

SPECIAL COVERAGE ON THE NEW NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL



Photo by David Hall

An aerial view looking toward the front entrance to the new Neenah High School.

Invested in education

District teams complete new Neenah High School mission

Neenah News

The community's support for continuing to build better school facilities has been brought to life on the district's west side with a new Neenah High School ready to welcome students this fall.

Planning for the new high school began in 2016, with a \$114.9 million referendum approved by Neenah Joint School District voters in April 2020. The 220-acre campus has 447,000 square feet of occupiable space and will serve one of Wisconsin's largest high schools, while keeping a focus on individual student growth and success in grades 9-12.

An official groundbreaking was held in June 2022 at the site in Fox Crossing, originally budgeted at \$157 million but rising costs and inflation increased that estimate by about \$14 million.

The land that the high school was constructed on was annexed from the Town of Neenah to be purchased by the school district, with Fox Crossing responsible for public utilities, police and fire services.

Teams of administrators, teachers, staff

Inside

- Teachers, staff moving in.....N2
- Ex-principal Lewis reflects.....N4
- Senior's family takes tourN5
- New sports facilitiesN6
- History of winningN7

and community shareholders worked on everything that makes a high school – operations, technology, classrooms and learning environments, athletics and recreation, performing arts, sustainability and safety – that informed the Board of Education's role in official approvals of those elements.

The district gathered 125 people in subcommittee and core planning meetings to make the project come together, which included transitioning the existing high school on Tullar Road into a grades 7-8 middle school and grades 5-6 intermediate school. They also had to determine the new elementary school structure with Horace Mann being an integral part. The former high school enters a new era as a reconfigured junior high system for grades 5 through 8.

"Since April of 2020, hundreds of peo-

ple made thousands of decisions making what you see around you today a reality," Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer said at a ceremony for the new school.

About 1,875 workers were on site during the construction process that included designs using 3-D modeling technology and more than 1,000 construction drawings.

The high school includes a 26,000-square-foot practice gym with four basketball courts, a competition gym with a 3,000-person capacity, two academic wings, technology education spaces, shop spaces, a wrestling room and a courtyard. The school's performing arts center includes an 850-seat auditorium and 200-seat black box theater. Athletic fields and supporting infrastructure are all on one campus.

Construction of the school is the largest masonry project that locally based Miron Construction has ever done. The building includes 256,581 concrete masonry units, 227,000 utility bricks and 1,515 cubic yards of grout. The outbuildings include 33,480 concrete masonry units, 59,000 bricks and 99 yards of grout.

The entire project used 12,000 yards of

SEE **School project** ON PAGE N11

Project timeline

April 2, 2019: \$129.5 million school referendum vote fails, 6,653 to 6,156

Dec. 19, 2019: New referendum ballot language approved by school board

April 13, 2020: Referendum approved by voters for \$114.9 million, 8,817 to 7,456

December 2021: Roosevelt Elementary School closure and Horace Mann repurposing approved

June 22, 2020: District announces new high school location as Fox Crossing approves land annexation from Town of Clayton

June 10, 2021: Groundbreaking for high school

April 6, 2022: School board approves \$63 million in bonds toward facilities plan

March 22, 2022: High school cost estimate rises from \$157 million to \$171 million

May 31, 2023: Last school day for Shattuck Middle School

Aug. 13: Grand opening

Sept. 5: First day of classes

Teachers and staff eager for new education spaces

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

High school teachers and staff packed up for the summer with some extra anticipation as they looked forward to their brand-new workplace created for them and their students.

Packing day was late May and teachers were told to leave the heavy lifting to moving crews who delivered their classroom essentials to new school spaces.

"We were all packed up at the end of the school year in lots of boxes at the old high school and they had a moving company ... that did a great job," science teacher Emily Bennett said. "They moved everything really carefully and neatly."

Orientation started for teachers during the week of Aug. 7 while some have been able to get some early access depending on their project spaces.

"It's kind of like when you get a new house and you want everything to be where you want it; you want to make sure you do it carefully so it's been a slower process unpacking because you want to make sure it's done right," Bennett said.

"It's super fun to see the new building. It's such a beautiful building."

Bennett and her students will be running a hydroponics lab that is already growing lettuce for the adjacent school cafeteria in a space considered the first in the state built for its purpose.

She said her classroom will be a level up on the second floor but not far from the lab, which will include eight units from Fork Farms that each can grow 20 to 25 pounds of lettuce weekly.

"The school was so generous to give



Science teacher Emily Bennett, embracing her hydroponics unit at the former high school, has the lab next to the new high school cafeteria.

me that space, and through a lot of grant writing we finally have the money to buy all the equipment," Bennett said. "It's a beautiful space. It's amazing."

High school Principal Brian Wunderlich credited facilities director Cale Pulczinski, Boulevard Relocation Services and the help of a color-coding system with making a complicated process go smoothly.

"So far so good. There's just this general level of trust that you have to put into a process," said Wunderlich, who noted that some items inevitably showed up at different locations before they were able to get into the new facilities.

"All things considered everything end-

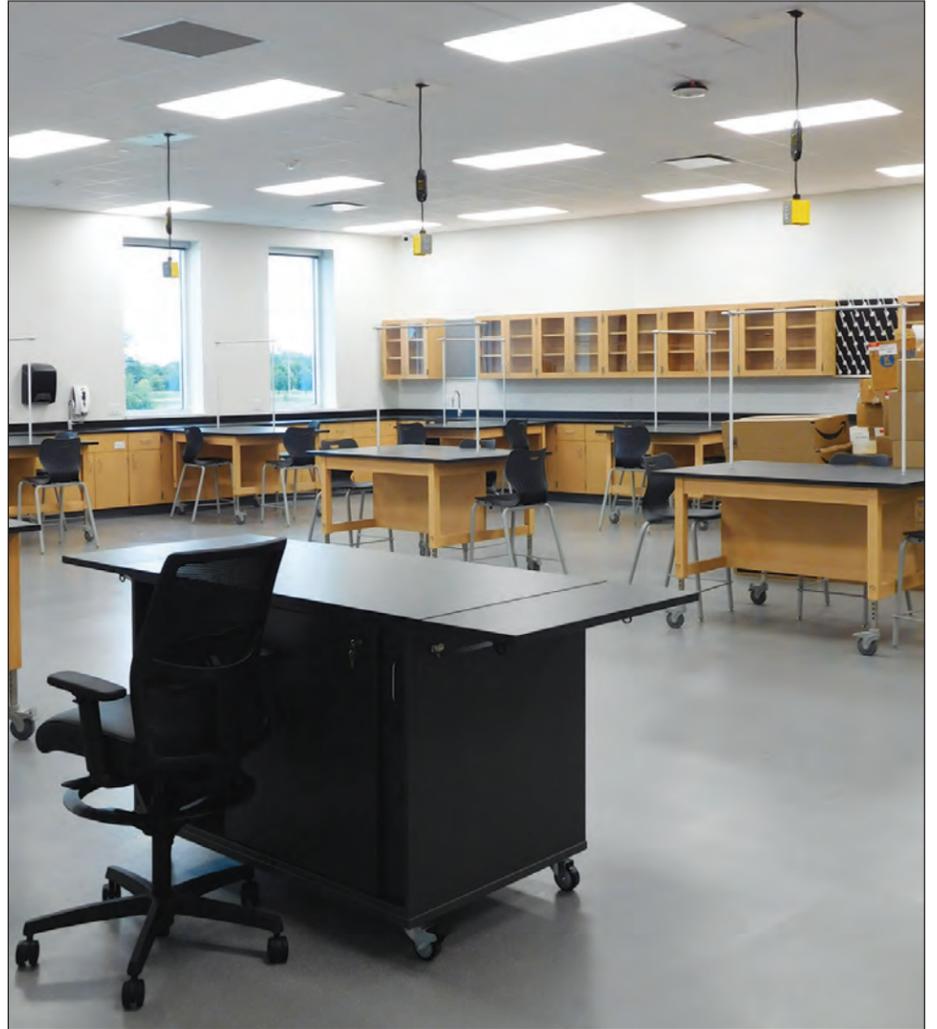


Photo by Jami Severstad

The new science lab area is shown during the public open house.

ed up where it was supposed to and that's a pretty impressive effort by the movers and by all the people who coordinated it," he said.

Theresa Rasmussen, a high school math teacher for 22 years and a senior adviser, said during summer break that she was eager to step into the new classrooms after an emotional departure from what has become the new middle school campus.

She said the majority of teachers stayed out of the moving process and trusted those in charge to get everything set up.

"Even our principal is like, 'You need to relax, you need to separate yourselves from the school. It was very emotional leaving the old school,'" she said.

"It's overwhelming yet very exciting."

Wunderlich said students and teachers will notice the added openness in departments that gained more space, access and visibility for their projects.

"Oftentimes their creativity ended up being limited just a little bit because of either the spaces or the equipment that we had in some cases kind of limited how far our kids' imaginations could take them," he said.

Art rooms, science labs and technology/engineering spaces were designed for better visibility than their previous locations, including glass walls that Wunderlich hopes can inspire young students by being able to see others at work.

"All of these spaces in our old building oftentimes were hidden behind walls and in various spots of the building," he said.

Wunderlich could see the positive responses from students attending the open house.

"It's been great to watch them walking around with smiles on their faces," he said.

"There's a real excitement right now and it's really fun."



Photo by Jami Severstad

Open house visitors check out the new band room space at the high school.

Building for the Future

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE NEENAH
COMMUNITY!

Since 2013, the
Oshkosh Area
Community
Foundation has
awarded 578
Neenah High
School students
with \$573,450 in
scholarship awards.



OSHKOSH AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Proud supporter of
Neenah Joint
School District.

OshkoshAreaCF.org | (920) 426-3993

Kobussen Buses ready for new transportation challenge

Neenah News

With 35 school districts served and nearly 1,000 vehicles on the road, Kobussen Buses updates its routes every summer based on changes among the many schools it serves.

Neenah is one of those districts bringing "significant adjustments" to the company with a large new high school for its students and families this fall.

The regional bus company, which marked 85 years of operations this year and served the Neenah Joint School District community when it opened the former Armstrong High School campus in 1972.

Kobussen Buses Neenah terminal manager Ann Kobussen shed some light on meeting the increased transportation needs at the new campus in Fox Crossing. She said they typically begin receiving updates on school schedules and routing requirements in June, but this year received the necessary information in April from the district with its extensive school realignment.

"Student numbers and locations play a crucial role in determining the school bus routes," Kobussen said. "Kobussen carefully routes students based on their residences and designated pickup points, ensuring an optimal and safe transportation experience for all."

"To cater to the increased demand, Kobussen Buses has added six more buses to Neenah's existing fleet. These additional vehicles aim to ease transportation and cater to the needs of the students attending both the middle and high school in Neenah."

Transportation volume on the west side



Submitted photo

Kobussen Buses are ready to bring students to the new Neenah High School starting Sept. 5

of the district is expected to surge with the addition of the new high school and creation of the middle school at the Tullar Road location. Kobussen said that despite students' potential use of alternative transportation, many continue to rely on their services.

As with other Kobussen Buses terminals and transportation providers across the state, she said the Neenah district faces a shortage of drivers.

"To address this challenge, Kobussen Buses employs a collaborative approach. Mechanics, secretaries, and other personnel involved step in to drive buses as needed, ensuring that transportation demands are met efficiently," Kobussen said.

She added that they are taking applications and encourage those interested to visit kobussen.com and apply at the nearest terminal.

Now in its fourth generation of family involvement, Kobussen was one of the first Wisconsin bus services to hire women drivers in the 1960s and in the early 1970s started a driver's training program before required by the state. All drivers received skid pad training at Fox Valley Technical College and regularly work with trainers at their terminals.

Kobussen also emphasized student safety as its "utmost priority," backed by strong safety protocols and regulations, along with investing in training and technology.

"As the community embarks on this new chapter of its educational journey, Kobussen Buses stands ready to meet the evolving needs of its young passengers," she said.

"Kobussen is asking you as a driver to stay safe on the roads this coming school

year. Remember, flashing red means stop ahead."

The Wisconsin State Patrol adds that emphasis with its August Law of the Month being school bus safety, reminding drivers and parents of their important roles. The school bus loading and unloading area is the most dangerous for pedestrians, so attention must be paid to a bus when the stop arm is extended or warning lights engaged.

"School buses are some of the safest vehicles on the roads because they're specially built to withstand damage in a crash, but our goal is to avoid testing that technology," State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan said. "All drivers must maintain the highest level of awareness when traveling near a school bus to avoid crashes and protect children on the way to school."

N

Congratulations

TO NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL ON THE NEW SCHOOL!

Quality Waste Disposal is proud to be a partner with NJSD. We are committed to providing the best waste disposal services for the school and the community.

We wish you all the best in your new school building!

**WE HAVE 20 AND 30 YARD DUMPSTERS FOR RENT
FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND CONSTRUCTION.**

Quality
Waste Disposal Inc

Quality Waste Disposal Inc.
Neenah, WI 54956
920-312-6616
www.qualitywastedumpsters.com



Former principal part of earlier big changes

By Kathy Walsh Nufer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Larry Lewis is more than a casual witness to the opening this fall of the new Neenah High School.

His decades-long bond with Neenah educators, their school board and the community, underscored by his own experiences as a school administrator weathering the school system's growing pains, give him a unique perspective.

Lewis served as the school's third principal from 1984 to 1999. It was a period of big changes, so he can empathize with current Principal Brian Wunderlich, whom he has mentored.



Lewis

"We went through a whole batch of building renovations, grade realignments and new construction," Lewis said. "There was constant change taking place, probably more so than any time in Neenah history. We were always upgrading."

"During my time we developed baseball, softball and soccer facilities with the help of outside booster groups, built the first metric swimming pool in this area, which WIAA loved, and hosted the state boys' soccer and girls' volleyball tournaments," Lewis said. "It was a big deal with all those fans coming in."

"It was a lot of work to accommodate all the things going on," he added, noting that few, if any, area high schools at that time had a Pickard Auditorium, which featured



Photo from Larry Lewis

Neenah High School Principal Larry Lewis (right) receives a Blue Ribbon Award for the school at the White House from Education Secretary William Bennett.

both school programs and a lineup of community events, plus major celebrity performers from Bob Hope and Red Skelton to David Copperfield, Itzhak Perlman and the Statler Brothers.

It was a time when a lot of districts

were moving from junior highs to middle schools in their grade alignment.

Lewis, who came to NHS after five years as principal at then Shattuck Junior High, probably the largest junior high in the state with grades 7-9, oversaw the realignment to a 9-12 high school.

"Those were some tough but interesting years trying to keep track of what was going on between Conant and Armstrong," Lewis recalled. Keeping an eye on student movement between the two buildings wasn't easy. "There was a whole lot of change taking place almost every year until the connecting link was completed for grades 9-12, and I was right in the middle of it," he said.

Today's challenges, are big, too. "Not only will there be a massive new high school for grades 9-12, but grades 5-8 will be moving into the Armstrong-Conant complex, creating what could be the largest middle school in the state," Lewis explained.

Even with all the changes going on, Lewis remembers plenty of highlights from his time as NHS principal.

In 1984-85 NHS was one of 271 high schools nationwide to receive the Blue Ribbon Award for exceptional education. Lewis traveled with previous NHS Principal Rick Carlson to Washington, D.C., to stand on the south lawn of the White House and hear President Ronald Reagan speak.

In 1989, Lewis was selected as State High School Principal of the Year.

"I always thought of that as a school award because the Neenah community really supported good education and was willing to pay for good schools," he said.

Fun memories include the saga of the student council's efforts in 1988 to obtain a real rocket for the NHS mascot. They wrote to Wisconsin's then U.S. Sen. Robert Kasten, who put them in touch with a connection to get an old "Honest John" rocket from a Kansas military base. The only condition was that someone would have to come and get it.

A parent who worked at Neenah Foundry made it happen, arranging for a truck taking a load of manhole covers to Kansas

to bring the rocket back to Neenah. Other businesses came forward to install it, paint the green missile white and set up the lighting for its display on campus.

"I got a lot of calls from businesses who wanted something to do with this project," Lewis recalled. Of course, there was some criticism of the effort. "A couple people said you can't put that up — it's pointing toward Menasha," Lewis said.

