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Narcan access expansion bid stalls in county

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A resolution to accept grant funding to install harm reduction vending machines in Neenah and Oshkosh to provide access to Narcan and fentanyl test strips was pulled from the agenda at the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday.

Narcan is the brand name for naloxone, a drug that reverses overdoses caused by opioids. The vending machines would also contain Detera drug deactivation bags, educational materials, treatment and recovery resources, and crisis contact information.

At the start of the meeting, county medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer spoke in opposition of the vending machines during the public forum. Brehmer did not identify herself as the medical examiner and said she's a strong supporter of Narcan and its potential to save lives when in the right hands and when used within the window of opportunity.

"However, I feel that if an agency is distributing naloxone this should be an

SEE **Narcan machines** ON PAGE 6

Shattuck school site sale approved

Local developer gains backing from district

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District voted Tuesday to sell the Shattuck Middle School to local developer Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations.

The sale follows a previously approved offer from Northpointe Development of Oshkosh, which backed out on the sale after the city voted not to rezone the property. The developer has since re-submitted an offer at \$500,000; which is \$1 less than

Investment Creations' offer, but includes a rezoning contingency.

With a new high school in Fox Crossing, the middle school is moving to the former high school and the Shattuck site is vacant. As part of the district's referendum discussions in 2019 and 2020, it committed to selling Shattuck, excluding the tennis courts and associated parking lots. It was listed for sale in early 2021.



Haese

Sheikh, of Neenah, has purchased and remodeled several local buildings, most notably The Marketplace at 124 W. Wisconsin Ave., which features about nine businesses, and the Equitable Reserve building at 116 S. Commercial St., which has four businesses operating out of the location.

Neenah News received messages of concern from some of Sheikh's business and residential tenants regarding the upkeep of his properties, noting the state of The Marketplace, which has a leaking roof and a torn and unsightly awning; and a lack of

SEE **Shattuck site** ON PAGE 8



Photo by Tom Bruss

Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club members have modeled a rail line that extends from Milwaukee to Green Bay.

Club keeps historical rail line running

Group maintains home at former city depot

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

For nearly 60 years an ever-changing collection of miniature trains, tracks, buildings, bridges and landscapes have resided in a historic railroad depot at 323 W. Forest Ave.

The 141-year-old building is home to the Milwaukee & Northern Railway Historical Society, which goes by the name Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club.

Club president Wally Rogers remembers a magical Christmas when he was about 3 in the 1950s that inspired his love for miniature trains.

Rogers' two older brothers had a job delivering newspapers and were saving their tips to purchase a train set and all the ac-

cessories from Krueger Hardware the day after Christmas, when the items would be discounted for closeout.

On Christmas morning, the Rogers family waited until the boys returned from their paper route to open presents.

"I remember standing at the back door as they came in, stomping the snow off their feet, and their faces were just as long as a horse's face," Rogers said. "They had gone past

Krueger Hardware and looked in the window and all the trains were gone. So apparently somebody had gone in there on Christmas Eve and beat them to it."

As the children walked into the front room, they saw that underneath the

Christmas tree was a big box with a train set and lots of little boxes that were all the individual pieces wrapped up. The person who purchased the train set the boys had their eye on was their mother.

"And they started opening and by 10 o'clock in the morning, there were tracks running all over the place on the living room floor, behind the TV set, underneath the sofa," he recalled, "and you couldn't see from one side of the room to the other because it was all smoke, because those engines, you put a little tablet in and they make smoke."

That evening, their father said the train set would be moved to a pingpong table in the basement and the boys spent the rest of Christmas vacation setting up the track there.

"Here I am 3 years old, I was big enough

SEE **Model railroaders** ON PAGE 8



Rogers

Neenah News

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Corrections

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Publishing a newspaper is a steep investment not only in paper and postage, but community.

When we first began publishing the Neenah News, many familiar with our Oshkosh Herald wanted to know when we would bring the same model to Neenah and bulk mail the paper to nearly every mailbox.

In 54956, where the majority of the Neenah Joint School District lives, there are 21,177 mailboxes. That is a big investment.

But since our launch in February of last year, Neenah News has been warmly welcomed by the community.

We found you to be engaged and willing to connect us with people and subjects to feature in our weekly newspa-



Karen Schneider

Neenah News publisher

per that our readers would find interesting and valuable.

You – our subscribers and advertisers – have connected us in this short period of time by investing in local journalism and helping us establish a foundation for local news in Neenah. This has emphasized our desire to focus more on our mission of creating a better-informed community.

Thanks to your support we are expanding our distribution in the 54956 ZIP code next week with a special commem-

orative section related to the new Neenah High School.

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Your subscription has you enrolled in our membership program. If you took advantage of the free Winnebago County fair ticket offer, you can look forward to similar offers throughout the year.

Subscriptions for readers outside of 54956 are still available and we hope to grow our membership within 54956 as we work together to keep our community informed.

ThedaCare updates behavioral, women's care areas

Neenah News

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah has completed the next phase of its \$100 million modernization project with expanded access to Behavioral Health services and development of a new Women's Center.

The first two of four phases to update the Inpatient Behavioral Health space are complete, with phase three in progress. The inpatient area offers intensive care services for those who need it most, with a focus on stabilizing symptoms, therapeutic and educational services, and planning for integration back into the community.

The inpatient care program involves a short-term stay at the hospital with group therapy sessions and activities. On average, patients stay four to five days in the inpatient unit. Teams can care for 10 people at this time and by project completion, the capacity will increase to 19.

"When people make the decision to get help, it is a very brave step," said Ronda Vetter, manager of the ThedaCare Inpatient Behavioral Health Program. "Our teams want to ensure each person feels safe and empowered as they begin their journey to healing."

Enhancements in the early phases included remodeling patient rooms, adding a group meeting space, creating a communal area and improving the care team space. Patients will also now have a more private way to get to the inpatient unit. There is also a newly developed admissions room.

In phase three, patient rooms continue to be remodeled and on track to be complete this fall.

Through the end of the update, which includes phase four, rooms will continue to be remodeled. There will also be an additional sitting area where people can safely gather. Phase four is set to be complete by the beginning of 2024. At that time, capacity on the Inpatient Behavioral Health unit will increase to 19 people.

"As we are more than half-way through the project, we see the finish line in sight. As the plans take shape, it is incredible to see how these enhancements are advancing coordinated care throughout our communities," said Lynn Detterman, senior vice president of ThedaCare South Region.

The newly created Women's Center was designed to be a comfortable space where women can feel confident in their personalized health care decisions. Teams began seeing patients in the new space in July. Services include screening and diagnostic mammography, ultrasound imaging, and



ThedaCare photo

The Ladies of Lambeau donated a piece of artwork to the Women's Center at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

bone density testing in one location.

Also included in the new space are three mammography pods with all of the necessary equipment in one space – technology, supplies and an individual changing area.

"Before the design of the mammography pods, women would need to go from one room to another," explained Van Krey. "Again, we wanted to make them feel comfortable, provide additional privacy, and enhance their experience."

In addition to the updated care space, the environment was designed to provide women with a spalike experience. The private waiting areas have natural lighting, comfortable furniture and a refreshment station.

"We understand that many of these recommended screenings and tests are not always an enjoyable time for women," said Van Krey. "Often, women might feel anxious or nervous. Our teams want to do everything we can to put women at ease, and help them through process."

