States.

"Everyone is so respectful," Kodama-Forget said. "Like, you never see any trash on the ground – ever. It's the stuff like that that is kind of amazing."

Kodama-Forget said she may try to play some soccer – or futtobo-ru, as it's pronounced – but isn't sure if she will be able to or not.

Before she lands in Japan, though, Kodama-Forget also plans to spend time in the Montreal area in Canada with her dad, Hugues Forget, and that side of her family.

That's an area where many people speak French – another language Kodama-Forget is trying to learn.

"I have been studying French in school and then I study Japanese on my own. Hopefully, I will be trilingual," Kodama-Forget said. "I can't take all the credit for being (so worldly). It's all my parents. I'm just very interested in different cultures and experiencing all that I can."

and steals (1.6), while shooting 36 percent from 3-point range and 78 percent from the free-throw line.

Klesmit helped lead Neenah to the WIAA Division 1 state basketball tournament this past season, including posting a 21-assist effort in the sectional final against Superior.

He scored a season-high 45 points against Appleton East early in the season to tie his older brother, Max, for the school's single-game scoring record.

He missed his entire junior season because of a knee injury.

Girls soccer

FROM PAGE 8

has made an enormous impact on our team this season," Wasco said. "Each senior has brought positive energy and helped create a healthy culture that encourages collaboration instead of competition. They cared about the younger players as not just teammates, but as friends and mentors. That meant a lot to our group and we consider them family more than anything."

With the win, the Rockets close out their regular season with a 9-7-1 overall mark including 6-2-1 in FVA play. Neenah also earned the No. 10 seed in its sectional for the WIAA Division 1 tournament

7 p.m. ahead of the events. Other runs are set for June 18, July 9 and July 23.

The 6 and under groups are first to run and receive blue ribbons, with older groups receiving place ribbons. Those doing two of the runs receive a T-shirt and runners completing all four get a custom medal. Treats are provided for all runners.

Prep sports roundup

TENNIS

Rockets roll at D1 sub-sectional meet

Neenah's powerhouse tennis team took the first steps to both the individual and team state tennis tournaments Tuesday, posting a perfect day at the WIAA Division 1 sub-sectional it hosted.

All seven Neenah flights advanced to Thursday's sectional tournament and the Rockets earned the maximum possible 22 team points. Oshkosh West also earned 22 points.

Both No. 1 flights advanced as David Murphy rolled past Appleton East's Ethan Rettler 6-0, 6-0, while Satchel Moss and Ben Kotchen received a bye in their bracket to move on.

Neenah's remaining three singles players each received a first-round bye and then won their matches in straight sets. Carl Hein at the No. 2 flight and Brady Lawatsch at the No. 4 flight each won their matches by 6-0, 6-0 margins, while Tristin Yun won 6-1, 6-1 at the No. 3 flight.

In doubles, Brady Hildreth and Andrew Werner had a first-round bye and then lost only game in their match to advance at the No. 2 flight, while the No. 3 pairing of Drew Kearny and Zach Bitter did not drop a game in posting a win after earning a first-round bye.

Results of Thursday's sectional meet were not available at press time.

Last week, Neenah extended its reign over the Fox Valley Association by winning its 23rd straight conference title and 37th crown in the last 38 years.

The Rockets swept the doubles titles at the conference meet, with all three pairings rolling to titles.

Satchel Moss and Ben Kotchen at No. 1 doubles won their first two matches by 6-0, 6-0 margins and then scored a 7-6, 6-0 victory in the title match. The No. 2 pairing of Brady Hildreth and Andrew Werner dropped only four games in three matches, winning 6-0, 6-0 in the first two rounds before claiming a 6-0, 6-4 win in the final.



Submitted photo

The Neenah High School boys tennis team earned its 23rd consecutive Fox Valley Association title last week at the conference tournament. The team consisted of (front, from left) Ben Kotchen, Tristin Yun, Satchel Moss; (back) assistant coach Carter Brown, Zach Bitter, Andrew Werner, Drew Kearny, Brady Hildreth, Brady Lawatsch, Carl Hein, head coach Kyle Falk. Not pictured was David Murphy.

At No. 3 doubles, Drew Kearny and Zach Bitter, lost a total of five games in the three matches, cruising to a 6-1, 6-2 win in the title match.

Neenah also claimed a pair of singles titles as Tristan Yun finished first at the No. 3 flight and Brady Lawatsch won at the No. 4 flight. Yun won a tight 6-4, 7-6 match in the semifinals before knocking off Truman Vogel of Appleton West 6-2, 6-0 in the final. Lawatsch dropped only six games in three matches and claimed the title with a 6-0, 6-4 win over Kimberly's Hunter Holschuh.