One of his biggest headaches occurred in the early 1990s.

"I closed the student smoking area and I feel like I still have some scars on my back from that. I did it during the national anti-smoking movement and I thought we should become part of that."

It did not go over well, initially. On the first morning of the shutdown he was on his way to work when he saw cars filled with protesters driving up and down Tullar Road in front of school. About 100 students, including many smokers, stood across the street, and the media, including all three Green Bay TV stations, were on the scene waiting to see what happened.

"I thought — Geez, how will we handle that?" recalled Lewis. "This must be a big story. I can't remember when all three stations covered something we did at the same time. After a week the protesters gave in when I let it be known that their absences were not excused and they would have to make up all their classwork."

He remembers taking a lot of teasing from fellow principals, but he didn't mind being among the first in the Fox Valley to start the trend to benefit kids' health. "We were usually one of the first schools in the area to do something like that, and like the Rocket project, it became a community thing. There were a couple parents who sided with the kids, but I got lots of letters of support."

The community also backed him in the mid-1990s when there were several cases of inappropriately pulled fire alarms during final exams closing out the school year.

Lewis went to the Neenah-Menasha YMCA and shared his dilemma with a group of citizens he knew who drank coffee and played cards every day. "I asked them to help me, and the next morning 35 showed up to be stationed in shifts every couple hours at the school's fire alarms," he said. "We never had a fire alarm go off like that again and the senior citizens loved interacting with the kids."

Lewis, now 80, has been retired for 23 years and estimates he oversaw 7,500 students, 24 different assistant principals, and hundreds of dedicated teachers and other staff during his 15 years as NHS principal. "I loved my time at NHS" he said. "It was during a time of rapid change but I always felt I had good community support, which is a big part of the history of that campus. I've always believed when a community looks at its schools it looks at itself."

Lewis, who got a tour of the new high school while still under construction last fall, is looking forward to seeing what the new building means for the school district.

"Any time you have construction like this," he added, "that's the driver of changes in a district and the change coming now is perhaps among the biggest" for Neenah.

The former administration building on Commercial Street was the center of district education until Shattuck was built, then Shattuck was the main hub until the Armstrong-Conant campus was built, Lewis said.

"Now we begin another chapter. I think it's really going to be something the community can be excited about," he said.



**NEENAH
HIGH SCHOOL**

Honoring Tradition...
Building for the future

KNOX
FURNITURE GALLERY OF NEENAH



Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4 | Sat 10-4 | Closed Sunday
920-722-0404 | 109 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
www.knoxfurniture.com

Knox Furniture Neenah WI — Quality Brands For Your Home

Open house impressions and first-day apprehensions

Hi! We're a family with two kids who've been in the Neenah Joint School District their entire lives. We're learning about the new high school — and the other re-designed schools in the district — along with you all. We've been asked to share some thoughts.

After seeing the new Neenah High School for a 90-minute tour Aug. 13, we rocket toward the first day of school with some excitement, some uncertainty, and some concerns.

NHS Senior (Finn Severstad): Stupid rocket pun, Dad, but I'm just going to ignore that. Let's talk about first impressions. The first thing we all saw was the 15-minute wait to get into the parking lot.

Dad (Eric Severstad): The question is whether that's going to be an everyday occurrence.

Mom (Jami Severstad): The parking lots look like they could have a lot of bottlenecks.

Dad: It has that potential. There was a video and website recently describing traffic patterns and parking recommendations, so it sounds like they're trying to fix that for the future.

Mom: At the old school, there were multiple routes we could take to get there, but now we have the front and the back and that's it.

Dad: We'll definitely be leaving extra time in the morning for the first week to get used to this. I also don't know what percentage of students drive, get dropped off, or ride the bus, but that's something to keep in mind.

Mom: As far as the outside of the school, when you come from Larsen Road, everything looks pretty cohesive.



Photo by Jami Severstad

The grand opening of a new high school comes with excitement and uncertainty. Get one family's perspective as the first day of the new Neenah High School nears.

But when you see the front entrance, there's orange-toned faux wood and some cream alongside the cool-toned red, white and gray. The warm tones detract from the view of the front and make it appear like random buildings clumped together rather than a unified whole.

Dad: It's an odd look; not really what you'd expect.

Mom: Especially after you get in the building, and it's very open and modern

feeling. There's such an effort to run the school colors throughout.

Dad: I was shocked between the outside versus inside. It really was a big difference. The inside is so open and bright; it's such a cool feel, but the outside isn't as impressive.

NHS Senior: I don't care all that much about how the outside looks.

Dad: That's OK because you'll be inside most of the time anyway. In that case,

what do you think about the inside?

NHS Senior: I was surprised by how big it felt when I was actually inside walking around. The numbers all point to it being small. For example, the auditorium has half as many seats as Pickard. During the tour, the atrium had about 200 seats, and each lunch period will probably be at least 600 kids.

Mom: Although we did see extra lunch tables stored away that they'll probably set up later.

NHS Senior: And it also sounds like they have plans to let people eat in the commons, too.

Mom: I worry about all the windows. Having natural light is great, but with the windows separating the classrooms from the commons, how much of a distraction is that going to be for kids that need to focus on studying? And, who's going to clean all that glass?

NHS Senior: One of the first things people were thinking when we saw the virtual tour video in May was about the windows: the walls to the outside and between classrooms are all windows. There's a potential security risk there. We've been reassured that they have security measures in place, but they're not transparent about what those are.

Dad: Who's making puns now, eh?

Mom: It's a sad state of affairs that this is something we need to think about. Where are the spaces for the kids to hide? Is it all bulletproof glass?

NHS Senior: I wouldn't feel safe even if it was bulletproof because you can see entire classrooms from one common area.

SEE **Family visit** ON PAGE N11



Eric Van Dyke, Owner/Agent • Carl Stamm, Agent

**Congrats to
the Rockets
Class of 2024
and Beyond!**



MEDICARE, HEALTH & LIFE

500 N. Commercial St., Ste. A

Neenah, WI 54956

Phone: (920) 969-1956

info@sturtandassoc.com

Have Questions?

- Medicare Planning (Medicare Advantage/Medicare Supplement/ D-SNP/Part D
- Individual Health Plans on and off exchange
- Life/Funeral Policies

We have answers at no cost to you!

Figuring out retirement, medicare or health insurance can be confusing. We inform, educate and help you make the best choice.

"Your time, knowledge and expertise in setting up effective insurance solutions is much appreciated. It is clearly evident that you treat your clients and potential clients with dignity, empathy and respect."

~ Chip C.

Want to know your options?
Visit www.sturtandassoc.com

New athletic facilities await Neenah sports teams

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A new sports venue is a huge deal, especially in the humble world of high school sports where a hometown vibe is part of the atmosphere.

The Neenah Joint School District is launching a fresh era that will bring multiple new fields and sports facilities to the community. That's why the 2022-23 school year figures to be an exciting time to be a Rocket.

Neenah athletes will benefit significantly from the opening of the new Neenah High School, located at 500 Rocket Way on a 217-acre property south of Winchester Road in Fox Crossing. They will practice, play games and train at new on-campus athletic facilities – situated just south of the school.

The facilities are part of the \$171 million school project that will provide new digs for every school sport with the exception of swimming and diving, which will continue to operate at what is now the new middle school. The project was approved through the passing of a funding

referendum in April 2020. Most of the new athletic facilities will be ready for the fall sports season that starts in September.



Strick

“There’s a lot of excitement in the community with the new facilities,” said Jim Strick, school district communications director. “I suspect we’ll have some great crowds, especially for the first games in the new places. People are excited to support the kids and see them in the new environment.”

Headlining the new sports facilities is a first-ever turf football field. The Rockets had played games at Rocket Stadium since the early 1980s and were one of the few remaining schools to play on a grass field. The Rockets unveiled the new football stadium Aug. 17 in their season opener against De Pere and will give fans a second look at the venue Sept. 8 against Kaukauna. Additional home games will be Sept. 22 (Appleton North) and Oct. 6 (Fond du Lac).

“We’re really looking forward to transitioning to the new stadium,” said football coach Steve Jung. “The stadium is beautiful. You can tell a lot of thought went into



Photo by David Hall

Neenah High School’s new Rocket Stadium will host football and lacrosse events.

it.

“I love having a turf field that can be used hundreds of times during the year without having to worry about the grass. We can play any amount of football, soccer and lacrosse games on it without thinking, ‘Holy cow, that’s five games in a week and it’s raining out.’ We’ve always had those type of concerns.



Jung

“I also like how the lower part of the stands allows the students a chance to stand, while the parents sitting above them won’t have their view hindered.”

The Neenah High alumnus played prep football games in his high school days at Rocket Stadium.

“It’s going to be a little different,” Jung said. “Being one of the few teams that played on grass gave us a home-field advantage. Now we’re turf like the rest of the schools. But we’re very excited about it. The game is just faster on turf and we’ll adapt just fine.”

All of the seating at the new football stadium – which seats roughly 3,500 – is on one side. The scoreboard from Rocket Stadium has been moved to the new venue and installed behind the visitor’s bench area. Two concession stands are available at the end of each grandstand. A rubber-coated track for spring track and field competition will eventually encircle the gridiron, but won’t be ready until spring 2024.

A new grass field with bleacher seating and a scoreboard for Neenah boys’ and girls’ soccer teams is just behind the football stadium but won’t be ready for game competition this fall. Instead, the Rockets will continue to play soccer games at their old home, Harry Kelderman Field. They will also likely play a game or two on the turf football field that has been lined for soccer.

Two grass practice football fields and a grass practice soccer field will be available and there is enough green space for another future field.

A complex consisting of two baseball and two softball fields is another major

part of the on-site sports facilities.

“It’s a really nice setup,” Strick said. “We’ll be able to have varsity and JV games at the same time and all the fields are set up the same way and face the same direction, which is kind of unique. We also have a press box there (along with another at the football stadium) that I have to say is really nice.”

Neenah tennis teams weren’t forgotten. Eight courts are available and room has been set aside for another eight should there be a need.

For indoor sports, the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse for basketball and volleyball has been replaced by a new 3,000-square-foot competition gym. Another four-court gym with wooden floors will be used for practices, freshman basketball games and extra tournament space.

“It makes for a slightly smaller environment that’s a little more intimate for fans and players,” Strick said. “It should make for a great atmosphere.”

The first varsity basketball game in the new competition gym will be Nov. 26 when the Rockets girls host Brookfield East. The Neenah girls are led by one of the state’s elite players, University of Connecticut recruit Allie Ziebell, and are expected to be a top-tier team.

“I’m thrilled we’re going to have the chance to open it up,” said girls’ basketball coach Andy Braunel. “Any time you go into a brand-new facility, especially one that’s state of the art like this, you’re super excited. Add the fact that we have a really good team and it just snowballs all the excitement we have going into the season.”



Braunel

Coach Lee Rabas and the Neenah boys’ basketball team will make their debut in the new gym three nights later on Nov. 29 against Stevens Point.

“We’re obviously excited to move in and get adjusted to what the new normal will be like,” Rabas said. “With the four-court practice gym, we won’t have the rubber



Photo by Jami Severstad

The new Neenah High School weight room offers plenty of opportunities for athletes and students to improve their strength.

SEE **Sports facilities** ON PAGE N10

The Breakwater Podcast
What Is Prevention?
Check out Episode 04
www.breakwaterwi.org
Prevent & Reduce Youth and Adult Substance Use
WE ♥ YOU
Download the app
VISIT WWW.WEHEARTYOU.ORG

Homeless draw more police attention

Concerned residents alerting authorities

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Police Department is receiving increased calls related to the city's homeless population.

Assistant chief Jeff Bernice said police are aware of a handful of homeless individuals in the community. He said some of the people are set up in more visible locations, which may be leading to an uptick in police calls.

"As you know, homelessness is not a crime," he said. "We are getting complaints from both ends of the spectrum: We are not

doing enough to help the homeless and why are we not doing enough to get rid of them."

Last week, Neenah police posted on social media that the city has a small number of homeless people but said there are different types of homelessness.

"First, there are the individuals and families who are truly struggling," police wrote. "They may be trying to overcome financial obstacles, mental health issues, or any other assortment of hardships that befall them. Second, are the individuals who seemingly choose homelessness as a lifestyle. This small population often refuses housing opportunities, mental health services, job placement and other support mechanisms offered as assistance."

When police receive a call about a homeless person, Bernice said officers provide resources.

"It is our job as law enforcement officers to help people," he said. "Officers are offering services and help and it's up to that person to either accept them, or basically say, 'No, I don't want any.'"

Resident John Kramer spoke at last week's Common Council meeting and said during a recent trip to Walmart he saw a person living on the corner of Cecil and South Green Bay Road.

"People living on the streets just isn't right," he said. "There are places they can go

SEE **Homeless cases** ON PAGE 11

INSIDE



Housing issues

Affordable living barriers discussed

Page 8

Summer travels

Trying good beer part of the fun

Page 10

Senior Standout

Zephyrs running back Post featured

Page 14



Neenah News

Young performers

Local youth put on a performance of "The Muppet Show" at the George Scherck Shelter in Neenah's Memorial Park last Friday, where they sang, danced and performed comic skits. The show was the culmination of the Neenah Parks & Recreation's weeklong Camp KidStage, which is open to ages 5-12 who participate in acting games, theater exercises and improvisation.

Refugees find opportunities through regional team

World Relief helps put lives back together

By Anya Kelley
NEENAH NEWS

As of 2018, 5% of Wisconsin's population was composed of immigrants, while that number has been steadily increasing since then. Many come to America ready to work and build a new life for their families.

It's never easy coming to a new country where everything from customs to the language is different. World Relief, a global Christian humanitarian organization, makes that transition smoother.

World Relief is one of 10 resettlement agencies in the nation helping refugees from all over the world find a home here. The Fox Valley branch has been in operation for 11 years and resettled almost 300 people last year.

That number seemingly increases yearly as World Relief Fox Valley has resettled around 315 people this year and is estimating about 350 more in 2024.

World Relief, with offices at 404 N. Main St. in Oshkosh and 510 E. Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton, provides services as diverse as applying for green cards, community engagement and family reunification. Director Tami McLaughlin oversees a staff of 27 as the organization works with Good Neighbors volunteers from local churches.

Nicole Gerow, the employee service manager at World Relief Fox Valley, got her position after falling in love with a volunteer opportunity.

"I was a volunteer to start with – we welcomed a family of nine from Afghanistan in 2021," Gerow said. "It was such a life-changing experience for me that I left my comfortable job in health insurance and came over



Photo from World Relief

Amcor hired more than 70 of the World Relief organization's clients to fill needed positions.

SEE **World Relief** ON PAGE 7

Neenah News

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

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

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

News tips and story ideas
submit@neenahnewsnow.com

Support the Neenah News

Membership

A \$50 annual membership supports receiving the newspaper weekly. Call 920-486-1616 or visit www.neenahnewsnow.com/product/membership/

Subscribe

For \$70 annually the Neenah News is mailed to non-delivery areas via first-class mail. Go to www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe or call 920-486-1616.

Advertising

advertise@neenahnewsnow.com
920-486-1616

Andrew Beulen: 920-508-0119
andrew@oshkoshherald.com

Classified advertising

classifieds@neenahnewsnow.com
920-385-4512

All advertisements are subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from our Advertising Department. All ads are subject to approval before publication. Oshkosh Herald LLC dba Neenah News reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, classify or cancel any ad at any time. Errors must be reported in the first day of publication. Oshkosh Herald LLC dba Neenah News shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from an error in or omission of an advertisement. No refunds will be given for early cancellation of an order.

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

Publisher

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

Editor

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

Corrections

It is the policy of Oshkosh Herald dba to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-385-4512.

About the newspaper

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Thursdays for Friday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 21,000 homes and businesses in the Neenah and Fox Crossing areas. An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.neenahnewsnow.com.

Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.

Rescue fund process for governments updated

Executive has oversight for ARPA project plans

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County is again changing its procedures on sending \$145,000 in ARPA funds to each town and municipality primarily located within Winnebago County after committee and county board meetings this month.

American Rescue Plan Act money that was promised to the municipalities, which have received other ARPA funding on different levels, had new conditions placed on it in July that each entity had to spend the money and be reimbursed.