The Women's Center also features a brick wall from Theda Clark Memorial Hospital that was added to the original building in 1948. It is one way to highlight and honor the history of Theda Clark, and

her dedication to supporting a hospital that has served the community for more than a century.

The Ladies of Lambeau, a group that includes Packers employees, board members and their partners, donated a piece of artwork to the Women's Center in its partnership with Foundation for Hospital Art, an organization whose mission is to give comfort and hope to those in hospitals.

Enhancements to better the patient experience through the modernization project were funded in part through donors who support the ThedaCare Foundation-Neenah.

The next areas of focus include:

- Create "Main Street," where key diagnostic outpatient services will be located on the first floor of the hospital to ensure easier patient access.

- Design a new dining area on the main floor for the convenience of visitors and team members.

- Update the Family Birth Center, allowing families to welcome little ones into the world in a modern, comfortable and soothing environment.

The full modernization is expected to be complete early next year.

Small local air show captures big imaginations

By Robert Barthell
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A small, 2450-foot-long airstrip and adjacent hangars four miles west of Neenah hosted a day of events for the public last Saturday, where planes and helicopters from local pilots lined grass patches around the runways.

The annual fly-in at Brennand Airport is organized by EAA Chapter No. 41, which is based and has frequent meetings at this airport, and among some 900 other local chapters connected to the Experimental Aircraft Association.



Burneske

“They are there to help people learn to fly, to support general aviation at small airports like this, to provide education, provide airplane rides for youth called Young Eagles flights,” said club president Greg Burneske, “and so that’s what we’re all about, and this is our annual fundraiser for our chapter.”

Burneske said some of the proceeds are donated to the Civil Air Patrol, an Appleton-based national organization that coordinates search-and-rescue missions while educating youth. Their cadets assisted with airplane parking and traffic management.

Carson Mattson, a student pilot, contributed to these tasks and provided flights for visitors.

“Most people here are really nice, and there’s a nice breeze today. I always loved flying, and I’m hoping to go into the Air Force,” Mattson said. “It’s my first year of



Neenah News

Titus (from left), Peter and Zephaniah, sons of Benjamin Czap, watch RC model planes at Brennand Airport in Neenah during an open house last weekend.

volunteering here, but I do a lot of stuff for the Young Eagles, and the little kids are very excited to fly for their first time.

“They’re also really excited to see the planes and stuff, and the parents are pretty happy to get their kids flying for pretty cheap.”

Besides real-life flights available for \$45, other entertainment was found in a raffle

for free tours and aviation-related prizes, barbecued burgers and hot food, interactive flight simulators for young children, and a display of RC model aircraft.

“The RC show was really cool and I’ve seen some other planes take off,” said Eric Palmquist, who visited the event with his family. “My kids loved seeing the planes, watching the RC planes; there was a little

pedal plane that they also enjoyed a lot. They also got to go down and fly a plane simulator.”

Opportunities exist for the general public to get involved in local flying, either through small ground-based models or taking to the skies in full-sized planes.

Valley Aero Modelers, who provided the RC equipment, hold free introductory flights for prospective pilots every Thursday night, with information available at flyvam.com. Similarly, Burneske’s chapter looks to interact with more members of the community.

“The best thing to do would be to check us out on the internet at www.eaa41.org. We have monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of every month here at the airport,” he said. “Or look up EAA41 on Facebook and come hang out with us, see what we’re about.”

Burneske highly recommends Young Eagles flights as a way to introduce children to the aviation field, which is being affected by a pilot shortage nationwide.

“It provides them with access to free educational material that helps them prepare for the FAA written exam. And it provides maybe the most important thing – a connection to people who already know their way around the aviation world, because it’s a pretty intimidating thing,” Burneske said. “So coming out to the airport, doing that Young Eagles flight, meeting the people, that’s the best way to get started.”

“General aviation is alive and well. It’s a pipeline for future professional pilots. It’s also a great social activity and I encourage people to get involved.”



Photo by David Hall

Taking the stage

Murphy’s Law, a Neenah-based family band, performs at Future Neenah’s Shattuck Park Concert Series last week.

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Dealers involved in drug overdose deaths are targeted

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County is cracking down on drug dealers who supply substances that cause a fatal overdose in an effort to mitigate such deaths in the county.

One drug dealer who supplied drugs leading to a fatal overdose in the county was sentenced under the Len Bias Law last week, and another will be sentenced next week.

Bias was a college basketball star for the Maryland Terrapins who died of a fatal cocaine overdose in 1986 soon after being drafted by the Boston Celtics. Wisconsin adopted the federal legislation termed the Len Bias Law, which makes it so that a person who supplies a drug to an individual who fatally overdoses can be charged with first-degree reckless homicide, a class B felony that carries up to 60 years in prison.

Last week, Andre Body, 31, of Milwaukee, was sentenced to three years in prison and three years of extended supervision for first-degree reckless homicide by delivering drugs.

Documents indicate the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department responded to a Town of Wolf River home for an overdose Dec. 27, 2021. An adult male was pronounced dead at the scene. Drug paraphernalia was also found and an autopsy indicated he died from heroin and metonitazene toxicity.

The victim's girlfriend initially failed to tell authorities that she and the victim

traveled to Milwaukee earlier in the day to purchase heroin. A source told police that the victim's girlfriend didn't turn the drugs in to authorities and did the same drugs the next day. She overdosed and was revived.

After questioning the girlfriend and reviewing the victim's cellphone, police determined the drugs were purchased from a dealer referred to as "Blue." The Division of Criminal Investigation began conducting controlled buys from Blue and from Jan. 13 through Feb. 28 of last year purchased a total of 23.8 grams of heroin for about \$1,800 in four controlled buys.

The drugs tested positive for heroin with additives including fentanyl, metonitazene and isotonitazine. Metonitazene and isotonitazine are novel synthetic opioids with a potency similar to fentanyl that are sometimes mixed with heroin.

After the fourth controlled buy, Blue was positively identified as Body and was arrested and charged. He pled no contest and was convicted of reckless homicide by delivering drugs.

In an unrelated case, a 35-year-old Sheboygan woman will be sentenced next week for a felony charge of manufacturing or delivering narcotics after a



Body

Neenah man fatally overdosed in July 2022.

According to the criminal complaint, the victim was found unresponsive and unable to be revived with Narcan at a home on Loper Court. An autopsy indicated he died of amphetamine, fentanyl, flubromazolam and hydroxyzine toxicity. Flubromazolam and hydroxyzine are benzodiazepines known to interact with fentanyl.

A review of the victim's text messages indicated Bobbie Sturn of Sheboygan was supplying drugs to the victim. In a recorded call from the jail, Sturn told her sister that the victim's overdose did not make sense because "he had like half of a bin" and it would not have taken four hours for him to die if that was what killed him. Documents say "bin" refers to "bindle," which is a common way to package heroin or fentanyl.

District Attorney Eric Sparr said at a Judiciary and Public Safety meeting last week that not every drug overdose death results in a charge for the person who supplied the drugs because law enforcement isn't always able to figure out who provided the drugs and that those drugs

caused the death.

Sparr said Sturn's case is a situation "where we had multiple sources of drugs and we know that this defendant provided drugs but can't necessarily say these are the drugs that caused the death, so this one is charged as delivery rather than first-degree reckless homicide, which is a Len Bias charge."

Sparr said those cases are viewed as more significant than a typical drug delivery.

"A delivery itself is serious, but a delivery where there are multiple drug sources and a death results is more serious from a sentencing perspective," he said.

Medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer said at the meeting that the county experienced 37 fatal overdoses last year and 41 in 2021. So far this year, there have been 28 confirmed fatal overdoses, with an additional five cases pending toxicology results. She noted that the county is only nine deaths away from last year's total.

Fentanyl has been identified as the leading cause of fatal overdoses in the county since 2017. Most of those who died were between ages 25 and 54.

Town of Neenah to fund park, hall projects

Neenah News

The Town of Neenah Board approved construction contracts Monday that will renovate parts of the Town Hall and add a restroom facility at Keating Park.

The \$228,126 expenditure for the town hall will replace the HVAC and air exchange system, expand the meeting room and update the kitchen area for events and rental opportunities.

"The remodeling of the conference room is making it a little bit larger and it will make it better for rentals," said town administrator and clerk Ellen Skerke, "and for our election activity at the town hall."

The new restroom structure, which will cost \$265,239 under the contracts, will

include a storage and small overhang for a covered seating area to serve the 6.3-acre park at 128 Klompen Court.

Skerke said the Keating Park restroom could be built by year's end depending on supplies.

"Some of it will be the timing of when items are available," she said. "We may have to hold off on concrete until the spring."

Hoffman Planning, Design and Construction was chosen as the general contractor for both projects.

The town board also approved authorizing the Keating Park project to be submitted for \$145,000 in ARPA fund reimbursement from Winnebago County.

Neenah-Menasha fire chief to retire

Neenah News

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue Chief Kevin Kloehn announced his plans to retire after nearly 32 years of service.

"This fire department has been my whole life," Kloehn stated in his resignation. "I have put everything I have into this department with great pride and accomplishment. I have worked alongside a group of dedicated employees that helped set the bar high. It has been the greatest experience of my life to lead this department into the future."

Kloehn began his career as a firefighter for Menasha in 1992 and served as union president during the consolidation of the Neenah and Menasha fire departments in 2003. He has held the positions of fire-

fighter, lieutenant, captain and shift commander until his promotion to fire chief in 2016.

Kloehn said his last day as chief will be Jan. 12.

"It has been such an honor to have worked with Chief Kloehn over the past nine years," said Neenah Mayor Jane Lang. "His professionalism and sincere commitment to serving our two communities is truly admirable."

Some of his accomplishments include helping spearhead the Joint Recruit Training Academy with the Oshkosh Fire Department, which allows each agency to share resources and staffing in the training of newly hired recruits. Since the inception of the academy the departments have trained 34 recruits.

He led the process on a five-year strategic plan for the department and worked with management and union staff to have task books for all positions.

The department is accepting applications for the fire chief position. Information is available at neenahwi.gov. Visit nmfire.org for more information about the department.



Kloehn

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Public help sought on deer, game birds surveys

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking the public's help collecting crucial deer and game bird management data starting Aug. 1 through the Operation Deer Watch Survey and the Game Bird Brood Observations Survey.

The surveys are designed to measure the reproductive status of deer and game birds.

Data is used to collect crucial deer and game bird management data, including a fawn-to-doe ratio for deer and a poult-to-hen ratio for game birds. These ratios are

compared to previous years to estimate how productive this year's deer herd/game birds are.

The deadline to submit bird observations is Aug. 31. The deadline to submit deer observations is Sept. 30.

Participation can be done using a mobile device. If in a vehicle, participants should only record sightings when their vehicle is stopped.

More information is on the Operation Deer Watch and Game Bird Brood Observations webpages at dnr.wisconsin.gov.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Big top in town

When the circus came to town, the travelling show would set up its tents at Lauden Park, shown here in 1938.

Karaoke events create musical release for veteran, fans

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

There's a certain type of excitement that comes with singing karaoke, for both the singer and those listening. Throw in a few drinks to lighten up the mood, and you have a popular show each Saturday at Sherrytown Station.

Eric Joachim-Rehorst of Stars & Stripes Entertainment hosts the event and another on Fridays at Hideout Bar in Appleton, attracting up to 75 people per night.



Joachim-Rehorst

Joachim-Rehorst started the business in 2010 after returning from deployment with the Wisconsin National Guard. A friend asked what he wanted to do with his time now that he was back in Wisconsin.

"I said, well, music was the only thing that really kept me sane while I was deployed," he said. "So, he got me set up with my first gig and taught me how to use the equipment and adjust volumes, and then I just started from there."

Joachim-Rehorst said he was drawn to music because it was a huge help with his mental health.

"I used it to sing myself through rough times, dealing with PTSD, and the ups and downs of life," he said.

Joachim-Rehorst spent nine years in the U.S. Army with one mobilization to Iraq where he served as a mechanic. Those skills came in handy with his business providing disc jockeys, karaoke and lighting to weddings, parties and

other events.

"Learning how to properly set up things and organize was really beneficial because when we're working on getting equipment back to working condition, or fixing the errors, or finding the problems with the equipment, it just taught me how to move fast to find the solution to the problem," he said.

He used the proceeds from his business to invest in new equipment, music, lights, advertising and purchasing a vehicle that was large enough to haul the supplies. He currently has six different equipment setups and a total of five DJs, including himself.

For Joachim-Rehorst, his business provides more than entertainment, it provides an outlet for people to express themselves.

"A lot of the singers that come out, they feel a release because they're bombarded on a daily basis from their jobs or from life, but they just need somewhere to go to just belt out everything that they've been bottling up for the week," he said. "So they find their way out and sing songs that really mean something to them in those moments."

The karaoke events often attract a crowd of regular participants and attendees.

"And thankfully, a lot of the regulars that come out to sing karaoke, they all just kind of help support and complement each other and are there to just lift you up, and kind of become like this giant karaoke family of people who are just there to support you and listen to you and help you with anything," he said.

Some of the singers are veterans them-

selves or suffer from mental health issues, which gives Joachim-Rehorst the opportunity to check in with them and make sure they're OK. He also encourages those who may not think they have a good singing voice to give it a try.

"If you really emotionally feel what you're singing, then you're going to do great no matter what, because it's not about how well you sound, it's about what you're getting rid of," he said.

Joachim-Rehorst, 37, lives in Neenah with wife Brooke, 31, and son Alex, 15. The couple was excited to recently learn that Brooke is expecting.

The name of his DJ business – Stars & Stripes Entertainment – is a nod toward freedom.

"Let freedom sing and that freedom has a sound," he said. "Because we really want people to realize how free they really are, even from their own worst enemies or their demons that they're holding inside, because they're just not letting them go. So just opening yourself up and allowing yourself to speak or sing, it really helps build you and your confidence and your ability to stand and be heard as a human being."

Locals interested in karaoke can catch the show on Saturday nights at Sherrytown Station, at 432 Sherry St. To book Stars & Stripes Entertainment for an event, find the business on Facebook, email ericjr.sse@gmail.com or call 920-858-7293.

Joachim-Rehorst said he finds that hosting karaoke and special events is very rewarding.

"What I enjoy about DJ-ing is, you can change the entire atmosphere of a room just by playing the right song," he said.



Neenah News
Connor Scheer of Appleton sings at a recent karaoke night hosted by Stars & Stripes Entertainment.