Carl Hein finished second at No. 2 singles, while David Murphy placed fourth at No. 1 singles.

Zephyrs send four flights on to sectionals

St. Mary Catholic had four flights advance out of their home sub-sectional on Monday.

No. 1 singles player Wesley Auth and the No. 1 doubles tandem of Grant and

Henry Bergstrom advanced without having to step on a court as each received byes to move onto sectionals.

At No. 3 singles, Nicholas Miller topped Valley Christian's Dawson Miller 6-2, 6-1 before knocking off second-seeded Will Olson of Fox Valley Lutheran 7-6, 6-4.

The No. 3 doubles team of Ethan Tines and George Staner also moved on, earning a bye in the first round before beating Carson Motowski and Peter Wolfgramm of Fox Valley Lutheran, 6-2, 6-4.

Results of Wednesday's sectional meet were not available by press time.

GOLF

St. Mary Catholic captures regional crown

St. Mary Catholic put all four of its scoring golfers among the top six finishers and earned a WIAA Division 3 regional title by finishing first at Pine Valley Golf Course in Marathon City on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs finished with a score of

343, one shot ahead of Newman Catholic in the final team standings. Marathon was a distant third with 382.

Spencer Lynch finished second among the 48 golfers in the field with a round of 78. He finished eight shots behind Newman Catholic's Conner Krach for medalist honors, but was seven shots ahead of the third-place golfer.

Cole Uhlenbrauck finished in fourth place overall with an 87, followed by Dane Anderson in fifth with an 88 and Danny Griffith, who tied for sixth with a 90. The Zephyrs' fifth golfer was Ethon Moschea, who tied for 10th place with a 93.

Neenah's Coulthard, Gallmeier advance

Senior Sam Coulthard and sophomore Julian Gallmeier were among the four individual qualifiers for sectionals from the WIAA Division 1 Hartford Union Regional meet held at the Washington County Golf Course on Tuesday.

Coulthard and Gallmeier were among a group of four golfers who tied for 14th place with rounds of 84. The 13 golfers ahead of the duo were on sectional-qualifying teams.

Tucker Brackin added a 90 and Nathan Putala had a 95 for Neenah, which finished in fifth place with a score of 353. The Rockets finished three shots ahead of Beaver Dam for the position.

Fond du Lac edged Hamilton by three shots for the team title, while the Cardinals' Wyatt Pfeiffer was medalist with an even-par 72.

Rockets finish in fifth place at FVA meet

Julian Gallmeier tied for 11th with a round of 83 to lead Neenah to a fifth-place finish at the Fox Valley Association Golf Meet at Chaska Golf Course last Friday.

Gallmeier finished one shot out of a top-10 finish, tying with Joe Huenink of Appleton North.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 11

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Kid Scoop

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Observing Memorial Day

Complete the crossword puzzle. Then circle those words in this article.

Memorial Day was called Decoration Day when it started as a day to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves.

After the Civil War, people across America started a tradition of setting one day a year aside to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers.

On May 30, 1868, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery. After the speech, thousands of people who came to hear him decorated the graves of more than 20,000 Union and

Confederate soldiers buried there.

After World War I, Decoration Day was expanded to remember those who had died in all American wars.

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May.

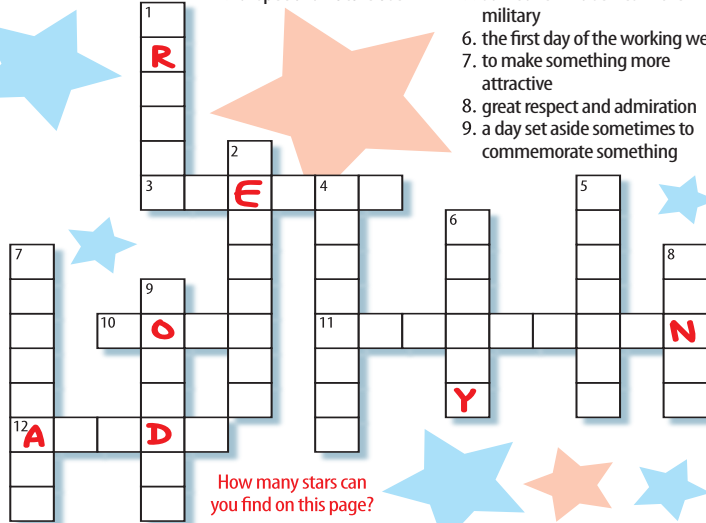
Today a flag is placed on each grave at Arlington National Cemetery. The president or the vice president gives a speech and lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Across