The switch from an allocation to a reimbursement is because the county needs to ensure each municipality is “doing the right thing” with the money, county executive Jon Doemel said at a meeting last month.

The county board voted in March to send a total of \$3 million of the \$33 million in ARPA funds it received to each of the 21 municipalities; but only the Town of Rushford had received it as of mid-August.

Town chairman Tom Egan said Rushford received the ARPA funds on Aug. 11. Egan said he isn't sure why the town received the funds when others haven't, except that it completed its paperwork and projects early.

At an ARPA Commission meeting earlier this month, board supervisor Chuck Farrey said the biggest issue with the process is that the county requires reimbursement and questioned Doemel's chief of staff Ethan Hollenberger, and finance director Paul Kaiser, on how the resolution's wording was used to change the allocation to reimbursement.

The wording in the resolution the coun-

ty board approved in March included a sentence that the allocation is “subject to the administration of the director of finance,” which Doemel and his administration cited to justify the change to reimbursement.

In a comment on social media last month, Doemel said of the county supervisors, “Perhaps they should read the resolutions they pass.”



Doemel

Hollenberger said the procedure for allocating the money was changed because Kaiser wanted invoices showing what the municipalities used the funds for. Kaiser said that he did request invoices and Hollenberger interpreted it as reimbursement. He noted the other option was to send a letter to the municipalities requiring repayment of the funds if an invoice isn't provided by Dec. 31, 2024.

A new revised agreement for the funds was emailed to municipalities the day after the meeting, which provides an option for an advance, reimbursement or applying the allocation to an invoice for county work.

At last week's board meeting, Doemel was on vacation and not in attendance. Supervisor Paul Eisen submitted a resolution and agenda item report at the meeting requiring the money to be sent directly to the towns and municipalities rather than subjecting them to a “conditions precedent” where they're required to first spend the money and then be reimbursed.

“The distrust and dissatisfaction with the conditions precedent impose upon municipalities is unconscionable,” Eisen wrote. “This resolution relieves the inconsistent treatment afforded to Winnebago

County municipalities especially when the county had acted to minimize federal control of ARPA funds.”

The proposed resolution required distribution of the funds no later than Sept. 1. Corporation counsel Mary Anne Mueller expressed concern that the resolution is directing the county executive to distribute funds, when the county board's role is authorization and not direction.

“You could certainly say the county board would like this money distributed as soon as possible but you can't basically tell the county executive when to do this,” she said.

The board then moved to amend the resolution to direct Doemel to distribute the funds as soon as possible.

During the lengthy discussion, supervisor Bryan Stafford said he's frustrated at the level of dysfunction throughout the process.

“This is not effective governance, it just isn't, and it's kind of embarrassing,” he said. “I don't know what to say other than that, other than this is not an effective use of our time and it's unfortunate that this is hurting real people. There are towns that need a fire truck. This is life and death for a lot of people. I feel like we need to get our act together on this.”

The board voted 28-5 to approve the resolution directing the county executive to distribute the funds to the municipalities as soon as possible. Supervisors Rebecca Nichols, Brian Defferding, Steven Binder, Morris Cox and Douglas Nelson voted against.

Hollenberger said resolutions don't take effect until the county executive signs them and he was expected to process the resolution sometime last week. He advised local governments to follow the email from Kaiser with the revised agreement for the quickest way to receive their allocation.

Wisconsin DNR launches drought resource webpage

The state Department of Natural Resources recently launched a Drought Resource webpage as a new source for information related to drought conditions experienced by 82% of the state.

The dnr.wisconsin.gov/drought site gives access to drought conditions, resources from DNR programs and other state and national resources. Visitors can also find tips for conserving water and information about accessing water during a drought based on their water use needs.

In the last few years, Wisconsin has

transitioned from record-high water levels to one of the driest starts to summer on record in many parts of the state. This dramatic change has resulted in lower water levels and increased the risk and severity of wildfires.

“These fluctuations highlight the importance of managing Wisconsin's resources for the full range of climate conditions the state may experience now and in the future. While Wisconsin has abundant water resources, drought years emphasize the importance of conservation and effi-

ciency practices,” said Adam Freihoefer, Water Use Section manager.

The webpage also provides ways for the public to report the visual signs of drought in their area, including parched, yellow lawns, visibly stressed or stunted vegetation and low surface water levels.

“The public reporting of drought conditions helps the DNR and our partners better respond to these situations across Wisconsin,” Freihoefer said.

Hunter education enrollment urged

The state Department of Natural Resources encourages new and experienced hunters to enroll in a hunter education course before the fall season. Courses are available across the state and in a variety of formats.

The DNR notes that most hunting incidents in Wisconsin involve hunters older than 40, decades after learning firearm safety rules in their education courses.

As part of the program, graduates receive a certificate accepted in every state, Canada and Mexico. Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, must have a hunter education certification to purchase a license unless hunting under the Mentored Hunting Law.

The DNR offers multiple course options and locations. More than 20,000 people take hunter education courses in Wisconsin each year, making early enrollment important. Go to gowild.wi.gov for course sign-up information.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Scouts on parade

Girl Scouts march down Neenah's Wisconsin Avenue in the 1940s.

Missing person case from 1975 in need of new clues

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is following up on leads in the cold case investigation into the disappearance of Bonnie Repinski, who has been missing for nearly 50 years.

Bonnie was 33 when she disappeared and would be 81 today. The sheriff's office recently posted on social media asking for new information in her case.

Bonnie was living in Sheboygan in 1975 but had recently separated from her husband, David R. Repinski, and for several months was living with her sister in the Town of Menasha.



Repinski

State Supreme Court records indicate David and Bonnie were having marital issues as far back as 1970. On Aug. 12, 1975, David told police he picked Bonnie up and the couple went to several taverns in the Neenah and Oshkosh area to celebrate her birthday and discuss their pending divorce.

While driving back to her sister's home, David said they got into an argument and Bonnie asked to be let out of the car so he dropped her off at U.S. 41 and the former State 150. The area is now Interstate 41 and County II in Fox Crossing. He told investigators she was walking in the direction of home.

Detective Chris Braman said David was the last person to see Bonnie.

"It was just along the side of the road that he said he dropped her off and there

were no witnesses that ever came forward that they saw her get out of the vehicle, and no credible sightings after the fact," he said. "After that night, she's never been seen again."

At the time of her disappearance, missing posters described Bonnie as about 5-and-a-half feet tall, weighing 120 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes.

Braman said the initial investigators considered information that Bonnie had just picked up and left to start a new life. She left behind three young children and he said her sister and other family members suspect foul play.

Although investigators believe Bonnie is deceased, with no body there is no DNA or other forensic evidence to glean information on what occurred.

"We just have a missing person, no crime scene, no anything to potentially get some physical evidence out of, no other witnesses that have actually been able to verify that some type of foul play occurred," Braman said.

He added that cold cases are tough to solve.

"No body homicide cases are extremely difficult to begin with, but usually those are solved based on some other type of physical evidence or a witness coming forward and those are things that we don't have at this point," he said.

David is 84 and lives in Hancock. He and Bonnie's divorce was finalized seven months after she went missing. Braman said he was one of several suspects considered in her disappearance.

"Well, in any case, the last person to see a person has to be considered," Braman said. "There's been other suspects that

have been talked to and listed in the reports over the years, but obviously, he was a person that they took a close look at."

While Bonnie's sister has continued to bring awareness to her disappearance, Braman said her three children have not been in contact with the sheriff's office in recent years.

"There was a lot of rumors and things like that, that they in the recent history have not been very receptive to law enforcement," he said.

As the case is almost 50 years old, Braman said the sheriff's office is hoping that some of the individuals involved have had a change of heart.

"They haven't come forward in the past, maybe they'll come forward now," he said.

Since issuing the call for new information, Braman said at least two people have come forward that had never previously been contacted by law enforcement. The sheriff's office is still actively working to solve the case and anyone with information may call 920-727-2888.

"Are you unsure if you hold that piece of information that we need to solve this case for her family?" the sheriff's office posted on social media. "We want to hear from you if you have any information, even if you think it's insignificant."


> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Can I withdraw funds? Can I convert my account? How can I generate income?

Are your retirement accounts following your investment strategy? Call or email me today, and let's make sure you're still on track.





Shane Zillmer
Financial Advisor
675 Deerwood Ave, Suite A
Neenah, WI 54956
920-729-1150

IRT-4395H-A

Great Estates

FINE FURNITURE



LABOR DAY SALE!

SAVE UP TO
60% OFF!
ON SELECT ITEMS

Save Hundreds
On Fine Quality Furniture
From Temple & Parker Southern!

318 North Main Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901 • (920) 232-9772

*Honor us, if you please,
with thy presence at*

Art After Dark: Renaissance Faire

21 September, 2023
5:30-8:30 p.m.
Admission Free



*Behold a variety of
entertainment to include
glass blowing and magic!
Artisan wares, ale and
sustenance available in
exchange for your coinage.
Galleries and shop will be
open well past sundown.
Renaissance costumes
encouraged.*

Huzzah!

Bergstrom-Mahler
Museum of Glass
165 N. Park Avenue, Neenah
920-751-4658
@bmnglass • bmnglass.com



Course flexibility credited for FVTC student boost

Neenah News

New programs of study and a continued emphasis on flexibility are being credited for welcoming more students to Fox Valley Technical College campuses in this fall semester.

Classes started this week at all FVTC campuses, regional centers and training centers. Some numbers related to the new term include:

- Enrollments are up almost 4% year-over-year, which builds on the enrollment increase the college saw last fall.
- Enrollment in online courses is up 12%.
- Students on average are enrolling in more credits per semester.
- Since announcing a new University

Transfer program, 193 students have applied; 170 students have been admitted and 129 are enrolled in fall classes.

- Students have received \$1 million in scholarship support.

In response to feedback from local employers who are experiencing gaps in the workforce, the college is offering new associate degree or technical diploma pathways:

- University Transfer – Associate of Arts
- University Transfer – Associate of Science
- Family & Consumer Sciences Education Instruction
- Project Specialist
- Dairy Automation
- Hospitality Specialist

- Kitchen & Bath Design Assistant
- Diesel Equipment Technician with CDL

- Greenhouse Operations
- Landscape Horticulture

“I am thrilled to witness the positive growth we are seeing at the college,” said Chris Matheny, FVTC president. “This growth means that even more students have chosen to put their trust in FVTC for their educational journey.”

FVTC offers programs that have multiple starts throughout the fall semester such as welding, machine tool, accounting, human resources and supply chain management. Prospective students can also enroll in general education courses and have an option to start classes in mid-October.

FVTC is hosting an open house from 3 to 7 p.m. Oct. 3 with no registration necessary.

T-shirt design promotion set by Bedrock Coffee

Bedrock Coffee Roasters has a T-shirt design contest underway that is asking followers to come up with a creative idea to fit on a shirt promoting the coffee company.

Participants who submit a black-and-white drawing that represents Bedrock Coffee receive a free cafe drink with the winning entry earning a free daily drink for a year. Entries can be brought to the 214 W. Cecil St. location or emailed to info@bedrockcoffee.com by Sept. 10, when the top three submissions will be determined. The winner will be announced Sept. 15.

“We are looking for some inspiration from our awesome followers,” Bedrock said on its Facebook page.



Proudly Serving the Fox Valley since 1973!

Digital prints in
10 Minutes!

The Valley's Largest Selection of Cameras and Accessories From:

Canon Sony Nikon
Promaster Rode Tamron
Thinktank MagMod Sigma

Services Offered:

- High Quality Canvas Prints
- Photo Classes
- Video Transfers
- Photo Restoration
- 2 Minute Passport Photos

Lens Rentals

Let our friendly staff help you with all of your photography needs!

Located Just 4 Blocks North of the
Convention Center In Beautiful Downtown Oshkosh

439 N. Main St. • 920.233.2424 • www.cameracasino.com



The Fox Valley's Oldest Jeweler

More than 100 years of experience designing and repairing jewelry.

We have been a well-established
family business since 1912.

Custom Design ♦ In-House Goldsmith

High Quality ♦ Competitive Pricing

Call us today for a free consultation &
ask about our in-store specials.




We value our relationships
and get to know our customers
on a first-name basis.



All repairs and service work are done in-store.
We deal directly with our diamond cutters & jewelry manufacturers; any shape, size, color,
or clarity is available for your viewing before a commitment is made.

APPLETON
920.734.1858
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm · Saturday 10am-2pm
208 E. College Avenue

OSHKOSH
920.231.0462
Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm · Saturday 10am-2pm
523 N. Main Street

Unlocked vehicles continue to be targeted in area

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Area police departments are reminding residents to lock up their vehicles after a string of illegal entries and thefts occurred for the second consecutive month.

From Aug. 17-19, Fox Crossing police received reports of 28 unlocked vehicles that were illegally entered overnight. Items reported stolen included a laptop, \$342 cash, binoculars, a wallet, cellphone and keys. Six of the vehicles were on Christopher Drive and five were on Irish Road.

From July 17-20, Fox Crossing police received reports of 16 vehicles illegally entered. A wallet, loaded handgun, cash, binoculars and an engagement ring were reported stolen. Six of the vehicles were

on Shady Lane, three were on Christopher Drive and three on West Calumet Street.

Neenah police were alerted to a suspect vehicle based on information provided by residents in Fox Crossing. An attentive Neenah resident contacted police Aug. 20 around 2:30 a.m. about a suspicious vehicle in the area of Cecil and Congress streets.

Police initiated a traffic stop and arrested an adult female and a juvenile male believed to be responsible for some of the entries. The two individuals are facing charges of theft from vehicles and possession of methamphetamine.

Police found an additional 15 vehicles believed to be unlawfully entered by the pair from Aug. 19-20. The vehicles were on Neenah's east side from Division Street

to Peckham Road and from South Park Avenue to Oak Street. Not all of the vehicles had items stolen from them.

Neenah officer Joe Benoit said police recovered a substantial amount of stolen property that was returned to the rightful owners, but there was more property that police were unable to match with owners. The items included electronic devices, laptops and earbuds.

Benoit said it's rare for police to receive a report of a vehicle being physically broken into in the area, noting the illegal entries are a crime of opportunity that occurred because vehicles' doors were left unlocked.

"So, it's kind of that universal precaution that sometimes people fall behind or they hide behind the fact that well, my area

is really safe (because) that's never happened here," he said. "And those are the areas these people are really looking for, because a lot of people just aren't in the habit of locking their cars, and then we get stolen handguns and stolen cash and all sorts of things."

Fox Crossing officer Daniel Wiechman said there were likely even more vehicles entered but not reported.

"Our message to the public is that we kindly request you ensure all car doors are locked before retiring for the night," he said. "By taking this simple step, you not only safeguard your personal belongings but also contribute to the overall security of our neighborhood and help reduce the need for police services."

INFINITY
from **MARVIN**
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

Window replacement with **zero worries**



SAVE
\$100*

EST

WRIGHTWAY

1977

920-232-5600

WrightwayBuilt.com

Financing Options

3 Easy Payment Options:
12 Months Same-As-Cash
6.99% Fixed Rate 5 Years
6.99% Fixed Rate 10 Years

Call for Details!

*Must be presented at time of estimate. Save \$100 each window. Offer subject to change without notice. Not valid with any other offers/promotions. Void where prohibited by law. Not responsible for typos or misprints.

INTRODUCING
REWARDS CHECKING



A CHECKING ACCOUNT THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE!

Earn 5% APY on the first \$5,000

Let your money work for you when you meet these minimum requirements:

- Sign up for home banking and e-statements
- Receive one direct deposit of at least \$400+ / month
- Make a minimum of 12 debit transactions / month

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield


Valley VNA Senior Care

Foot Care for Older Adults

Because healthy feet are happy feet



- Foot soak, nail trim and file, callus reduction, education and referral, and foot massage with lotion
- Care provided by a registered nurse
- 20-30 minute appointments
- Fee: \$32
- Location is Valley VNA. In-home visits are available (extra charges apply)

Call for a Foot Care Appointment: (920) 727-5555

Valley VNA Senior Care
In-Home Care | Independent Senior Apartments
Assisted Living | Community Programs
1535 Lyon Drive | Neenah | valleyvna.org | Since 1908

Hunting violations lead to jail, prison time for local man

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A Fox Crossing man's hunting privileges were permanently revoked last week as he was sentenced to six months in jail and five years in prison for charges stemming from dozens of illegal deer hunting violations in Waupaca County.