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Calendar of events

Saturday, Aug. 19

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Art Mercantile, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Neenah-Menasha Elks Lodge corn roast, 3 p.m., Doty Island

Monday, Aug. 21

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

Wednesday, Aug. 23

Boogie Downtown street dance, 6 p.m., West Wisconsin Avenue

Thursday, Aug. 24

Out to Lunch Concert with Rob An-

thony, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park
Ground Round Live Music Series:
Burnt Toast & Jam, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way

“Tailspin” book signing by John Armbruster, 4 p.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Saturday, Aug. 26

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Thursday, Aug. 31

Ground Round Live Music Series: Big and Tall, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way

Saturday, Sept. 2

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Monday, Sept. 4

Labor Day Parade, 10 a.m., Menasha's Curtis Reed Square to downtown Neenah

Labor Fest, 11 a.m., Neenah Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road

Mobile morgue unit accepted by county

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to accept the donation of a mobile morgue unit from the Fox Valley Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition, which will be used for temporarily storing bodies in response to the opioid epidemic and the possibility of a mass casualty event.

A permanent morgue and sheriff's office evidence storage is being planned at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million, which will help with the capacity for storing bodies. The project is expected to go out for bid in the next few months.

Bodies that require autopsies are transported to Fond du Lac County. That county no longer has the capacity to store bodies from other counties, which means Winnebago County is often holding bodies for up to 12 days.

At one point the county was storing bodies at various funeral homes in the area. From December 2021 until mid-July 2022, Winnebago County borrowed a mobile morgue trailer unit from Clark County to have a place to store decedents before release or autopsy.

“The combination of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the opioid epidemic have shown us that there is a large gap in mortuary storage in Winnebago County and throughout the region,” according to a memo to the County Board's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

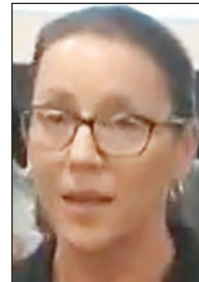
Fox Valley Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition recently offered to donate a mobile morgue unit to the county with a value of \$31,560. The planned permanent morgue will be for day-to-day usage, while the mobile morgue unit will be another tool the county can use in the event of a mass casualty incident or when the morgue is over capacity.

Mass casualty incidents are increasing in frequency and severity, according to the NPS Center for Homeland Security and Defense, noting that the incidents have risen about 5% each year since 1900.

Medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer said at a meeting in July that the mobile morgue will save the county money until the permanent morgue is built and will also be loaned to other counties in the event of a mass casualty.

The mobile morgue has the capacity to store up to 12 bodies. It has a generator and a cooling unit that will require monthly maintenance testing.

Depending on frequency of usage, the unit is expected to be able to be used for about 10 years.



Brehmer

Business news roundup

Bergstrom Automotive has reached an agreement to acquire **Broadway Automotive** in Green Bay. Bergstrom has focused on growth in Green Bay in recent years, acquiring and building facilities for Mazda on Taylor Street next to its Cadillac-Buick-GMC store and Subaru on Holmgren Way. The Broadway acquisition adds Ford and Hyundai on Military Avenue and Chevrolet and Volkswagen on Ashland Avenue in Green Bay.

Automotive News has named **Bergstrom Automotive** as one of the top three dealership groups to work for in the United States. Bergstrom Automotive was recognized with 14 dealerships in the Top 100 Dealerships to Work for in 2023. Bergstrom was honored out of 17,000 automotive dealerships, the 11th consecutive year it was recognized among the top 100 dealerships to work for.

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Narcan machines

FROM PAGE 1

in-person touch point where resources are offered,” she said. “I feel that this touch point should be made every single time and this leaves a gap in the system. While there will be some contact to utilize the vending machines, it will not always be in person and most importantly, it’s not required every single time.”

The county was awarded an \$80,083 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for the vending machines, to help mitigate overdose deaths caused by the opioid crisis. The machines would be placed outside the Neenah Human Services building at 211 N. Commercial St. and in the county administration building’s outdoor courtyard at 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh.

The vending machines are climate controlled and monitored with an internet connection. In order to use them, users would obtain a unique code from the health department that allows a specific number of uses. Access must be renewed monthly.

At a Judiciary and Public Safety meeting in June, Sheriff John Matz stated that the Narcan vending machines could perpetuate drug use. At last month’s meeting, Supervisor Bryan Stafford questioned whether there is concern that increasing the supply of Narcan encourages drug use.

Health director Doug Giernyn said it’s a myth that having Narcan available will increase drug use.

“Nobody really wants to overdose and having to use Narcan is going to create a miserable situation for that person,” he said.

In a memo, Giernyn said access to Narcan reduces overdose deaths, most of which are accidental and due to fentanyl being added to opioid and non-opioid



A Narcan vending machine is shown.

substances. Fentanyl test strips can alert a user to the presence of fentanyl, allowing them to modify or avoid use to lessen the likelihood of an overdose, he said.

Brehmer said the county health department has been distributing Narcan, fentanyl test strips, syringes, tourniquets, cotton balls, alcohol pads and tin cookers to the public.

“Essentially, they’re supplying almost everything needed for IV drug use other than the substance itself,” she said. “I’m concerned that these supplies will eventually make their way into those vending machines.”

She added that with the ever-changing substances and trends in drug use, a reliance on Narcan is not the answer.

“The best hope for this community comes from strengthening our recovery community and our severely lacking treatment resources,” she said. “Our response to this epidemic needs to be proactive, not reactive. Sterile supplies will not save a person from overdosing; sobriety will.”

Supervisor Rachel Youngquist pulled the resolution to accept the harm reduction vending machines grant from the agenda later in the meeting. Youngquist did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the motivation behind pulling the resolution.

Digital Marketing Clinic extends help to Eau Claire businesses

By Laurie Schlosser
UW OSHKOSH TODAY

An initiative by University of Wisconsin Oshkosh students to provide digital marketing assistance will go beyond the Fox Valley and soon help a group of small businesses in northwest Wisconsin.

The Digital Marketing Clinic of UW Oshkosh's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will partner later this month with the SBDC on the UW-Eau Claire campus to provide digital marketing training and best practices.

The Digital Marketing Clinic student consultants will give a presentation to the owners of about 35 businesses. It will be followed by 20-30-minute free and confidential one-on-one digital marketing appointments conducted by seven intern-consultants—six from UWO and one from UW-La Crosse who is part of the team.

"The opportunity to provide digital assets for our clients and teach them the digital marketing skills needed for their business to succeed is incredibly fulfilling," said UWO junior Grace Pirillo of Neenah, who is majoring in marketing.

Pirillo and the other students – of which Karina Fritsch and Amanda Dorsey are also from Neenah – often find that owners are overwhelmed running their small businesses and considering how to market them.

"Marketing itself can be intimidating," she said. "I really love sitting down and walking them through everything I've done for them and explaining the 'why' behind it so they can walk away feeling like they have the tools to keep the momentum going."

A partnership with UW-Eau Claire began when Harlie Juedes, SBDC director at UWEC and its Network Capital Access Clinic director, offered to provide funding for a student from UW-Eau Claire to work remotely for the DMC. The student, Allison Lundeen, who is majoring in marketing analytics, joined the clinic in February and will be returning as an intern this fall.

The Oshkosh-Eau Claire event this month will provide businesses with a great combination of assistance.

The Eau Claire team of accounting interns at Capital Access Clinic will provide the businesses with technical assistance through the financial process; the Digital Marketing Clinic students will offer help with marketing challenges.

The Digital Marketing Clinic, a statewide initiative of the Wisconsin Small Business Development Center Network, pairs talented, aspiring university students with business owners who make an economic impact in their communities. The clinic is at UWO and managed by Kathy Fredrickson, assistant teaching professor of marketing.