- 3. a talk given to an audience
- 10. monument to the dead
- 11. a long established custom
- 12. for special or future use

Down

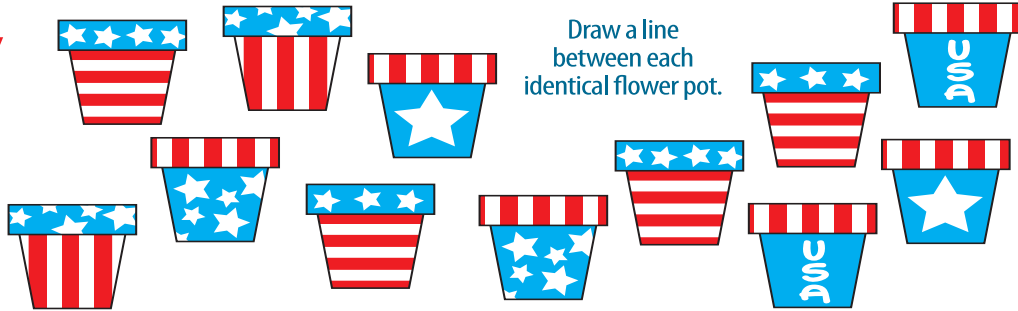
- 1. final resting places
- 2. to retain an idea in the memory
- 4. ground where dead are buried
- 5. someone who serves in the military
- 6. the first day of the working week
- 7. to make something more attractive
- 8. great respect and admiration
- 9. a day set aside sometimes to commemorate something



How many stars can you find on this page?

Patriotic Pottery

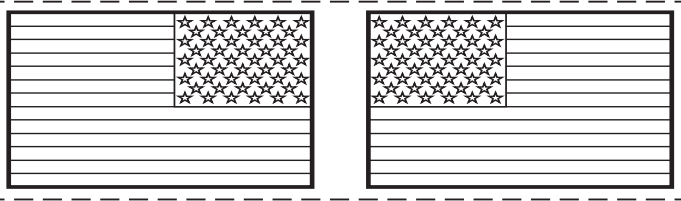
A GREAT CLASSROOM CRAFT: Paint terra-cotta flower pots, coffee cans, jars and other containers in stars and stripes. Then, plant some flowers in them and deliver them to a local veterans hospital or to neighbors who have lost a family member serving our country.



Draw a line between each identical flower pot.

American Flag Pencil

1. Color the two flags at right.
2. Cut along the dotted line.
3. Fold the little flag around the top of your pencil and use glue to fasten the folded flag.



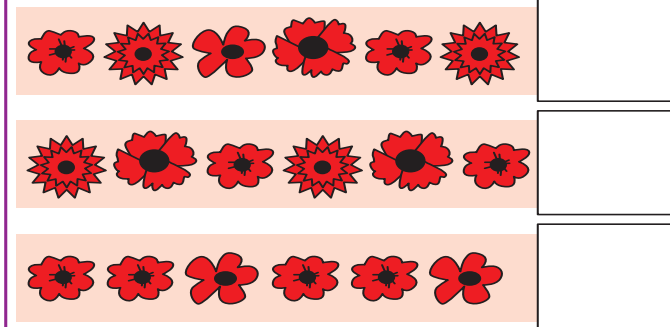
Extra! Extra! Symbols of Our Country

Look through today's newspaper for symbols that represent our country. How many can you find?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Paper poppies are made by unemployed and disabled veterans and sold to raise money for veterans and their widows, widowers and orphans. Look at each row of poppies. Draw the one that should come next to continue each pattern.

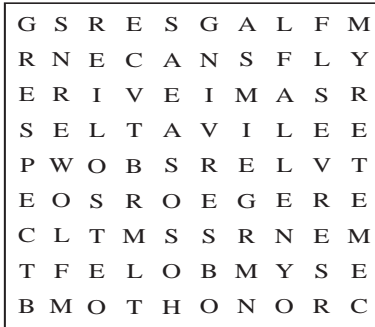


Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- OBSERVING
- MEMORIAL
- CEMETERY
- RESTING
- RESPECT
- GRAVES
- FLOWER
- SYMBOL
- SERVES
- HONOR
- FLAGS
- TOMB
- LOST
- CANS

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



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

Kid Scoop Together

Do the math to discover which emblem represents each branch of the U.S. military.

- 25 = Department of the Air Force
- 32 = United States Coast Guard
- 27 = Department of the Navy
- 35 = Department of the Army
- 29 = United States Marine Corps



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