Eric Feavel, 40, was also ordered to spend five years on extended supervision, pay fines totaling \$3,000, \$5,958 in court costs, and his fishing privileges were revoked for three years. An additional 45 charges were dismissed but read into the record.

A bench warrant was issued in July for Travis Vander Heiden, 37, formerly of Appleton but now of Pampa, Texas, on 51 counts in connection with the case, after

he missed a court hearing.

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

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

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 and initiated a traffic stop. Feavel was identified as the driver and Vander Heiden 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 found 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. Wardens matched a bolt found near the recently discovered decapitated deer with those seized from Feavel.

Documents say Feavel shot the deer with a crossbow out of the passenger side of the vehicle Nov. 9 or 10 and Vander Heiden removed the deer's head with a machete.

Vander Heiden said he and Feavel had been shining and shooting deer in the area since 2019. 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 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 guilty and was convicted of three misdemeanor counts of illegal shining of deer and three felony counts of bail jumping, with the remaining charges dismissed.

Vander Heiden was charged with 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 remains free, with state law prohibiting extradition for misdemeanor charges.



Feavel

Engaging couples since 1952

Reimer
JEWELERS

Trusted, Quality, Affordable

Tuesday-Friday 9-5 • Saturday 9-3 • CLOSED Sunday & Monday
11 Waugoo Avenue | Downtown Oshkosh | 235-7870
www.reimerjewelers.com

Chamber business award nominations open

Nominations are open for the Fox Cities Chamber's Business Awards, Of the Year Awards and Lifetime Achievement Awards.

The Connection is a new half-day event set for Nov. 2 focused on learning, celebrating and networking where these awards will be presented:

- Business of the Year (large and small)
- Environmental Champion
- Community Attraction (nonevent)
- FAB (food and beverage)
- Collaboration
- Employee Friendly Workplace of the Year
- Champion of Young Professionals of the Year

Any organization certified as a Fox Cities Chamber Employee Friendly Workplace or Champion of Young Professionals as of Aug. 1 is automatically eligible and will be contacted about the application process.

Fox Cities Chamber's Lifetime Achievement awards, which recognize exceptional leaders, will be celebrated Jan. 18. These awards include Gus A. Zuehlke Distinguished Service, Joyce Bytof Exceptional Mentor, ATHENA Leadership and Fox Cities Business Leader Hall of Fame.

Details on the programs and awards are at business.foxcitieschamber.com.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(no minimum required)
Cash or Check Only
GROCERY STORE SELECTION AT WHOLESALE PRICES!

Valley Pyramid Foods, LLC.

**1060 BREEZEWOOD LANE, SUITE 101
NEENAH, WI**

**Wednesday 9-4
Thursday-Saturday 9-12**
**ONE PRICE –
Buy the Bag or the Case**

We pride ourselves in filling special orders.

Email, Text or Call to Order: pyramidfoods@gmail.com • 920.886.9969
Find us on Facebook @ Valley Pyramid Foods, LLC



World Relief

FROM PAGE 1

to something completely new.”

Along with volunteers, World Relief partners with other agencies to fulfill refugee needs.

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC), Winnebago Area Literacy Council and Fox Valley Literacy Council all help provide English classes, Goodwill has done skills training in the past and World Relief is looking to partner with FVTC to provide manufacturing classes for refugees in their native language in the near future.

Refugees coming to the Fox Valley are from all over the world, with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Ukraine make up the ma-

majority.

“They all come with certain barriers, and it’s our job to help them through those barriers and get to solutions,” Gerow said.

She works on the employment side of World Relief. Between helping new mothers through the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) process and finding new employer partners, Gerow helps refugees learn how to become an asset in the workplace.

Right now, Gerow is searching for new employer partners. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the U.S. has been experiencing a labor crisis. In 2022, Gerow was receiving emails and calls regularly from employers looking to use refugee hiring as a solution to the labor shortage.

“We had one employer – Amcor in Oshkosh – they hired over 70 of our clients,” Gerow said. “There’s another place – Orbis

in Menasha – that was saved by a group of refugees that were able to come in and get them back to a place where they are able to send out their sales requests and things like that in a timely manner.”

Over the last year, Gerow has noticed the urgency for refugee hiring has slowed. With inflation, the willingness and openness to give refugees a chance has decreased.

“It’s been a lot tougher to get our clients into jobs,” she said. “Do I think it’s a great solution (to the labor shortage)? Absolutely.”

Gerow has found that refugees are some of the hardest-working employees once hired.

“Our clients come with an attitude of ‘I need to work because that’s how I better my life,’” she said.

That’s the answer she gets from almost every client when she asks why they want to start working in the U.S. Most of World Re-

lief’s clients spent the majority of their lives in refugee camps, unable to work, waiting for their turn to come here.

“They’re excited to work and they’re eager to work,” Gerow said. “And they’re motivated

“I think it’s absolutely a solution. It’s just getting people on board and to think differently. It takes an open mind of ‘how can we make things work’ rather than looking at all the reasons why it might not work.”

The benefits of hiring refugees are not one-sided. Retention rates for refugee employees trend higher, which saves companies money, and refugee hiring brings a more diverse population to the workplace, which leads to new perspectives and a new culture that brings people together.

For volunteer opportunities and employers looking to get involved, visit worldrelief.org/fox-valley.

Calendar of events

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

Thursday, Sept. 7

Fused by Numbers: Women’s Collaborative Mural, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Saturday, Sept. 9

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

Ultimate Ladies Day, 9 a.m., downtown Neenah and DoubleTree

Neenah Fun Run to End Duchenne, 9 a.m., Memorial Park

Footloose Friday, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Author Meet and Greet: Vivian Probst, 11 a.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Ground Round Live Music Series: Rings Band, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way

Sunday, Sept. 10

Bruce Carroll, 1:30 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road, Neenah

LOW BACK PAIN?



STRONG
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE S.C.
“Strong on Health”

If you are one of the millions who suffer from low back pain, our experienced doctors will give you the personalized service you’re looking for.

Treatments are custom suited and may include spinal adjustments, laser therapy, and therapeutic exercise.



Complimentary Consultation
Must bring coupon at the time of visit.
Expires 8/31/23
Limit one coupon per NEW PATIENT

www.strongchiropractic.com

OSHKOSH OFFICE
2100 Omro Road STE. B
(920) 426-9898

NEENAH OFFICE
1426 S. Commercial St
(920) 725-0800

APPLETON OFFICE
1801 N. Richmond St
(920) 831-4110

Streets of HOPE

ARTS + CULTURE FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF

DAY BY DAY

SHELTER

FRI. OCT 13

@ BECKETTS ATRIUM
OSHKOSH

STREET FOOD • LIVE ART

LIVE MUSIC • DJS

STORYTELLING

PERFORMANCE ART

TICKETS + MORE INFO AT

www.streetsofhope.art

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS! THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS! THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS! THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

EST 1977

NEVER CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS AGAIN™

Never Clean Your Gutters Again®

SIMPLY THE BEST GUTTERS & GUTTER PROTECTION

- ✓ Triple Lifetime Transferable Warranty
- ✓ Factory Trained Installers
- ✓ Locally Owned & Made in the USA

EST 1977

EST 1977

\$100 OFF

any Gutter Helmet purchase of 50 feet or more

\$250 OFF

any Gutter Helmet purchase of 100 feet or more

Financing Options

3 Easy Payment Options:

12 Months Same-As-Cash

6.99% Fixed Rate 5 Years

6.99% Fixed Rate 10 Years

Call for Details!

920-232-5600

wrightwaybuilt.com

Valid only with coupon. One coupon per household. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 09/25/2023. Some restrictions apply.

Housing experts detail concerns with ongoing crisis

Real estate, construction, public sectors share ideas

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

The ongoing crisis of affordable housing options for area residents and on the national level was the topic of a recent Public Policy Forum by the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry and earlier this week at a Habitat for Humanity housing site.

Representatives from the local real estate industry, housing development and public sector shared their current challenges in meeting a crushing demand for housing that a lack of inventory, high costs and general public opposition to residential density are keeping from being met in any impactful way.



Sunstrom

Jennifer Sunstrom, government affairs director for the Realtors Association of Northeast Wisconsin, Tom Rooney, sales and marketing director for Mark Winter Homes, and Kara Homan, Appleton's director of development and land services, shared their perspectives about how the housing interests they represent are trying to collectively and slowly unwind a market that is tighter than it has ever been.

About 30 people gathered at Fox Valley Technical College's Bordini Center in Appleton on Aug. 8 to hear about the current climate and share their experiences and



Neenah News

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity held a Legislative Day event Tuesday in Appleton where state representatives from the area attended and spoke on housing needs.

frustrations with how to get people from most all income levels a home in the community that they can afford to thrive in.

"It's good news to hear that we are doing better than the rest of the state in population – bringing people in – but that's kind of better than really bad," Sunstrom said. "Wisconsin is not doing great in this area."

There's only about half of the needed

housing inventory available for people wanting to live in the Fox Cities, according to Sunstrom, with the lack of options hitting all levels of society and putting the most vulnerable into a potential homeless situation despite being employable and needing to support a family.

"I could bring a train in, gathering people from across the country – able-bodied people, skilled labor, ready to work –

and we would have to keep the train right on moving because there is no housing for them," she told the group.

All three advocated for more collaborative efforts between public and private entities to work against the growing costs of developing and financing diverse housing options for current and prospective

SEE **Housing** ON PAGE 9



Worship Directory

Discover a place of worship for you.

To include your services call (920)-508-0030



Join us Sundays
10:00 AM & 6:00 PM
1750 Olde Buggy Drive, Neenah, WI
www.applevalleypress.org

- Christ crucified for sinners
- Sincere and faithful Bible teaching
- Reformed theology and worship



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Worship Times: Sunday 9am & Monday 6pm
407 Oak St., Neenah
www.trinityneenah.net • facebook.com/TLCNeenah



Service Times: Saturdays 5pm, Sundays 9am
Sunday Adult Bible Study: Sundays 10:30am
Sunday School: Sundays Sept. - May at 10:30am for age 3 - 8th Grade
Youth Group: Sundays September-May for Highschool
1228 S Park Ave Neenah, WI 54956 • (920) 725-0510
admin@peaceneenah.com • www.peaceneenah.com



St. Paul Lutheran Church [ELCA]
200 North Commercial Street, Neenah
920-725-3961
www.stpaulneenah.org
Worship with us
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Monthly Specials

Pop-Up Flower of the Month

THE ARTFUL GIFT

Infused Olive Oil



Like & Follow on our Facebook Page

920.230.2890 • 9 WAUGOO AVE. OSHKOSH WI. 54901
TUE-FRI 10-5 • SAT 10-3 • CLOSED SUN & MON

3861 JACKSON STREET - OSHKOSH, WI 54901
*LOCATED OFF OF 76/JACKSON STREET - NORTHERN OSHKOSH



THE Courtyard at OSHKOSH
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

SCHEDULE A COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH & TOUR
*AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK
Learn about our \$5,000 rent credit special
**LIMITED AVAILABILITY - RESTRICTIONS APPLY
RSVP: MELISA AT (920).969.8020

Housing

FROM PAGE 8

residents who find their mobility stalled by low supply and high interest rates.

Rooney said baby boomers are staying put without being able to easily downsize from the larger homes they no longer require, tightening the housing supply for others as home builders try to keep pace with high construction costs and longer turnaround times on most developments.

"Inflation affected our industry up front probably the most dramatic. Our building costs are up from the last three (to five) years anywhere from 60 to 100 percent, so we basically doubled the cost of a house," he said.

"We've never seen that. The good news is that we plateaued out about six months ago so pricing has kind of flattened out for us as an industry."

Rooney said local developers, along with other private and public housing interests, look at other communities that were hit earlier by the housing crunch for some solutions.

"We have talked more as an industry in the last two years than we ever have, which is very positive." "We've never been more on the same page (with real estate and local government). We all want it to go in the right direction. We all want it to be fixed."

From a local government perspective, Holman said they have no trouble helping attract people to the Fox Cities but can't facilitate housing options through any single collaboration with the private or nonprofit sector. She said the 2008 national economic crash froze the real estate market and had to be rebuilt over several years. The structural demand came back

but couldn't be met.

"A lot of labor and that network that had been built to build homes – and also on the municipal end to regulate and manage that process – went away. You can't carry that cost for six years," she said.

Federal money that came in during and after the pandemic provided a large sum to work with on specific developments but in the aftermath will be harder to start those kinds of projects. Tax incentives were created in the recently approved state budget to support some middle-income housing options.

As members of a Housing Advisory Task Force for the region, the three panelists have been looking at causes and solutions with other group members since early 2022, with a Housing Now initiative in the works to look at more specific solutions.

Rooney said people are slow to adapt to new ways of living and need to rethink their opposition to more high-density living in a metropolitan area.

"Density and diversity of housing is how we fix this; that's the reality of it," he said. "It's the only way we can get the cost down, and it's the only way we can get the value to the consumer."

Sunstrom said communities need to help ease the current crisis by knowing what affordable housing really means.

"Workforce housing is not low-income housing," she said. "The people they're talking about are their kids – and their parents."

Sunstrom said subsidies for low- and middle-income residents are essential for preventing more dire consequences: business closings and homelessness.

"If we can fix what's happening on the private side, it will have a tremendous re-

medial effect, not immediately but down the road," she said. "It will stop the bleeding that is rushing at you."

Homan said local government can do its part by removing obstacles to responsible development with tax incremental districts and zoning reforms. Allowing for more density through zero lot lines (duplexes and triplexes) and smaller lot sizes also cuts city service costs.

"Zoning and development code is the biggest tool we have at the local unit of government that doesn't cost us any money but staff time," she said.

The panel made reference to a new public-private Sheboygan County program where companies put \$7 million on the table to help build 100 single-family homes for \$250,000 or less, partnered with the lending community for down payment assistance and offering incentives to incoming employees through a housing guarantee.

She said those who support housing developments in their neighborhood need to attend the related public hearings to show support, including businesses that need a steady workforce to run their

operations.

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity held a Legislative Day event Tuesday with state legislators to highlight the importance of affordable homeownership while helping fill workforce needs. Republican and Democratic lawmakers were on hand to be part of a wall raising at a Habitat home in north Appleton.

John Weyenberg, president and chief executive for Habitat for Humanity's Fox Cities group, said the organization thinks it's important to have lawmakers see their work up close.

"We occasionally go down to Madison and meet with them in their offices and share some of the things that we think could be impactful," he said, "but it's one thing to sit in their offices, another to get them out on site to say this is the actual work that we're doing; this is the impact."

Five state legislative bills were signed in June establishing loan programs for builders and landlords and making it easier for developers to get permits for new residences. The Legislature's budget-writing committee set aside \$525 million to fund the new loans.

Regional shoe drive fundraiser underway

Child Care Resource & Referral is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser until the week of Sept. 18 with all funds raised from the collection of gently used and new unwanted shoes to benefit the Child Care Provider Training Scholarship Fund.

The goal for this year is to collect 4,000 pairs of shoes.

Community organizations can help by displaying a donation box to collect shoes inside their business, office, church, or school. The drive is being conducted through funds2orgs.com, which will redistribute donated shoes through their

network of micro-enterprise small business partners in developing countries.

For more information and resources on how to assist with the fundraiser, email amyg@ccrrfoxvalley.org.

Shoes can be dropped at the Neenah-Menasha YMCA, Landscape Solutions in Oshkosh or by Pierce Manufacturing employees at their work location.

Child Care Resource & Referral Fox Valley serves Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Waupaca and Winnebago counties.

We are Stronger Together!



Sunday September 10th

Join us for Recovery Fest



www.recoveryfest.org

Register **\$27** Online Person

Located at **Solutions Recovery**
621 Evans St, Oshkosh WI

- ☆ Run/Walk 1 mile | 5k | 10k
- ☆ Kid Zone ☆ Food
- ☆ Live Music ☆ & More!

Proudly presented by:



All proceeds benefit local recovery/prevention efforts

Saint Vincent de Paul
Thrift & Furniture Store
Help Us Help Others
2551 Jackson St. • 920-235-9368



Books, Purses, Shoes



TAG SALE thru Aug 26

- BLUE TAG items: 75% OFF
- RED TAG items: 50% OFF
- GREEN TAG items: 30% OFF

Store Hours: Mon, 9am-8pm • Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm • Sat, 9am-1pm

Please call the store at 920-235-9368 to schedule a pick up.