Since February 2021, intern consultants with advanced training in Google Analytics, search engine optimization (SEO), user experience, video production and graphic design have completed more than 3,500 hours of consulting.

Lauren Welter, a UWO senior from Neenah majoring in interactive web management, said a lot of clients have difficulty with search engine optimization (SEO) concepts and knowing what is most important for them to be doing to reach new customers.

Student suggestions, she said, are being implemented by business owners after the appointments.

"They seem to have a better understanding of what they can be doing to set themselves up for success across social media channels, websites and other digital marketing efforts," Welter said.

The DMC initiative allows student consultants to gain real-life experience with different components of digital marketing, including analytics, digital asset creation (graphics and video), website updates and SEO. It's something that's helped Welter solidify her future career direction in web design/development and user experience or interface design. She is on track to graduate in December.

Pirillo said her experience as intern manager and student consultant with the Digital Marketing Clinic has strengthened her plans for the future that include small business marketing. She expects to graduate in spring 2025.



UW Oshkosh photo

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Digital Marketing Clinic members lend their expertise to the challenges of digital marketing. From left, Erin Litscher, a spring 2023 graduate from Weyauwega; Amanda Dorsey of Neenah; Kathy Fredrickson, assistant teaching professor; Alex Larsen, spring 2023 graduate from Verona; and Allison Lundeen, a virtual intern from UW-Eau Claire, are shown on the computer screen.

Downtown parking lot to be replaced

Neenah News

The parking lot area behind the downtown Marketplace and other businesses on West Wisconsin Avenue will undergo a surface replacement starting Wednesday and expected to be completed in a month.

James Merten from the city's Public Works Department told the downtown BID board meeting this week that the project will be a complete surface removal

with two contractors involved for the lot and concrete aprons. The affected area encompasses the lot through Great Harvest.

He said dumpsters will be relocated on Church Street next to the bus shelter. Businesses with a permit can park in the blue lot at Doty and Church, while most customers will use Doty Avenue or the blue lot.

Those with questions can contact Merten at JMerten@neenahwi.gov.

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Photo by Tom Bruss

The former railroad depot at 323 W. Forest Ave. serves as home to the Milwaukee & Northern Railway Historical Society, also known as the Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club.

Model railroaders

FROM PAGE 1

to put my fingers over the corner of the table and watch those trains go by right at my eyeball level, and if I reach my hand out a little bit, my hand got brushed back and they'd say, 'You're too little to play with these trains, you have to wait,' Rogers said.

Those trains became the forbidden fruit and when Rogers was old enough, he got his own paper route and started collecting them.

"I got involved with those and then started to become a model railroader instead of a toy train player," he said.

In eighth grade, Rogers joined the train club at what was then called the Boy's Brigade. A high school-age leader of the club brought Rogers along to a National Model Railroad Club meeting and he was hooked.

Rogers joined the Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club in 1968 when he was 14 years old, four years after the club was formed. He's also a lifetime member for more than 50 years of the National Model Railroad Association.

At the time Rogers joined the Neenah-Menasha club, it rented the railroad depot on Forest Avenue from Milwaukee Railroad for \$35 a year.

"It was in pretty rough shape when they first took it over," Rogers said. "They had to do a lot of finishing work on the inside and refurbishing and getting ready so that we could build a permanent model railroad in there."

The club has revamped and changed the model railroad, with about half of the original setup built by the club still in existence. The mini train depot is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 10 p.m., which is when Rogers is there working.

"I always kind of joke with people if I'm giving a walking tour that, you know, maybe in another 59 years we'll get it done, who knows?" Rogers said. "But generally, you talk to most hobbyists in this hobby and you know, they kind of look at you and say, 'Well, model railroad is never done. You're always doing something to it.' That's the case with this."

Club members have a mix of talents that they utilize for track work, electrical connections and lighting.

"I always recommend it to kids looking for a hobby or anybody looking for a hobby – old kids too," Rogers said. "Part of the

reason for that is it involves so many different disciplines of working on stuff from not just the model building, but wood-working and metalworking and electricity and electronics and photography and history."

The club has about 10 members who pay dues of \$80 a year toward an annual budget of about \$1,000. Future goals include establishing the club as a nonprofit and fundraising to purchase and improve the building it resides in.

The structure is on its original wooden foundation. Rogers envisions a concrete basement foundation, which would also come with some added expenses to ensure the building is appropriately insulated and heated. The structure's existing heating system can't keep up in winter.

"If it's below about 10 degrees Fahrenheit, we don't bother to meet; it's too cold," Rogers said.

The club wants to preserve the building as much as it can, but may need to be moved closer to Forest Avenue, which would give the oil company behind it more space as the company's trucks have hit the building a few times.

The club is modeling a rail line that extends from Milwaukee to Green Bay and a branch that comes from Hilbert Junction, through Sherwood and Menasha, and ends right outside the club building. It is modeled in O scale, where a quarter of an inch equals a foot. It's the same scale used to make trains for children in the 1930s and 1940s.

Rogers said that to model the rail line exactly it would take a building that's about 2 miles long. The members try to tie it in with local history, using what in the hobby is called "modelers license." Some of the models include buildings that appear in real life, including a model of the club's train depot in the city of Neenah at the end of that branch line.

Locals who want to become involved can find the organization on Facebook and at www.mnrhs.org. The club hosts an open house each year typically in December.

Rogers said when people see the work they've put into the model railroad, they're amazed.

"A lot of people are astounded that we've been doing this for as long as we have," he said. "But the amount of enjoyment that we get out of it and the amount of enjoyment we get from watching the reaction on people's faces showing it to them is all part of it."

Shattuck site

FROM PAGE 1

concern in the developer's response to issues with his rentals.

The district received other offers on the Shattuck property, including a \$1.3 million offer from Lakeside Development, which would demolish Shattuck and exclusively construct single-family homes at the site. That offer would require the Wellness Center to be moved at the school district's expense and includes a contingency that the developer would have to gain access to tax incremental financing (TIF) totaling about \$2.6 million.

Community development director Chris Haese wrote in a memo to the school board that Lakeside has discussed the possibility of obtaining TIF with the city on two occasions and city staff indicated it was highly unlikely the city would be able to assist.

Haese said it is unlikely Lakeside's plan would qualify for TIF because it would require replating nearly 100% of the site, which is above the statutory imposed limitation of 35%. In addition, a mixed-use district requires uses beyond just single family. With Lakeside paying the school district \$1.3 million for the property while obtaining \$2.6 million in TIF, Haese said it would appear to be a pass-through of city funds to the district, which is a separate and distinct taxing jurisdiction.

Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer and chief financial officer Jonathan Joch wrote in a memo to the board that Investment Creation's offer is the preferred sale offer, as the developer is local and proposed less apartment units inside Shattuck than other offers.

Eleven people, including Sheikh, spoke to the board about the possible sale, with the majority urging the board to reconsider, citing concerns that there hasn't been enough transparency in the sale process.

Sheikh also spoke extensively during the board's discussion, where he fielded questions:

Apartments

Sheikh said he would construct 34-48 apartments inside the Shattuck building that would be "market rate" or senior apartments and about 1,000 square feet.

"As far as the design I always work with the building and let the building dictate as to what happens," he said.

Single-family homes

Sheikh's plan includes 50-60 single family homes with lot sizes that are about 70 by 130 feet. He estimated the homes would have three or four bedrooms, between 1,500 to 2,000 square feet of space and likely have an attached garage. He noted that he doesn't plan to build the homes, that he will make the lots and sell them to developers and individuals who will build on them.

"They might be a mixture of some smaller lots, some larger lots, and to kind of figure that out and go from there," he said.

Community space

Sheikh said he would keep the theater, gymnasium, cafeteria and auditorium in the building.

"I want to work with the city, community theater, those to bring a community aspect to it," he said.

Smart Girls Rock event looking for mentors

Female mentors who can inspire young students and run activity booths are being sought for the Nov. 1 Smart Girls Rock! Event at Plexus headquarters, 2444 Schultz Drive.

The interactive mentoring event designed to help young girls interested in STEM set career goals and start taking

Wellness Center

One of the district's selling points appears to be in relation to whether the Health and Wellness Center can continue operating from the site, which would save the district an estimated \$900,000 in relocation expenses.

Sheikh said the Wellness Center would remain at the site but he would possibly move it to the former administrative office inside the building at his cost. His sale offer includes a contingency that the Wellness Center is approved by the city because the current zoning doesn't allow it to operate individually if not under the school umbrella.

Restoration plans

When questioned about his plan to restore Shattuck and maintain it, Sheikh provided vague answers.

"These are old buildings; they're going to require constant maintenance," he said. "There's going to be constantly things which are going wrong, which are constantly updating, fixing – you need to make sure you budget for that. For Shattuck, the staffing as to what's needed, that would be different than what some of my other projects are."

Asbestos abatement

Northpointe previously estimated that renovating the Shattuck School building would cost around \$25 million, which includes about \$1 million in asbestos abatement. Board member Lindsay Clark questioned Sheikh on his plan for asbestos abatement.

"A lot of the public has concerns about people having apartments and living in there without addressing those things so can you tell us how you'd address that problem that's currently in the building?" she asked.

Sheikh said after the sale offer is approved the school board has 10 days to provide him with asbestos reports. He said the asbestos issues are easily fixable and that it's different because using a building for a school draws hundreds of students, but 30-40 apartments means only 80 people would be in the building.

Green space

Northpointe's failed plan for the site included a 1.5-acre wet pond and 4 acres of green space that would be donated to the city to be made into a park. Board member Deb Watry asked what green space Sheikh would set aside.

He said green space and a water retention pond would depend on the city and he would have to sit down with officials to come up with a plan.

"Some of that is also dependent on the actual land, the way it's sloped, which way water goes, those kinds of things," he said. "You get into storm water and there's a lot more to go than just picking out a spot."

Rezoning

The Northpointe offer failed because the city voted not to rezone the site for redevelopment. Sheikh said he plans on keeping the zoning the same, with the exception of the Shattuck building, which would require rezoning. His sale offer does not include a contingency that the city rezone the site.

The school board voted 7-2 to sell the site to Sheikh, with Clark and Tara Brzezinski voting against.

Contact Jim Wickersham at jwickersham@foxcitieschamber.com for information.

Veteran Zephyrs aim to repeat conference title run

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

One of the advantages of fielding a young team one season is that the following year that group is no longer young and inexperienced.

And if that team that is loaded with sophomores and juniors happens to win

Girls volleyball PREVIEW

a conference title, well, then it's the makings for a very special season.

That's the situation for the St. Mary Catholic girls volleyball team and head coach Mike Mauritz.

The Zephyrs return the bulk of its varsity roster from last season and look to repeat as Big East Red Division champions in the 2023 season.

"It's the first goal on the list," Mauritz

wrote in an email to Neenah News. "With the conference play consisting of only six matches our challenge is to be ready to come play at a high level every night as you can't afford to drop a match."

St. Mary Catholic went 6-0 in league play last season and dropped only one set – to Manitowoc Lutheran – in those matches.

And Mauritz knows his team isn't going to be sneaking up on anybody this year.

"I think with success, it automatically puts a target on your back. So we expect to get everybody's best effort," Mauritz wrote.

The Zephyrs return four players who earned all-conference recognition from that team last season, led by a pair of unanimous first team selections in senior Laura Fischer and junior Ellie Brenn.

Fischer, an outside hitter, led the Zephyrs in kills last season with 170, while also topping the team with 160 digs and finished second in blocks. She was an honorable mention all-league selection as a sophomore. Brenn, who plays as a middle hitter, finished behind Fischer with 123 kills, while leading the squad with 27 blocks.

Right-side hitter Rhiannon Reichenbacher and outside hitter Audrey Norville, both seniors, were each second-team all-conference honorees and ranked third and fourth, respectively, on the team in kills. Senior right-side hitter Ellie Altfillisch finished fifth on the team in kills a year ago.

St. Mary Catholic returns both of its setters from last season in senior Olivia Noel and junior Stella Virlee, who also helped anchor the Zephyr servers. Noel,

Virlee, Brenn and Norville each finished with at least 31 aces a year ago, with Norville leading the way with 38.

The biggest loss for St. Mary Catholic from last season was starting libero Katie Laemrich and, according to Mauritz, who will be stepping into that role is still "up in the air."

New coach set to lead Rockets this season

Nate Leitermann steps in to lead the girls volleyball program at Neenah as the Rockets look to challenge in the rugged Fox Valley Association.

Leitermann coached at Kimberly last season.

The Rockets finished 5-4 in conference play a year ago and finished fourth in the

SEE **Girls volleyball** ON PAGE 10

Rockets aim to build on successful 2022 campaign

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Coming off a season when the Neenah boys volleyball team finished fourth in the talent-rich Fox Valley Association and had their first winning season since

Boys volleyball PREVIEW

2001, head coach Jake Coenen is looking for even more.

Despite losing the nucleus of last year's squad, which also earned its first WIAA Tournament win in more than 20 years, Coenen and his staff are looking to build off of last season.

The groundwork has been laid as to

what it takes to be a successful program and, according to Coenen, it comes down to taking that success and turning it into consistent results.

"Last season, we made some great strides as a program toward winning and competing on the court," Coenen said. "We always put in place the same goals as prior years, being conference champs, regional champs, sectionals champs, and state champs. We understand everyone starts at the same, it's what we do preparation-wise that needs to set us apart. I expect us to compete every day whether in practice or in a match. We must become more consistent in our preparation and in our play. We struggled with that

last year and so it is a goal of ours moving forward. Every day is a chance for us to get better and we are ready for every challenge thrown at us this year"



Coenen

Like most programs, every year creates a new opportunity for players to get involved and the Rockets have a cast ready to make its mark coming into the fold this season.

Juniors Miles Weaver and Julian Kuehn are back and are the only ones who saw extensive varsity time a year ago. Weaver played all around the

rotation last year, while Kuehn was solely a front row player.

Coenen is expecting the duo to be the leaders this season, but is excited for the entire program.