Donation Drop Off Hours: Monday, 9am-7:30pm
Wed & Fri, 9am-3:30pm • Saturday, 9am-12:30pm
NO DROP-OFF TUES & THURS

We accept paper bags.

Traveling soon? Remember to search out good beer

The goal of this monthly column has always been for two beer-lovers to share our experiences and inspire readers to explore everything brewing has to offer, both local and afar. That's been a staple of our relationship from the beginning, even visiting multiple breweries during our honeymoon, and it continues 20+ years later.

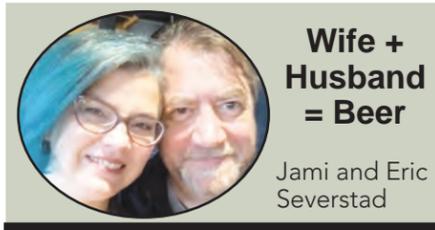
As always, we invite you to share your suggestions on what we should cover. So far, we've tackled beer styles, local outdoor drinking options, seasonal brews, packaging, a spotlight on local brewers, water quality and more. Just shoot us an email at wife.husband.beer@gmail.com, and we'll get on it.

During the past year and a half, we've focused heavily on local beer news, especially our two breweries, Lions Tail Brewing and Barrel 41 Brewing, plus various Neenah retailers and restaurants.

Today, we're challenging you to hit the road. Take a trip and explore the hundreds of beer spots in Wisconsin, the Midwest and beyond. And we're going to share some tips for getting the most from your efforts.

Wife: We've always traveled well together, and often that includes a stop for a local brew or two. That's led to some discoveries — a beerfest at Stoudt's in Pennsylvania, the Maproom in Chicago, and McMenamins' Kennedy School in Portland — and a few that weren't the greatest. But I've always enjoyed the journey.

Husband: As have I. Yet, as we get older, I value our time more and more. I don't like spending time and money at places that don't cut it, ya know?



Wife + Husband = Beer

Jami and Eric Severstad

Wife: I agree. So, how can people avoid that? I have some thoughts, but let's start with you.

Husband: We've had the best luck asking advice of people we know in that area. Friends and family, if they have good taste, of course.

Wife: My family does, but yours ...

Husband: I know! Not beer experts, but some friends have been helpful in Chicago, New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and more! Even people who don't enjoy beer know people who do. Beer talk opens doors.

Wife: Sometimes, spontaneous chats in the beer aisle can steer one toward new brews and breweries.

Husband: It sure can! I get chatted up a lot when shopping for beer. I guess people think I look like I know something. Like I'm a beer geek.

Wife: That brings us to the "beer geek" websites (past and present) that have been valuable. Some have great discussion threads. We've met some incredible people for the first time at breweries; people who have become great friends.

Husband: Friendships that revolve around beer. We have local friends like that, too. But not every website or social group matches your taste and what you appreciate. You have to search for them and reach out; have some discussions to



As you visit breweries during your travels, you'll likely see them displaying their award-winning beers, such as these offerings at Noble Beast Brewing in Cleveland.

learn if they're right.

Wife: Like a dating website? As if I would know anything about them.

Husband: That's how I feel about beer apps. I know they can be helpful, but I'm usually having too much fun to check in with Untappd or TapHunter, for instance. I'm sure they're useful if you're somewhere unfamiliar and don't know anyone locally.

Wife: I'd research an area that way. Jump in and see what people are saying.

You can get a good feel for a place once you see some reviews.

Husband: One thing I would NOT recommend is just Googling "Best Beer in Chicago." I don't trust the articles that pop up at all. They sound like artificial intelligence wrote them.

Wife: Yes, untrustworthy algorithms are at work if you just do that. Popular doesn't always mean good. Visitors to

SEE **Beer travels** ON PAGE 11



Linden Oaks

AN EVERGREEN COMMUNITY

Maintenance-free living designed to create a sense of community.

New opportunities for vibrant, independent living!



Beautiful, new, ranch-style homes for people 55 and better.

Now leasing!

Call now to schedule a tour of a model home!
(920)237-2128

NOW LEASING
COME & SEE!

www.LindenOaksOshkosh.com

To schedule a private showing, call (920)237-2128.



2126 Algoma Blvd
Oshkosh WI 54901
920-233-2400

CLOSED MONDAY
Tuesday-Sunday
Serving 11am-8pm

For our complete menu please visit us on Facebook

FRIDAY

FISH FRY

All You Can Eat

with Drink Purchase

DINE IN ONLY

Choice of:

- Haddock • Pike/Perch
- Bluegill

Comes with side of coleslaw, choice of potato and marbled rye.

Every Saturday
8pm to Close
KARAOKE

STARTERS

Cheese Curds	Seasoned Wedges	Onion Rings
Mini Tacos	Mozzarella Sticks	Chicken Strips
French Fries	Breaded Mushrooms	Potato Teasers

BURGERS

1/4 or 1/2 lb Burger	1/4 or 1/2 lb Cheeseburger
1/4 or 1/2 lb Bacon Cheeseburger	
1/2 lb Cowboy Burger (Cheddar, Bacon, BBQ Sauce, Onion Rings)	
1/2 lb Cabana Boy's Ghost Rider (Pepperjack, Bacon, Jalapenos, Mild Spicy Sauce, Ghost Rider Cheese Curds, Spicy Pickles)	

SANDWICHES

CBR (Chicken, Bacon, Cheddar, Lettuce, Tomato, Ranch or Mayo on a Kaiser Bun)

Fish (Haddock, American Cheese, Lettuce, Tartar)

Ribeye (6 oz, Grilled Onions)

WRAPS

Chicken Bacon Ranch (Breaded Chicken, Bacon, Colby Jack, Lettuce, Tomato, Ranch, optional Buffalo Sauce)

BLT (Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo)

PIZZA

Sausage	Pepperoni	Sausage & Mushroom Deluxe
Sausage & Pepperoni	Garlic Sausage	

Beer travels

FROM PAGE 10

Wisconsin would never get past Spotted Cow otherwise.

Husband: AI-generated content is running amuck for these types of articles. Even ChatGPT recommends breweries that are out of business or beers no longer brewed.

Wife: Here's one tip you forgot: asking a brewer or brewery owner about other local breweries or beer bars.

Husband: I love this one! We've found some gems that way.

Wife: The brewing community is tight, and once the conversation starts, you can get solid recommendations by just asking. They don't get offended; there's a lot of respect between high-quality places, and even collaborations between breweries.

Husband: That works best once you're in the area and start visiting places, though. It's not so easily done online, before you go.

Wife: Don't forget to bring some beer home from your adventures, if you're able. Bonding over a brew — especially something that can't be acquired locally — is a special thing. And it sets the stage for future travels to those places for beer-inclined friends.

Husband: Beer can make a great gift, if the timing is right or if you think the beer will age well.

Wife: Like when you gifted me a bunch of beers after each son was born. It didn't make the nine months without a brew any easier, but it was sweet.

As always, we're here for our readers. If you're heading out and need some beer-drinking advice, hit us up for a 1-on-1 consultation. We likely know someone nearby or have some words of wisdom on local breweries. Email us: wife.husband.beer@gmail.com.

Homeless cases

FROM PAGE 1

and things we can do with them."

Bernice said some residents feel homeless individuals should be removed from city limits or taken to jail; while others are concerned they aren't getting enough resources and support.

"As a police agency, these are still citizens, and we have to treat them with their rights, with dignity and respect," he said. "And basically, they're just another person that's in the community. Just because they're homeless doesn't change their classification. They're still a citizen and they're still allowed those rights."

Bernice said the city and the police department are fulfilling their duties to provide assistance.

"But if somebody doesn't want help, you know, it's that saying you can lead a horse to water, but you can't force the horse to drink," he said. "You know, we are trying to do our best. Yeah, even though it's maybe multiple contacts and multiple officers, we're out there trying."

Police have had multiple talks with Donna Vara, 50, a homeless woman who is often seen in the 900 block of South Green Bay Road in the grassy area in front of the sidewalk near Goodwill. When the weather gets bad she said she goes underneath a bridge.

Vara said she has a primary residence that she's not ready to return to and she's temporarily homeless while waiting for alternative housing to become available. Vara said she has post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and fibromyalgia, and receives Social Security and disability benefits.

Previously, Vara was seen around town with a large cart. She said that cart broke and she's now using a large hiking backpack. Vara



Neenah News

Donna Vara sits in a grassy area on South Green Bay Road near Goodwill.

said being homeless isn't easy, adding that she has experienced heat exhaustion and often doesn't have access to supplies she needs such as Band-Aids and peroxide.

"You're sitting out here and somebody doesn't like you and you haven't done anything to them?" she questioned. "I don't understand that."

Neenah has no ordinances targeting homeless individuals, but does prohibit aggressive panhandling, open containers and trespassing.

Vara said she has received several citations from police. Bernice said those citations were dismissed.

A common issue police see in many homeless individuals is mental illness.

"And that's the reason why we created, this year, our behavioral health officer, where they could focus on these problems and try to get ahead of one person going into crisis; and have those resources and available avenues beforehand, before a person falls off

the ladder and into crisis," he said, adding that Josh Peterson starts in that position next month.

When people give food and supplies to homeless people, Bernice said it creates some challenges. With nowhere to keep food and drinks and no refrigeration, the items may become a health hazard. Garbage and supplies may be littered around town. He said some panhandlers may be fraudulent and divert resources from individuals truly in need.

Instead of donating directly to the homeless population, police recommend contributing to a local nonprofit such as Pillars, Fox Valley Veterans Council, COTS, St. Vincent dePaul and Advocap.

"People are so focused on the homeless as a class, and we're trying to get away from that," Bernice said. "They're a citizen, they have rights, and they're part of our community."

**Clothing - Outdoor Gear
Watersports
E-Bike & Bike Rentals
Boat Memberships & Rentals**

Stop in 9am-6pm
OPEN DAILY!
1232 N Sawyer St, Oshkosh, WI 54902

YOUR BOAT CLUB

Your Boat Club at Hergert's Sportshop

Weninger, Zephyrs prove ready for 11-player football

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

If there were any questions about St. Mary Catholic being ready to play 11-player football this season, Garrett Weninger and his Zephyr teammates provided a resounding answer last Friday night.

Weninger threw for 281 yards and six touchdowns, while the defense held Rosholt to less than 80 yards of total offense in a 49-0 thumping at St. Mary Catholic's field.

"I think it kind of showed the preparation we've had the last two seasons and trying to get the guys acclimated to playing 11-player football," head coach Josh Young said. "I think it showed the guys what we've been building to."



Weninger

Weninger said that it was important for the team to come out and show it was ready to compete at the different level.

"It's something that has been talked about a lot, especially with some of the history of our 11-player football and we weren't able to compete," Weninger said. "Now, we are competing and we are winning games. It feels great."

Weninger spent the last two seasons getting limited action behind standout Danny Griffith, but shined brightly in his first varsity start.

The senior completed 15 of 22 passes and connected with six different receivers, while throwing scoring strikes of 6, 49, 34,

49, 19 and 4 yards.

"I felt very prepared. The whole team felt prepared, I think. We were just ready," Weninger said. "I've been preparing for this for three years. I was ready for it."

Young wasn't surprised what Weninger was able to accomplish given the keys to the offense.

"Garrett did the same type of stuff on JV last year playing 11-player," Young said. "He's proved himself in practice the last few weeks and him coming out and having a game like that is just going to give everyone a lot of confidence in the offense."

Maddox Dwyer had three catches for 114 yards and two touchdowns, while Daniel Harness added six catches for 90 yards and two touchdowns. Mason Wagner and John Schultz also caught touchdown passes from Weninger in the game.

Ashton Post scored on a 21-yard run for the Zephyrs' other touchdown.

Post, who ran for nearly 1,200 yards last season, only had three carries in the win but Young said that won't be the case week-in, week-out.

"We went with what was working at that time but I anticipate that will work itself out as the season goes on," Young said. "It's nice to be able to do both rather than being a one-trick pony."

Defensively, Schultz led the Zephyrs with 12 tackles as St. Mary Catholic limited Rosholt to just 74 yards of total offense and four first downs.

St. Mary Catholic may need all aspects of its offense to be clicking this week as

SEE **Zephyr football** ON PAGE 14



Neenah News

Junior Grant Dean dives into the end zone for one of his six touchdowns against De Pere last Thursday.

Rockets' Dean helps make season opener memorable

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

In the end, it was a victory.

And for the first game on a new home-field, that was the most important thing no matter how it looked getting there.

"We were excited to get the win. Being the first game at the new stadium, it was a big game and it was hyped up a lot," junior Grant Dean said. "Not very pretty, but it was a win."

The overall performance might not have been very aesthetically pleasing but Dean's performance certainly was eye catching.

Dean rushed for 282 yards and scored

a total of six touchdowns to help Neenah overcome some defensive struggles as the Rockets christened the new turf at Rocket Stadium with a hard-earned 49-37 win over De Pere last Thursday night.

Dean – celebrating his 17th birthday – had five rushing touchdowns in the game and returned a kickoff 88 yards for a score. He scored on a 40-yard run in the first quarter to put Neenah ahead 7-3 before adding a 4-yard touchdown run later in the first period. He also scored on runs of 17, 23 and 15 yards and averaged 10.8 yards per carry.

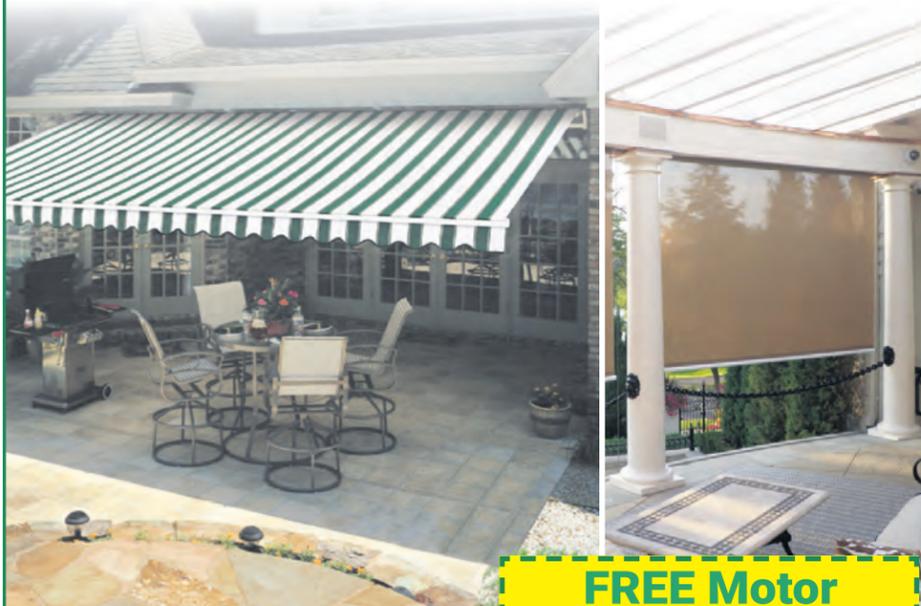
SEE **Neenah football** ON PAGE 15



EXPERIENCE THE SUNESTA AWNINGS DIFFERENCE

Want sun protection that's 15% cooler?

Sunesta Retractable Awnings from Wrightway offer custom sizes and fabric options to fit any home or patio space.



- ✓ CUSTOM SIZES
- ✓ MORE THAN 100 FABRIC OPTIONS
- ✓ 10 YEAR WARRANTY

**FREE Motor
FREE Install**
any New Sunesta Motorized Retractable Awning
Valid only with coupon. One coupon per household. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 09/25/2023. Some restrictions apply.

PROUDLY MADE IN THE USA FOR OVER 41 YEARS!



www.WrightwayBuilt.com
920-232-5600

Financing Options

3 Easy Payment Options:
12 Months Same-As-Cash
6.99% Fixed Rate 5 Years
6.99% Fixed Rate 10 Years
Call for Details!

The **JOCKEY CLUB**



24 E. Gruenwald Ave., Oshkosh
920-385-4036
OPEN DAILY: 11 am

FREE - Book Now!
Patio for your Party
Pet Friendly



Minus One

**Saturday
August 26
2 to 6 pm**



KITCHEN: Mon-Sat 11 am to 9 pm

\$5 OFF

Dine-In Only • Minimum \$25 • Valid thru August 16

Neenah aims to build on last year's resurgence

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Neenah's traditionally strong soccer program appears to be on the rise once again.