"We have a group of seniors who last year had to wait their turn but truly worked extremely hard last year," Coenen said. "Gabe Theisen really improved as the year went on last season and is expected to fill the role of our libero. Ben Donaldson is someone else I am excited about this coming season. His game has improved dramatically in the last 12 months and his confidence

SEE **Boys volleyball** ON PAGE 10

2023 Girls Volleyball schedules

	NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL	ST. MARY CATHOLIC
Aug 31	Kimberly 7:00pm	@ Kohler 7:00pm
Sep 7	@ Fond du Lac 7:00pm	Hilbert 7:00pm
Sep 12	Kaukauna 7:00pm	@ Reedsville 7:00pm
Sep 14	@ Appleton East 7:00pm	Sep 19 @ Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah 7:00pm
Sep 21	Oshkosh North 7:00pm	Sep 21 Laona-Wabeno 7:00pm
Sep 28	Hortonville 7:00pm	Sep 28 Mishicot 7:00pm
Oct 3	@ Appleton West 7:00pm	Oct 3 Manitowoc Lutheran 7:00pm
Oct 5	Oshkosh West 7:00pm	Oct 5 @ Iola-Scandinavia 7:00pm
Oct 10	@ Howards Grove 7:00pm	Oct 10 Lourdes Academy 7:00pm
Oct 12	@ Appleton North 7:00pm	Oct 12 @ Weyauwega/Fremont 7:00pm
	Home Games – Boldface – NHS Fieldhouse	Home Games – Boldface – SMCS McClone Gymnasium

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Zephyrs tennis program looks to be talent-rich again

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

With its top two singles players returning to lead the way, the St. Mary Catholic girls tennis team looks to be poised for another strong season.

The Zephyrs captured the Wisconsin Combined Tennis Conference title last season in dominant fashion and finished a close fifth in a talent-rich WIAA Division 2 sectional. The Zephyrs will look to build on that this season.

Leading the way for St. Mary Catholic will be sophomore Adel Schneider, who returns at the top singles flight for the Zephyrs. Schneider finished 16-10 a year ago, earning an at-large bid to the state tennis meet where she won her first match before being eliminated.

With Schneider holding down the No. 1 singles flight, the Zephyrs' top doubles pairing remains open. The Zephyrs graduated both players from last season's

state-qualifying tandem.

St. Mary Catholic head coach Lizzie Auth indicated that junior Emily Vogel, who played at No. 2 doubles a year ago, is expected to fill one of the spots on the top tandem. She and sister Chloe Vogel qualified for sectionals at No. 2 doubles a year ago.

Emily Vogel is the only player who played at doubles in last year's post-season who is returning.

Senior Kassidi Calmes, who was the Zephyrs' No. 4 singles player a year ago, is returning after making it to sectionals last season, while junior Audrey Wanless will be returning to the No. 2 singles position.

Auth will have a number of players who competed at the junior varsity level a year ago competing for the open varsity spots this season in Mackenzie Barmash-Turner, Alice Cole and Erin Blaney.

The Zephyrs could also get a boost from a pair of newcomers to the program.

Freshman Nadia Alexander will be

among those competing for a varsity spot, while junior Nolie Anderson – who won the Division 3 state discus title last spring – joined the program after playing volleyball the past two seasons.

“With graduating six varsity players (from last year), there’s a lot of opportunities for our up-and-coming players to step in and help the team have success,” Auth commented.

The Zephyrs opened the season on Wednesday with a home invitational and will again host the WCTC tournament on September 23.

Rockets expected to return bulk of lineup

Based on Neenah’s lineup for last season’s WIAA Division 1 subsectional, the Rockets should be returning nearly its entire lineup from a season ago.

Neenah finished a close second to powerhouse Cedarburg in the sectional standings, while crowning sectional champions at three of the four singles flights.

Leading that group is junior Izzy Murray, who captured the No. 2 singles title to earn her first trip to the individual state tournament. Murray earned a win at the state meet before bowing out in the second round to a seeded player.

Fellow juniors Meredith Warner and Norah Spanbauer captured the sectional crowns at the No. 3 and No. 4 seeds, respectively.

Senior Annalise Zensick played at the No. 1 singles flight last season and is expected to return this year.

Neenah also is expected to return two of its three doubles teams from last season, including the senior duo of Kinsey Perry and Paige Stielow, who played at the No. 1 flight.

The No. 3 doubles team of sophomores Ava Motto and Cecelia Alexander also has the potential to return after placing second at sectionals a year ago.

The Rockets will begin their season Tuesday at the Brookfield Central invitational.

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS GOLF

Neenah opens season with easy victory

The Rockets began play in the 2023 season on Tuesday and secured a convincing win on their home course over Oshkosh North.

Neenah finished with a team score of

176, while the Spartans carded a total of 246.

Leading the way for Neenah was Aubrey Oitzinger, who earned medalist honors at the meet with a round of 42 at Ridgeway Country Club.

Natalie Quella was the next lowest Neenah golfer with a score of 44, while Annika Serles and Annabelle Hodges each posted scores of 45.

Girls volleyball

FROM PAGE 9

final standings.

Neenah is expected to return one player who earned all-conference recognition last season in right-side hitter/setter Claudia Merizon. Merizon was the third-leading hitter a year ago, and finished second on the team in assists and aces.

Another senior setter in Leia Kersten is expected to return after leading the team in assists, while senior defensive specialist Elizabeth Oldenburg is also expected to be back on the court. Oldenburg, Merizon and Kersten were the top three servers for the Rockets.

Other potential returnees who could contribute for the Rockets are seniors Makenna Baker, who played in every set for Neenah last season, and Kenzie Ullrich.

Boys volleyball

FROM PAGE 9

in his play is tremendous. I am excited about the group of players we have for this year.”

For Neenah to take that next step as a program, they will have to go through the likes of Appleton North, Kimberly and Kaukauna as all three are not only talented programs, but sport veteran rosters.

However, the rest of the conference is wide open and with the talent that Neenah brings back they should be in the mix for another successful season.

“For us to contend this season, we need to play more consistently in all phases of the game,” Coenen said. “Our conference is the best in the state, we have some really talented players and teams so we have to be at our best at all times. It truly will be an exciting season. We are looking forward to continuing our winning tradition.”

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St. Mary Catholic brings family feel to football field

Zephyrs set to take on Rosholt in opener

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

The St. Mary Central football team has the potential to be pretty good on offense this season. Defensively, the Zephyrs also seem primed to field a talented unit.

How the team fares in those areas will be determined starting Friday night when St. Mary Catholic hosts Rosholt in its return to 11-player football.

But there is one area that head coach Josh Young has no doubt the Zephyrs can bank on from the get-go as he has seen it in the squad since the start of practices in August.

“Just being a team is where they are the strongest. Being together,” Young said after a practice earlier this week. “Every team always says their team is a family, but I think these kids are more tight than we have had the past couple of years.”

It’s a sentiment that isn’t just felt by the coaches, either.

“I think we have got a real family here,” junior Dan Harness said. “The bond all of the guys got is different than the last two years. There wasn’t as much closeness,

like brotherhood, between everyone like there is now. We all have the same mindset.”

Young has witnessed the chemistry and camaraderie with his team in different ways.

He said the upperclassmen have been extremely helpful with the younger players in the program and extremely supportive of each other – keeping teammates on an even keel and not too high or too low on themselves.

It may not be directly related to X’s and O’s of a game, but it certainly can contribute to success on the field.

“At some point, something bad is going to happen. It never goes your way 100 percent of the time and then it’s just a matter of how you are going to react,” Young said. “We’ve done pretty well the past couple of years with that so I think we will be able to do the same this year given the cohesiveness of everybody.”

In returning to 11-player football for the first time in six seasons, there is a little uncertainty about how things will go

but facing a Rosholt team that did not win a game on the field last season – the Hornets’ lone victory was via a forfeit – should be a good opponent to test the waters.

However, Young said that Rosholt is far from a pushover. Although the program struggled last season, the team is under a new coaching staff for the 2023 campaign and has a roster of players that cut their teeth on the varsity level last season.

“Most of their starters played as underclassmen last year so they are going to have a lot of experience as far as playing 11-player,” Young said. “I think it will be a good matchup for both of us.”

Rosholt returns its starting quarterback from last year in Alex Wierzba as well as two of his top three receivers – Jason Peterson and Tyler Hintz. Wierzba was also the second-leading rusher for the Hornets last year.

That nucleus is likely something to build on for Rosholt, although the team managed just four touchdowns the entire season.

The Zephyrs expect the Hornets to be improved from where they were last year, however, what Rosholt does may not be what St. Mary Catholic is focusing on.

“We really just try to focus on our game,” said Harness, a starting wide receiver and defensive end. “We have to go out and execute our plays. If we do that, it will turn out how we want it in the end.”

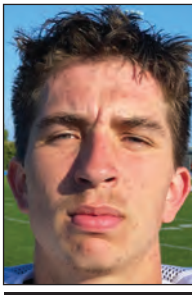
The Zephyrs will likely feature senior running back Ashton Post in its attack, coming off a season where he gained nearly 1,200 yards on the ground. Senior Garrett Weninger steps in at quarterback to lead the passing game for the Zephyrs, while St. Mary Catholic brings in an entirely new cast of starters on the offensive line.

Despite all of the new faces on the offensive side of the ball, Young knows that being able to sustain drives and put up points will be crucial.

“Our big thing on offense is to be able to move the ball,” Young said. “If we can start out good, get a couple of plays under our belt to give the kids a little confidence, I think we will be able to move the ball.”

One thing is for certain, the Zephyrs will be ready to go when things kick off on Friday night.

“We can’t wait. First 11-man game in a long time and we’re ready to go,” Harness said. “We are definitely going to surprise some people I think.”



Harness

Local college graduates

The following Neenah residents received college degrees this spring at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire:

Lily Kuhaupt, Education and Human Sciences, Master of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders

Jared Lawatsch, Business, Bachelor of Business Administration, Business Finance

Olivia Lehrer, Education and Human Sciences, Bachelor of Social Work, Social Work

Jake Lichtfuss, Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Actuarial Science

Grace Mathews, Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Adeline Mielke, Education and Human Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders

Kaitlyn Nelson, Education and Human Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Special Education

Samara Sims, Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts, Integrated Strategic Communication

Taylor VanderMause, Education and Human Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders

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Kid Scoop

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Seaweed

Expert says seaweed can feed the world and slow climate change.

Seaweed is a type of plant that grows in the ocean and other bodies of water all over the world.

It's not like the plants you see on land because it doesn't have roots. It can float and move through the water.

Seaweed comes in different shapes, sizes and colors. Some seaweed looks like long ribbons. Some look like big, leafy plants.

Unscramble the letters to discover different seaweed colors.

ERNGE

WORBN

PLUEPR

DER

What's in a name?

Usually, we think of weeds as something we **don't** want in the garden. But seaweed is actually very good for the planet. It can help end hunger and maybe even slow down climate change.

Seaweed has so many good uses that some scientists think we should call it something different. How about a "sea vegetable," "sea forest," or "water food"?

What do you think?

How many fish can you find on this page?

Would you eat seaweed?

Many kinds of seaweed are so nutritious that the United Nations estimates that farming only 2% of the ocean could feed as many as 12 billion people!



Circle every other letter to discover the name of this delicious rice and seafood treat wrapped in seaweed.

A S T U H S L H J I
S

Seaweed Means Survival

Replace the missing words.

URCHINS HIDING LIFE DEPEND SHELTER

Seaweed is important to marine _____. Animals such as fish, sea turtles and even whales _____ on seaweed for food and _____. Small fish use seaweed as a _____ place from predators. Sea _____ eat seaweed.

Burger Lovers Need Seaweed

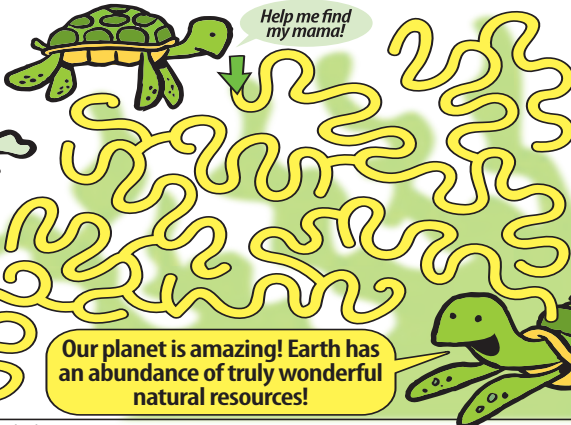
Even meat eaters can be helped with seaweed. It makes an excellent animal feed!

Yum!

Wind Stopper

Feeding livestock seaweed also cuts down on their wind (also known as toots). A cow's "wind" adds methane gas to the air.

Methane gas is part of what is causing climate change.



Help me find my mama!

Our planet is amazing! Earth has an abundance of truly wonderful natural resources!

Earth is My Happy Place

Look through the newspaper for pictures and words that identify the parts of nature that you like. Cut these out and glue them onto a piece of paper. Under or next to the newspaper clippings, write what you love about each kind of nature.

Standards Link: Use descriptive writing.

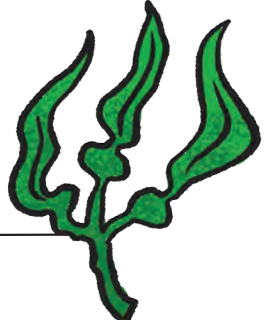
Kid Scoop Together Seafood Favorites

Work with a family member to do the math to discover five of the most popular types of edible seaweed.

- 10 = NORI
- 21 = WAKAME
- 17 = KELP
- 19 = ARAME
- 14 = DULSE



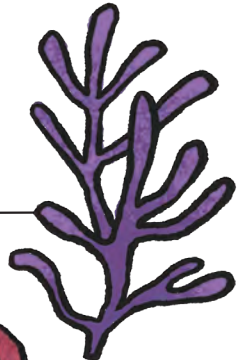
7 + 7 + 7



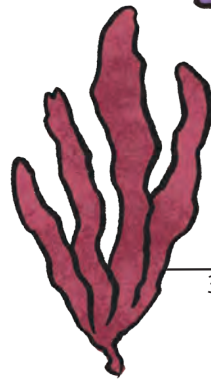
9 + 8



2 + 6 + 2



5 + 5 + 5 + 4



3 + 3 + 3 + 5

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Seaweed Food

Use the code to find out how seaweed is used in foods around the world.

Here, sheets of dried seaweed are used in soups and to wrap sushi.

In this country, a seaweed called **laver** is used to make a popular food called laverbread.

- CODE**
0 = A
1 = B
2 = C
3 = E
4 = I
5 = L
6 = S
7 = T
8 = W
9 = Z

0 6 4 0

8 0 5 3 6

A seaweed called **dulse** is mixed with milk, nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla to make a popular drink in this country.

1 3 5 4 9 3

Double Double Word Search

- CHANGE
- COLORS
- EARTH
- EAT
- FEED
- FISH
- HIDING
- HUNGER
- MARINE
- OCEAN
- SEAWEED
- SLOW
- WATER
- WHALES
- WIND

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

S D S R O L O C O J
J E R E G N U H N T
B E A X W I Q I H C
T F D W T Z A D S W
O D L U E B Y I I H
C H A N G E M N F A
E V Q S W A D G M L
A B E N I R A M W E
N V A R L T W O L S
W A T E R H U X N B

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

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