After guiding the team to 14 wins in his first season as head coach a year ago – up from five in the previous season – William Krautkramer has even higher expectations entering the 2023 campaign.

Boys soccer PREVIEW

“We have a group of athletes that were poised to turn this program around last season,” said Krautkramer, whose team finished second in the Fox Valley Association last season. “They made significant strides to do just that a season ago. Now comes the hard part. Build upon last season's success and carry it over to this season. We have very high expectations this season and we will continue

to focus on winning each training, improving every half and hope for good fortune along the way.”

The Rockets lost some key pieces from last years resurgent squad but do have a nucleus to build around this season.

Neenah returns plenty of offensive firepower in Blake Rhodes, Owen Wise and Keegan Vande Hei, giving the Rockets the chance to be one of the higher scoring units in the FVA.

On defense, honorable mention all-FVA selection Alex Thayer returns to lead the backline, which will also include veterans Nick Kaiser and AJ Price.

Julian Gallmeier returns in goal after playing 25 games in net last season.

Preston Schamens will join Neenah's defensive group this season, while Ayden Weisbrod and Grant Romjue are an exciting tandem that provide a lot of versatility.

for Krautkramer.

“For us to be successful and challenge for a title again, we must be connected, consistent and play with great pace,” he said. “A bit of good fortune and solid health is also important. We will get better each half with our younger players needing to develop in a hurry. Let's see what happens.”

Zephyrs hope to build on historic campaign

The 2022 soccer season couldn't have gone better for second-year coach Andy Paroubek as the Zephyrs finished the season ranked for the first time in program history. This year is about building off of that as this team has one goal in mind for this upcoming season.

“After having the best results and finishing ranked for the first time in school histo-

ry the program has one goal in mind for this season,” Paroubek said. “That goal is simple. We want to be conference champions this season and we are preparing for that opportunity.”

The Zephyrs are in a great position to do just that as they return practically their entire roster from a season ago after graduating only three seniors.

All-conference players Will Lawniczak, Aj Groppe, and Kieran Barrientos will return to the pitch this season and will be looked at as the leaders for this group. Groppe and Barrientos will look to take on an even bigger scoring role this season after combining for 29 goals last season.

Hunter Schreiber will be back in goal this season after allowing barely one goal per contest last season.

Paroubek knows he has a great cast of

SEE **Boys soccer** ON PAGE 15

Experienced Neenah girls hope to earn third straight trip to state

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

With nearly its entire lineup returning from last year's squad that finished 11th at the WIAA State Meet, the Neenah girls

cross country team looks primed for another big season.

Whether that season ends up with a third straight trip to Wisconsin Rapids will be the question.

A shift in sectional assignments landed Neenah in with a number of other powerhouses for the state qualifying meet, which will test the strength of this year's Rocket squad.

“In my opinion, our sectional could be

the toughest in the state on the girls side,” Neenah girls head coach Mike Heidke commented. “We should have a solid team but face tough competition.”

Last season, the Fox Valley Association sent four girls teams to the state meet in Kaukauna – which finished third – Neenah, Oshkosh West and Appleton North and all four teams will be in the same sectional this fall. Add in perennial contenders Kimberly and Stevens Point and the state qualifiers emerging from the sectional will have earned the trip.

Neenah should certainly be in the running when the time comes with an experienced roster, led by junior Mazie Olkowski and sophomore Natalie Willes. Willes was the team's top finisher at the state meet last

year, while Olkowski – coming off an illness – was the Rockets' second runner.

Sophomore Elsa Gruber along with seniors Lexi Dorner, Rachel Dietrich and Lauren Linstedt also return to the varsity lineup this season after being a part of the state qualifying team last year.

The Rockets should also get some depth from sophomore Eme Olkowski and freshmen Natalie Schultz and Maddie Schoonover.

The Neenah boys finished 10th at the state meet last year but lost four of their seven runners to graduation.

Based on last year's state lineup, Neenah will have senior Wyatt Armock and juniors Braedy Klawikowski and Nolan Smith anchoring this year's squad.

Zephyr girls, boys take aim at state trips

Both the St. Mary Catholic girls and boys cross country teams return individuals with state meet experience and have the potential to make the trip to Wisconsin Rapids later this fall.

“Experience is always helpful,” commented head coach Chad McCartney. “The experience and leadership of the athletes who have made it to state help show the rest of the team what it takes to qualify for the state meet.”

The girls are led by senior Addison Dinka and junior Lauren Ripley. Dinka was a

SEE **Cross country** ON PAGE 14

Boys Varsity 2023 Fall Soccer Schedule

NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL			ST. MARY CATHOLIC		
Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023	12:05 PM	Seymour	Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023	7:00 PM	Omro
Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023	7:00 PM	Hortonville	Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023	6:00 PM	Fox Valley Lutheran
Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023	7:00 PM	@ Appleton North	Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023	7:00 PM	@ New Holstein
Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023	7:00 PM	Oshkosh North	Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023	6:00 PM	Lourdes Academy
Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023	7:00 PM	Kimberly	Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023	6:00 PM	Roncalli
Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023	7:00 PM	@ Kaukauna	Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023	4:30 PM	@ Sheboygan Falls
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023	7:00 PM	Fond du Lac	Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023	1:00 PM	@ N.E.W. Lutheran-Green Bay
Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023	7:00 PM	@ Appleton East	Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023	7:00 PM	Kiel
Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023	12:00 PM	Wauwatosa West	Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023	7:00 PM	@ Kohler
Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023	7:00 PM	Oshkosh West	Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023	7:00 PM	Xavier High School
Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023	12:00 PM	@ Sussex Hamilton	Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023	4:30 PM	@ Random Lake-Ozaukee
Tuesday, Oct 3, 2023	7:00 PM	@ Appleton West	Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023	7:00 PM	Winneconne
Saturday, Oct 7, 2023	12:00 PM	De Pere	Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023	6:00 PM	Sheboygan Christian-Lutheran
Thursday, Oct 12, 2023	6:30 PM	@ Sturgeon Bay	Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023	7:00 PM	@ Oostburg
			Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023	4:30 PM	@ Howards Grove
			Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023	6:00 PM	Cedar Grove-Belgium
			Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023	6:00 PM	Menasha

INSURANCE PRODUCTS OFFERED

Auto • Homeowners • Condo • Renters • Personal Articles • Business • Life • Health • Pet

Josh Carter - State Farm Agent
1108 Breezewood Lane, Neenah, WI 54956
josh@joshcarterinsurance.com
www.joshcarterinsurance.com
920.722.4277

Senior Standout is brought to you by: **Nicolet NATIONAL BANK**

Post blossoms into potent running back for Zephyrs

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

St. Mary Catholic football coach Josh Young had to chuckle about it a little bit.

Heading into the 2022 season, he admitted that he wasn't quite sure what he had at the running back position having lost the previous year's starter Luke Steffen to graduation. He knew Ashton Post was set to take on the role but as for what kind of runner he would make, well, that was a question mark.



Post

"I really didn't remember much of what he did sophomore year. I know he played a little to spell Luke, but nothing really stood out," Young said.

"So coming into last year, he definitely surprised us with what he did and given that, I think this year will be more of the same."

That would be a good thing for the Zephyrs.

Post certainly made an impression as a junior rushing for 1,155 yards and 21 touchdowns in helping St. Mary Catholic post a perfect run through its 8-player schedule. Post averaged a whopping 11.1 yards per carry and registered a season-high 245 yards with five touchdowns in a win over Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah.

Impressive numbers for any running back, but especially considering that Post hadn't been a lifelong football player.

"I started playing football my sophomore year," said Post, who had been a cross country runner. "The seniors that year kind of talked me into trying something new. I decided I wanted to try it and I found a love for it."

"I love the family aspect of it. No other sport has that family feel where you just go out to a field and are fighting for two hours

Senior Standout
Nicolet NATIONAL BANK

with your brothers."

Post believes one of his strengths as a running back is in his ability to attack defenders in different ways. He is equally comfortable running over an opponent as he is making a quick juke and running around them.

And if someone gets close enough to think they can get a hand on him?

"I do like my stiff-arm. That's pretty fun," Post said with a smile. "Some of the games, you'll have a corner come up and maybe he's a little smaller and you can just dribble him a little bit. I was never good at basketball, but I can dribble a person pretty well."

Young recognizes plenty of strengths Post has as a running back and sees him continuing to improve.

"He has pretty good vision. We've worked a lot on that the last couple of weeks as far as seeing the hole and where to make his cuts," Young said. "He has a long stride - I think a lot of that comes from his cross country running - and so he seems to gain a lot of ground quick. He's a tough kid."

Post's strength is also in his approach to running the ball.

"I think I just have that drive, that never-quit attitude," Post said. "That's how I have always been in my life through all my sports and at running back, you have to keep going to the whistle, just keep going."

With St. Mary Catholic's return to 11-player football this season, Post doesn't feel his production will diminish.

In fact, he likes the idea of playing that



Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic senior Ashton Post was the team's leading rusher a year ago and is ready to have the same success in his senior season.

style of football even if it means there are three more defenders on the field.

"I like (11-player football) because the field is a little bigger than 8-man football. I like the extra room," Post said. "When I get room, I can go."

Post isn't just an offensive threat. He will be returning kicks for the Zephyrs this season as well as playing a safety position on defense - something he didn't do last year.

He's also added another feather to his cap this season. As one of the most experienced players on a young squad, Post has naturally stepped into a leadership position.

"Building up the younger kids, that's the

most important thing to do (as a leader)" Post said. "I was the only junior on the offense last year and (the seniors) were always trying to build me up so that's what I try to do with the younger guys now."

One of Post's offseason activities has also helped him excel on the football field.

Post started powerlifting as a freshman and has qualified for the state and national meets each season he's participated. He said the work done with that sport is a big key when opponents are trying to bring him to the ground.

"It usually takes a lot to bring me down just because I have the leg strength to

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY
Reach 21,000+ homes every FRIDAY for as low as \$32/week!
Call 920-385-4512 or email advertise@neenahnewsnow.com to get started

LAWN EQUIPMENT
ALL SEASONS POWER EQUIPMENT
—SINCE 1988—
Sales Service Pick-up & Delivery Available
ARIENS Husqvarna GRAVELY
(920) 231-1699
5744 CTY RD A, OSHKOSH

CROISSANTS
LOVE OF CROISSANTS
Forget about stopping at one bite, try stopping at one croissants
Neenah, WI
www.loveofcroissants.com
[instagram@LoveofCroissants](https://www.instagram.com/loveofcroissants)
Loveofcroissants.ceci@gmail.com

FOUNDATION REPAIR
AREA
WATERPROOFING & CONCRETE LLC
Foundation Repair Basement Waterproofing Bowed and Cracked Walls Concrete Flat Work
Free Estimates Residential and Commercial
920-830-3788
www.areawaterproofing.com

NERVE PAIN RELIEF
Max Wellness Pain Relief
Relief from nerve related pain or numbness caused by chemotherapy, diabetes, CRPS, and other neuropathies
No risk, non-invasive, no drugs, lasers, needles, or surgery
FREE Consultation with NO obligation!
920-306-4727
maxwellnesspr.com

PAINTING
DOUG'S PAINTING
Interior and Exterior Wallpaper Removal Residential & New Construction Over 30 years experience!
Call 920-722-5832
No pay until you're satisfied

INSURANCE
Erie Insurance
Karen Schibline, CPCU
920.385.0782
Home • Auto • Life
Oregon Office Center
1429 Oregon Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902
INSURANCE SERVICES BY KAREN
Trusted Erie Agent since 2001

Zephyr football

FROM PAGE 12

they travel to Ozaukee for a nonconference tilt.

The Warriors pounded Cudahy 37-6 in Week 1 and will be a much tougher test for the Zephyrs.

"They will play a little faster this week than we saw with Rosholt," Young said. "They are a little more physical up front so we will have to make sure our offensive and defensive lines are a little more physical."

Friday's game will be the final tuneup for the Zephyrs before heading into Trailways Conference play and Weninger believes it's important to keep the momentum of the Week 1 win rolling.

"We have to play hard, especially with Johnson Creek being our first conference game," Weninger said. "They are going to come to play so we want to use these two games to get ready for that."

Cross country

FROM PAGE 13

state qualifier a year ago, while Ripley qualified in 2021 but was hampered by injuries last year.

Junior Maria Marti joins the duo to give the Zephyrs a formidable top trio, while freshman Claire Higgins will likely be a contributor for the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic missed qualifying for state by one place last season, taking third at sectionals and were fourth in 2021. The Zephyrs were also third in 2020.

"That experience of being so close will definitely help to push us into the top 2 (at sectionals)," McCartney commented.

For the boys, seniors AJ Groppe and Ben Schoeni were each members of the Zephyrs' state qualifying team in 2020, while Groppe also went as an individual in 2021.

Senior Ian Albino and junior Nathan Seiske joined the duo as the Zephyrs' expect to field a veteran-laden lineup.

Rockets christen new fieldhouse with hard-earned win

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah High School boys volleyball team christened its new fieldhouse with a win Tuesday night.

The Rockets grabbed the lead midway through the decisive fifth set and pulled out a 28-26, 24-26, 25-8, 25-17, 15-9 win over Oak Creek in a nonconference match.

“We improved and competed throughout the match,” head coach Jake Coenen said. “We are a young and inexperienced team, but we grew tonight as a team.”

The junior duo of Miles Weaver and Julien Kuehn combined for 25 kills in the contest with 11 of those kills coming

in the first set. They also added 23 digs and several key assists in paving the way to the first-set win.

After Oak Creek evened the match, Neenah had its best set of the night. Keyed by the serving of Isaac Jacque that kept Oak Creek off-balance, the Rockets built an early lead.

Once in front, Neenah relied on Weaver and Kuehn to put things away as the Rockets grabbed a 2-1 lead in dominant fashion.

Weaver loved the way his team responded after dropping the second set.

“I thought we all played well as a group tonight,” Weaver said. “The first two sets were tightly contested battles so

to bounce back with a set like this says a lot about this group and our potential. We know we have a lot of work to do and are a very inexperienced group. However, we have the potential to beat anyone if we can play the way we know we can.”

Oak Creek again answered back to even the match, setting up the fifth set.

Despite its youthful roster, Neenah wouldn't let the win slip away and pulled out the victory.

While several players stepped up throughout the match, Coenen wanted to give his praise to a pair of freshmen that not only stood out, but played well in their first varsity match.

Middle blocker Trevor Ricketts was a

force on the front line. He finished with five blocks to lead the team, adding six kills to take some of the pressure off Weaver and Kuehn.

Setter Cam Diekfuss did a great job getting things set up on the offensive end and paced the Rockets with 34 assists.

“Two freshmen made their varsity debuts tonight in setter Cam Diekfuss and middle blocker Trevor Ricketts,” Coenen said. “Both of them played outstanding and helped us get this victory. They stepped up from the opening whistle and came into their own as the match went on. Those are the kind of moments we need from a lot of kids this season.”

Neenah football

FROM PAGE 12

He also handed the ball to Chase Collins for a 14-yard touchdown run after taking a direct snap from center for the Rockets' remaining touchdown.

“He carried us tonight offensively. His ability to make a big play on any type of play. He really had a nice game,” head coach Steve Jung said. “We struggled defensively a number of times and I feel like we shouldn't have the game come in question the last couple of minutes, but it did and our offense had to make some plays and we did it.”

Dean credited his offensive line and the gameplan for the big night and admitted it was pretty special to have it happen on his birthday.

“It's just a really good feeling,” Dean said. “It happens because of the guys in front of me, the coaches too. The system we put in all week. We just like to pound the ball.”

Jung was certainly pleased to open the stadium with the win, especially with a large crowd that filled the bleachers and lined the fences around the north end of the field.

“(The crowd) was really nice, especially for a game that's not an FVA game. It was almost a full house,” Jung said. “The community is excited about this facility and excited about Neenah sports and Neenah Rocket football.”

It wasn't all good news for the Rockets, though.

The Rockets lost starting quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven to an injury in the second half. Vanevenhoven, who had rushed for 112 yards on nine carries before being injured, was replaced by freshman Ashton Van Beek, who led Neenah on a final scoring drive that Dean capped with his 15-yard run after De Pere had

pulled to within five.

Following the opening win, the Rockets turn their attention to one of their biggest rivals as Neenah will travel to Menasha for a nonconference showdown at Calder Stadium on Friday.

The Rockets have won the last two meetings with the Bluejays after the two schools rekindled their rivalry.

“It's one of my favorite games every year. I'm very excited,” said senior Will Radies, who opened the game against De Pere by addressing the large crowd and thanking the community for its efforts in building the new school. “Even middle school games, it was always the most heated game. We would always come with the most fire so it is going to be big.”

Menasha also enters the game off a Week 1 win, having edged Appleton East 21-19 on the road.

The Bluejays may not be as formidable as the past couple of years as far as their talent goes, but Jung knows that they certainly aren't a team to take lightly.

“As long as Coach Korth is over there they are a threat,” Jung said. “They plan well and they get their kids ready to play and we have to get better.”

Against De Pere, Neenah's defense was susceptible to some big plays as the Redbirds had four touchdowns – three passes and one run – of at least 28 yards.

“We have a lot of things to clean up and we know we can only get better defensive-wise,” Dean said. “Defensively we have so much room for growth.”

Jung has no doubts the team will be better the second time out this season and will certainly be ready to go against the Bluejays.

“Our kids will be focused. I think they are disappointed with tonight,” Jung said after the opener. “They are happy about the win but they know we have a lot of work to do and are going to come ready to practice.”

thing else. It was such a cool experience. Watching the guys who are really good at it and knowing you are there too is an amazing feeling.”

Before Post can make another trip to nationals in powerlifting or work toward his goal of placing at the state track and field meet, there is a football season to take care of.

And after the past two years not being able to participate in the WIAA playoffs in 8-player football – St. Mary Catholic's enrollment was too high, so the Zephyrs weren't eligible – Post and his teammates have designs on playing well after the final week of the regular season.

“We want to go deep in the playoffs. That's the goal for the team,” said Post, who aspires to play college football next fall. “We just have to work together and fight for the guy next to you.”

Prep sports roundup

SOCCER

Zephyrs' offense erupts in win over Omro

Six different players scored goals as St. Mary Catholic opened the 2023 season with a 10-1 win over visiting Omro on Tuesday.

Leading the scoring barrage was Kieran Barrientos, who tallied four goals.

Grant Bergstrom added a pair of goals for the Zephyrs, who outshot the Foxes 22-3. AJ Groppe, Braeden Brenn, Carlos Verhoff and Will Lawniczak also scored in the game for St. Mary Catholic.

Boys soccer

FROM PAGE 13

players to lean on, but it will take more than just three to get the job done.

“We have a great group of players returning this season, led by three all-conference players,” Paroubek said. “Apart from that, we have a lot of talent on this team eager to find their roles on this team. It is too early to tell what everyone's role will be, but everyone will play an important part of our success this season.”

The experienced roster will be a plus against some of the talented teams in the Big East Conference as well as the Zephyrs' challenging nonconference slate.

But Paroubek is confident the team knows the kind of work it will take to be on top and could be on the verge of a special

GOLF

Rockets fall just short against Ghosts

Aubrey Oitzinger finished in a three-way tie for medalist honors with a round of 42 at Ridgeway Country Club but Neenah came up just short against defending FVA champion Kaukauna.

The Ghosts won the dual meet with a score of 178 with the Rockets totaling 183.

Anabelle Hodges added a 46 for the Rockets, followed by Natalie Quella with a 47 and Lauren Aaholm with a 48.

season.

“The boys need to stay focused on each and every day of training to help prepare themselves for our matches,” Paroubek said. “We also are not looking back on past results and taking it one game at a time.”

BAT PROBLEMS??

CALL MATT THE BAT GUY!

Residential & Commercial

- Work is Guaranteed
- Free Estimates



BADGERLAND
BAT REMOVAL, LLC

608-658-7813

Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad

For Sale

AKC REG COCKER SPAN PUPS! Sweet Adorable Pets! Shots/Wormed 1/2 PRICE SALE 920-563-3410 mornings (#268588) (WCAN)

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call **AmeriGlide** today! **1-888-686-1458**

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call **1-877-920-3533**

For Sale: 2004 Honda Shadow 1100cc. Mint. New Tires. 115 Professional Plaza, Apt. 335, Off Commercial Street. \$2,800.

PETTING ZOO &/OR PONY RIDES Mini Cattle, Horse, Donkeys, Goats & Sheep. Perfect for Special Events, Private & Company. Call Whisper Hill Clydesdales 920-322-0636

PLYMOUTH FURNITURE: QUEEN MATTRESSES FROM \$199 40 Styles on Display! All Sizes Avail. PlymouthFurnitureWI.com 2133 Eastern Ave Plymouth WI **920-892-6006** Open Daily

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote! Call now before the next power outage: **1-877-626-1009**

REPLACE YOUR ROOF w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from **Erie Metal Roofs!** 3 Styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - \$500 discount + Add'l 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders) Call Erie Metal Roofs **1-877-845-6606**

SILVER LABRADOODLES non-shed shots/wormed \$300. Purebred Healer Pups 1 Blue/1 Red Nice markings Good Parents Mom is a Mini \$100/OBO All Ready Now! **715-660-1085**

THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING A NEW SHOWER? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call **1-844-479-1327** today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/wcp

Garage/Estate Sales

FLEA MARKET

SAT/Aug 26th (7-3) Union Grove, WI (Fairgrounds) Open Air, New Vendors Welcome, No Res needed Shawano Fleas/ Sundays Zurkopromotions.com 715- 526-9769

Miscellaneous

WANTED TO BUY: Collections of old Baseball Football & Basketball cards from 1950s, 60s 70s & older vintage sports memorabilia autographs, bobbleheads & Packers/Braves items Check your attic, basements & closets Earn Extra CASH! **Jeff 608-438-7702**

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128**

Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

keep going. You have to have the strength to power through guys,” said Post, whose mom helps coach the team. “Freshman year, I was looking for a winter sport, one of my buddies, Connor Riehl, was into it and said I should do it and I just got into it.”

Post also competes in track and field in the spring and has developed into a state-level pole vaulter.

He earned a trip to Memorial Stadium in La Crosse to compete at the state meet. Although he came up short of clearing the opening height, it definitely was a memorable trip and has caused him to set the bar high as a senior.

“Next year the goal is to place at state,” Post said. “The energy there was some-

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 39, No. 38

OSTRICHES HEAD TO TOE!

When you think of a bird, what do you usually picture? A small bird that flies? Most birds are just like that.

But there is a bird in Africa that's different. An ostrich can grow to be 9 feet tall (2.7 m) and can weigh 320 pounds (150 kg). Even though it is gigantic, it has small wings and does not fly.

Feathers

Males have fluffy black feathers with white plumes on their wings and tail, while females are grayish brown.

Legs

Ostriches may not be able to _____, but they can run! They can reach _____ of over 40 miles per hour (70km per hour). An ostrich holds out its small _____ when running. This helps them keep their _____. And an ostrich's legs are also good for _____

themselves from lions, hyenas, and other _____



Do ostriches bury their heads in the sand?

Hold this page up to a mirror for the answer!

mirrored text: This is a trick question. Ostriches do not bury their heads in the sand. However, they do bury their heads in the sand when they are resting or sleeping.

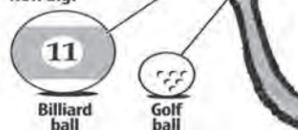
Toes

Ostriches have two toes on each foot. And each toe has a long claw.

Eyes

Ostrich eyes are the largest eyes of any land animal. They also have long eyelashes. Each eye is bigger than their brain.

How big?



Ostrich Eggs

Ostriches lay the largest eggs in the world. Their eggs weigh about the same as two dozen chicken eggs.

Ostriches lay their eggs in shallow pits they scratch into the dirt. Mother and father ostriches take turns lying on top of their eggs. The mother's brown feathers camouflage the egg in the day. The father's black feathers camouflage it at night.

Baby ostriches are only about 10 inches (25cm) tall. They weigh about 2 pounds—less than 1kg.

Standards Link: Science: Students understand that animals have unique features for survival.

Circle every other letter to discover a surprising fact about ostriches.

A O B S K T L
R Y I J C U H D
E Y S I H T A C
V O E U T X H
I R J E B E H S
Y T G O S M U
A L C V H P S

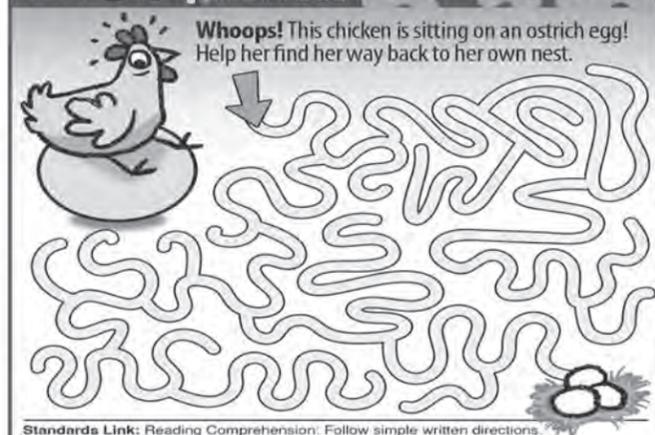
Extra! Extra!

Big, Bigger, Biggest

Look through the newspaper for a picture of something big. Then find another picture of something bigger. Then look for the biggest thing you can find in the newspaper. Glue these to a sheet of paper with the words **Big, Bigger, and Biggest**. Can you repeat this with pictures of things that are small, smaller, and smallest?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Understand comparative and superlative adjectives.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

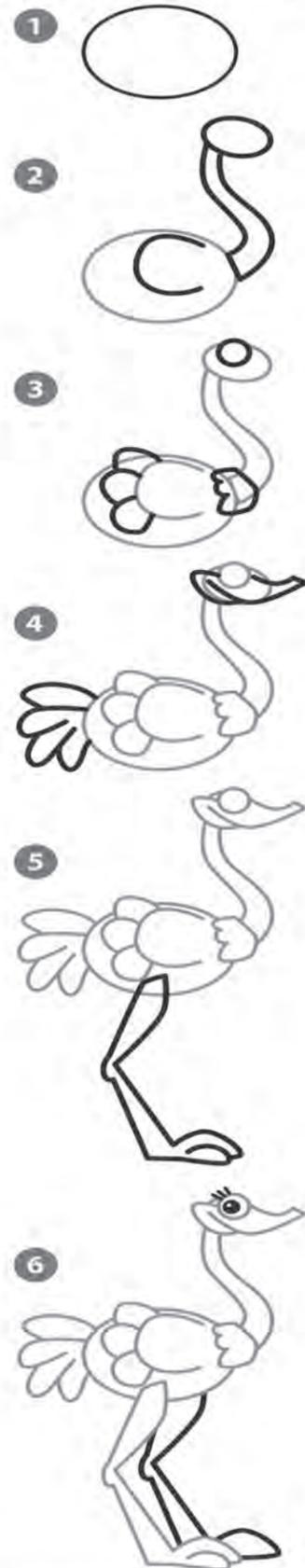
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

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

Kid Scoop Together Let's Draw!

Follow these steps to draw an ostrich.



Write On!

My favorite animal is ...

Finish this story.

FREE CLASSROOM RESOURCES!

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

Newspapers
INSPIRE
TEACH
INFORM
EXPLORE
ILLUMINATE
CHALLENGE

Newspapers in the classroom make the grade.

Are you looking for teaching strategies that will motivate your students and standards based materials to enrich your curriculum? Do you want ideas that are designed for busy teachers and ready for immediate use?

Register NOW for our Education Outreach Program.

A copy of the Neenah News for each of your students delivered weekly with resources at kidscoop.com for:

- Ways to introduce newspaper reading skills.
- Hundreds of newspaper activity ideas across the curriculum!

Call 920-385-4512 today for more information!

Proudly sponsored by



1197 W. Winneconne Ave



Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Neenah High has rich, successful sports history

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Neenah isn't going to challenge Green Bay for the nickname of Titledown, but the school has forged a strong sports identity.

The Rockets are a winner and have the numbers to prove it.

Neenah High School teams have won a whopping 37 WIAA state championships in 14 different sports – two more than Kimberly (35) – and the most among schools competing in the rugged Fox Valley Association. Kaukauna (29) is third followed by Appleton West (20).

The Rockets, a charter member of the FVA dating to 1970, have also won countless conference, regional and sectional titles and made numerous state tournament appearances. The school's trophy case is packed with championship hardware and Neenah is



Konz

one of the few Wisconsin high schools to send a recent athlete (Peter Konz, 2012-14, Atlanta) to the National Football League. Neenah athletes George Burnside (1926), John Schneller (1933-36, a member of the Detroit Lions 1935 NFL championship team) and Jack Ankerson (1960) also played in the NFL.

"I don't know of too many high schools across the state that have that many state championships in so many different sports across the board," said Jim Strick, communications director for the Neenah Joint School District. "There has always been a lot of pride in our sports program – no doubt about it."

The Rockets' boys' tennis teams have won the most WIAA state titles among Neenah sports teams with 10. Legendary coach Tom Berven guided the Rockets for 48 years and won five of those state championships (1965, 1991-95). He also had seven state runner-up finishes along with 41 conference titles and an extraordinary career record of 454-54-1.

Berven also coached 10 individual state champions and his 1993 squad



Berven

State champions

Team

Baseball-spring 1972
Boys' basketball: 1930A, 1975A, 1978A, 2022D1
Girls basketball: 1978A
Boys' cross country: 1963M, 2001D1, 2018D1
Girls' cross country: 1981A, 1982A, 1983A
Boys' golf: 1977(fall), 1982 (fall)
Girls' hockey: 2019*, 2020*
Boys' soccer: 1985, 1986, 2007D1
Girls' soccer: 1990
Softball: 1990A, 1995D1
Boys' tennis: 1946, 1951, 1953, 1957, 1965, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995D1
Girls' tennis: 2015D1, 2021D1
Boys' track & field: 1971A
Girls volleyball: 1978A, 2016

achieved the only perfect score in the history of the WIAA tournament (under its old format.)

Ivan "Ivy" Williams, another iconic Rockets' coach, was Berven's predecessor and was also wildly successful, winning state tennis championships in 1946, 1951, 1953, 1957 and 1965. He is a member of the Wisconsin Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Fox Valley Tennis Association Hall of Fame (along with Berven) and created Neenah's Park and Recreation tennis program in 1934.

Boys' basketball is second on Neenah's high honors sports list with four state championships. The Rockets won two of those state titles (1975, 1978) under Ron Einerson, whom the old fieldhouse is named after. Einerson coached the Rockets boys' teams from 1968-1993 and ranks seventh in WIAA state history in career wins with a 556-235 career record.

Neenah's 1975 state championship team was powered by Wayne Kreklow, who was selected as the state's player of the year. Kreklow went on to play college basketball at Drake University and the NBA, where he won a league championship with the Boston Celtics.

Before Einerson, longtime coach Ole Jorgensen led the Rockets to 10 state

tournament appearances, winning a state title in 1930. Jorgensen posted a 509-258 record in his 39 years as Neenah's boys' basketball coach. Both Einerson and Jorgensen are members of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and served as past presidents of the organization.

Current Rockets coach Lee Rabas guided Neenah to the 2022 Division 1 state championship. A deep and talented Rockets team powered by the likes of Chevalier Emery (18.3 points per game), Carter Thomas (14.8 ppg) and JJ Paider (11.1 ppg) went 29-1 and topped Brookfield Central, 64-52, in the title game.

In terms of fan attendance numbers, boys' basketball has been the most popular sport at the school throughout the years.

"People really care about our program," Rabas said. "Neenah has a tradition of doing really well, going back to the eras of Ole Jorgensen and coach Einerson. We have tradition going for us and we're also based in a town where we just have the one high school. That makes for a really good environment. Everyone is supporting you."

Another recent state champion was the 2021 Neenah girls' tennis team, which won the Division 1 state title. Neenah's doubles teams of Sophia Paape/Shelby Roth, Meghan Stielow/Nora Paape and Maddie Daharsh/Paige Stielow led the way with victories in the 4-3 championship match win over Divine Savior Holy Angels, while Liz Risgaard posted a key singles win. Coach Dan Grassl's Rockets went undefeated in dual matches at 20-0. The program previously won a state title in 2015.

Boys' soccer has been another successful sports program. Harry Kelderman, a member of the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame, won a whopping 603 games from 1981-2015 and retired as the winningest boys' soccer coach in state history. Kelderman won three state titles (1985, 1986 and 2007) while finishing as the state runner-up twice. His squads won 28 FVA titles and never had a losing record.

Other Neenah sports programs with multiple state championships are boys' cross country (1963, 2001, 2018)),

girls' cross country (1981-83), boys' golf (1977, 1982), girls' hockey (2019-2020), girls' volleyball (1978, 2016) and girls' softball (1990, 1995).

Keep a close eye on the Neenah girls' basketball program this winter. The Rockets return one of the state's finest players in University of Connecticut recruit Allie Ziebell and are expected to be one of Wisconsin's better teams. Neenah's only girls' basketball state title came in 1978, a team powered by Kathy Hagerstrom, who finished her career as Neenah's all-time leading scorer in girls' basketball (1,219 points). Hagerstrom was selected as the state's player of the year in 1978 and named as a Parade All-American.

"Neenah is a community that really values its sports teams," said Neenah girls' basketball coach Andy Braunel. "There's no better sign of that than the way the community supported the referendum to build the new schools."

"We get great fan support. When I first came here three decades ago, football and boys' basketball were the two main sports that people supported. It's been neat to see the way that's really expanded and how fans have supported other sports in recent years."

Neenah has never won a state football championship, but its most revered team might be the 1966 squad. That team finished 8-0 and outscored opponents 326-33 to earn the state's top ranking in both Associated Press and United Press International polls.

That was in the era when Wisconsin didn't have a playoff structure, so the team that finished No. 1 in the rankings was considered to be the (unofficial) state champ. The team was coached by Ben Meixl, Dewey Carl and Gil Sutherland and led by quarterback Gary Losse and guard Jim Fetters, who both earned first-team all-state and all-conference honors. Other all-conference players were halfbacks Chuck Wismer and Tom Bachhuber, fullback Dan Meyer, end Dan Janowski, and linebackers Bob Pierce and Kevin Millikin.

Wismer topped the conference in scoring with 84 points followed by Bachhuber (66).

"The support for our football program, especially the last couple years, has been awesome," said Neenah football coach Steve Jung, who played for the program in the 1980s. "That just makes Friday nights so much fun."



Rabas

Hall of Fame members

Dr. Omar Atassi: basketball, boys' soccer, boys' tennis

George E. Bergstrom

Tom Berven: boys' tennis

Dr. Kerri Blobaum

Joe Braun: baseball

Marigen Carpenter

Dr. Theresa Cheng

Laura (Coenen) Ryan: girls' basketball

Bill Dunwiddie

Ron Einerson: boys' basketball

Kathy Hagerstrom: girls' basketball

Pat Hawley: boys' basketball, track, baseball

Dr. Wellington Hsu: boys' soccer, boys' tennis.

Dr. Emma Jaeck

Dr. Zuhdl Jasser

Tom Jensen: boys' cross country

Phil Johnston

New Hall of Famers

The school will induct Jack Ankerson (football, baseball), Byron Bel (boys tennis, boys basketball, baseball) and Tori Bohannon (girls volleyball, girls basketball, girls soccer), Marty Robinson and Andrew Coan into the Neenah Joint School District Hall of Fame in October.

Dick Jorgensen: football, boys' tennis, track

Ole Jorgensen: boys' basketball, football, track

Susan Karamanian

James Keating: boys' basketball, football

John Keating

Harry Kelderman: boys' and girls' soccer

Kris Kelderman: boys' soccer

Robert Keller

Jean Kessler: girls' basketball, girls' volleyball

Wayne Kreklow: boys' basketball

Jill (Lieber) Steeg

Dr. Gary Losse: football, boys' basketball, baseball

David McLaren: football, track

Gary Parker: football, track

Todd Patterson: football, wrestling

George Scherck: softball, girls' basketball

John Schneller: football, basketball

Marti (Schreier) Wronski: swimming

Jim Vine

Patricia Westphal

John Whitlinger: boys' tennis

Tami (Whitlinger) Jones: girls' tennis

Teri (Whitlinger) Boynton: girl' tennis

Thomas Wiesner: football

Ivan Williams: boys' tennis, football, boys' basketball

Vern Wollerman

Robert Yablon

Armstrong High's original team stays connected

Neenah News

While the new high school takes center stage in the school district, original staff members from the Armstrong High campus keep their memories alive more than 50 years after it was built with its own special mission.

When the cornerstone was laid Nov. 12, 1972, in a ceremony where UW-Stevens Point chancellor and future Wisconsin Gov. Lee S. Dreyfus spoke, it had been 44 years since the last new high school was dedicated at the Shattuck campus on Division Street.

Margaret Lorenz, the school's first

administrative secretary, works in a committee of three other original Armstrong staffers to gather about 50 other former colleagues. She said the special bond formed in 1972 among all categories of school staff was intentional as part of the school's founding.

"From the very beginning, Armstrong was treated somewhat differently from traditional education," Lorenz said. "The atmosphere in those first years was wonderful."

The new Neil A. Armstrong Senior High School was an open-concept building that operated with the help of a fund-



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

This illustration was in the 1972 dedication program for the new Neil A. Armstrong Senior High School.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

The exterior of the former Neenah High School is shown in 1974.

ed Neenah Project that tried some new educational ideas, including "X days" left open for field trips or supplementary activities about four times a year.

Lorenz said a student-faculty administrative council was also a different makeup from most districts in the area at the time.

"Students and staff were able to determine some of the basic day-to-day governing kinds of things for themselves," she recalled.

The late Principal James Cole led the original team at Armstrong, which started with only juniors and seniors before adding two more grades over time while incorporating and connecting with next-door James P. Conant Junior High.

The open design of the new high school with the second story in a ring configuration around the library turned out to be a little too familiar in some areas, making for some competing sound space.

The current Armstrong facilities are

being updated to serve as intermediate and middle school for grades 5 through 8 next year as Shattuck Middle School ended its educational service.

The technology education wing of the Armstrong building has been upgraded for additional science labs as well as collaboration areas, a family and consumer education kitchen area, and other improvements to classrooms in that area.

A large lecture hall has also been renovated to support a collaboration space. The remaining portions of the building will remain intact.

The latest reunion was held earlier this month at the Whiting Boathouse. The group maintains a memorium of those who have passed while funerals have served as solemn gatherings in-between to maintain their camaraderie.

"All of our parties included everyone - custodians, secretaries and faculty," Lorenz said. "Because we were so different we all became immediately cohesive - one social family."

Beautiful

CRAFTS, GIFTS, AND HOME DECOR FROM LOCAL ARTISANS

including great items to support your favorite hometown team!

Rockets Neenah

Rockets

Cedar Ridge CRAFTS & GIFTS

1197 W. Winneconne Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956
920-722-9600

Neenah News LOCAL RELEVANT NEWS DELIVERED WEEKLY

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Support the Neenah News

For less than a dollar a week you can support the Neenah News mission of providing local, relevant community news delivered to your mailbox.

Our members receive special emailed offers from local businesses and event tickets during the year as our Thank You for your support.

JOIN AT WWW.NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM/PRODUCT/MEMBERSHIP/

Or complete this form and return with check or credit card information to:
Neenah News Membership, 124 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 090B, Neenah WI 54956

Full Name (First and Last) _____
Mailing Address: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

I live within 54956 and receive the Neenah News weekly and want to join!

\$50 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

I want to subscribe to receive the Neenah News weekly.

\$70 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

\$35 6-MONTH SUBSCRIPTION

Check: _____ Credit card #: _____ Exp: _____ CSV: _____

NeenahNewsNow.com • 124 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah • 920-486-1616

Einerson gym ends its varsity school run

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Sports facilities are more than just places to play ball. They are practically portals to the past where millions of memories have been made and can be revisited at a moment's notice.

The buzzer-beater that dropped, the controversial call that decided the game, the come-from-behind win that sealed the conference title and the roar of the crowd that followed.

Magic moments? The Ron Einerson Fieldhouse was the indoor playground where many of them happened. That's why the army of prep athletes that competed at Einerson and the countless fans who watched both thrillers and blowouts at the venerable gym for the past half-century may have a hard time saying goodbye.

Einerson Fieldhouse has transitioned to a lesser role in Neenah athletics. It will no longer host high school basketball and volleyball games and will be replaced in that capacity by a new fieldhouse in the newly opened Neenah High School.

Named after Neenah basketball coach Ron Einerson, the gym isn't facing a wrecking ball and will continue as a middle-school athletics facility and host some high school track meets. Team practices of different sports will also continue there.

"For me, it's mixed emotions," Jim Strick, the district's communications director and the primary public address announcer at Neenah athletic events, said at the time the last basketball season was ending. "We're so excited about the new building for so many reasons, especially academic reasons. It's going to be a tremendous learning environment for kids



Photo by David Hall

The legendary Ron Einerson Fieldhouse hosted its final varsity event in March.

and really a sense of pride for them to be able to go to school in a building like that.

"But if there is one thing we could take with us, it would be the fieldhouse. That's certainly a facility that will be missed. But the great thing is that it's not going anywhere. It'll still be used as much as it is

now – just in different ways.

Strick said it's usually booked solid from before school until late at night.

"Whether it's soccer, lacrosse or baseball practice or a youth tournament," he said, "whenever an hour of time opens up, someone scoops it up right away. It's still

going to be a very busy place and I don't see that changing."

The 40,000-square-foot facility features four basketball and volleyball courts along with a 160-meter running track. Its seating

SEE **Einerson** ON PAGE N10



CoVantage
CREDIT UNION

800-398-2667
covantagecu.org

- **Appleton**
- **Menasha**
- **Neenah**
- **Suamico**

Assisi Homes of Neenah Senior Living Community

Congrats to all the Neenah High School students, present and past!

- Affordable housing for Seniors Age 62+
- Many activities and wellness programs offered
- One bedroom apartments include heat and water
- Income restrictions apply
- Smoke free facility

Phone: 920-729-1771
Fax: 920-729-1797
TTY: 800-924-1973
210 Byrd Avenue, Neenah



Professionally Managed by Mercy Housing

05267767

Einerson

FROM PAGE N9

capacity is 3,200 – second largest in the state. The new sports facility isn't quite as big but will have multiple basketball and volleyball courts along with a balcony. The seating capacity is estimated at 3,000.

"The new building is going to be a little bit of a smaller environment," Strick said. "It won't have as much space around the court and there won't be quite as much bleacher seating. We wanted something that might be more intimidating for opponents, more on top of the action and not so spacious. But we're still talking 3,000 seats."

In the final varsity boys' basketball game March 4 at Einerson, the Rockets beat Appleton West, 81-71, in a WIAA Division 1 regional tournament game.

"It was just incredible foresight by the people on the school board and the administration in the early 1970s to have the vision to put in a facility like that," Strick said. "I'm sure at the time that it wasn't easy for them to get it done. But they did it and it stood the test of time. It's still one of the best gyms in the state – no doubt about it. It still looks modern even to this day. The exterior has maybe aged a little, but that's about it."

If sports facilities could talk, Einerson Fieldhouse would have plenty to say. It was the site of countless triumphs and heartbreaks, life lessons and coming-of-age moments for the athletes who played basketball, volleyball and ran track for the past 50 years. It was also a source of quality entertainment and social gatherings for the thousands of fans who packed in on Tuesday and Friday nights.

"You know, it's funny, I still have dreams

of playing games there and so do some of the guys that I played with and against," said former Neenah basketball player Kress Williamson. "Oh, it was an exciting place to play at."

Williamson was part of a Rockets squad that played the inaugural game at Einerson Fieldhouse in 1973 against Beaver Dam. He now resides in Stevens Point, but for years has made the 60-minute drive to Neenah to catch at least a few games.

"The memory I'll always have was a January 1974 game against Kimberly," Williamson recalled. "I was told by old-timers that it was the largest crowd ever at Einerson Fieldhouse. I'm guessing there were between 3,500 and 4,000 people in there."

"When we ran onto the floor, we almost had to crawl over people to get on the floor. The fire marshal probably had a field day. There were way too many people in there for safety. It was amazing. There was just an electricity in the air. It was so cool."

Season tickets for loyal Neenah basketball fans was a norm back in Williamson's prep days. Pair that with an always boisterous student body and the Rockets were extremely tough to beat there.

Jon Joch, chief financial officer of the Neenah Joint School District, also played for Einerson's teams (the 1991 and '92 squads) and agrees that opponents had to bring their A-plus game to win.

"What gave us a big advantage was the fans," Joch said. "Back then, there were probably 600 people on that season ticket list and then you add the student body. In the 1980s and '90s, there just weren't as many things to do as today, and it was more of a social thing. You put 3,000 people into that gym and that's a tremendous advantage, because most gyms just aren't that large."

In addition to being a former Rockets player and an athletic director at the school, Joch has been a life-long Neenah sports fan. He has attended Neenah basketball games since he was a wide-eyed 6-year-old. Joch has also worked in different capacities at Neenah games as a game statistician and with crowd control.

"I have so many memories of it," Joch said. "One of the nights I remember the most was in 2003 when we named the fieldhouse after Ron. We did the dedication and brought back his 1978 team, which went 26-0 and won the state championship. It was their 25th anniversary and the whole night was just special."

"I also remember hosting the state volleyball tournament there in the 1990s. Just seeing all the faces and eyes of so many people coming to watch and hearing them talk about our gym. They were so impressed that we had such a large facility. I think we kind of took the fieldhouse for granted."

Strick, a 1993 Kimberly graduate, did more than just watch games there. He played there as a member of the Papermakers boys' basketball teams and recalls the energy and sense of excitement he always felt when walked onto the court for an FVA showdown against the Rockets.

"It was my favorite place to play in the FVA," Strick said. "It just had more of a

big-game feel than other gyms. It was almost like an arena-feel that was totally different than anywhere else we played. I always looked forward to it. Those were memorable games."

Einerson was a social studies teacher at the school and coached boys' basketball from 1968-1995. He posted an outstanding 556-235 career record and currently ranks seventh in state history in victories. Einerson's teams won WIAA state titles in 1975 and 1978 and made 10 state tournament appearances, finishing as a runner-up four times. They also won 12 FVA titles. He's a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and previously served as president.

"I knew as a young man that it was a privilege to play at Neenah and for a hall of fame coach," Joch said. "The lessons you learned from Coach Einerson when you were 16 or 17 were lessons you applied to life years later when you were grown up and raising a family. They were never just about basketball. They were about hard work, discipline and dedication."

Williamson added, "He was a demanding, intense coach, but it was fun playing for him and so exciting to be a part of those teams. It was just a great, great experience. I feel very fortunate to have played for Coach Einerson and the Neenah Rockets. I'm proud to be a Neenah Rocket."



Neenah News

The new stands were filled for the Neenah football team's home opener against De Pere on Aug. 18.

Proudly Supporting The Rockets



STILLINGS,
PASQUALE &
SWARDENSKI, LLC

Family – Criminal Defense – Probate – Bankruptcy

A Neenah law firm serving your legal needs for over 20 years.

251 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah • 920-725-5305 • www.spslawyers.net

Sports facilities

FROM PAGE N6

flooring. It'll be wood and that will be really nice. There's 16 hoops available – a few more than our previous gym – and all of the teams will be able to practice after school, unlike in the past when our freshman girls' and boys' teams had to split time.

"There will be a little less seating, but it will become a different space and an easier place to set up and take down."

The Neenah wrestling program will also get a major addition. A new three-mat wrestling room has been built for team practices. The former wrestling room at the old high school will now be used for middle school wrestling. Varsity wrestling matches will be held in the new competition gym.

"It's a huge boost for our wrestling program," Strick said. "The new wrestling room is much bigger and very nice."

Swimming and diving competition and practices will continue to be held at the former high school, although that could change.

"Space has been set aside for a new pool down the road," said Carrie Raeth, the boys' and girls' swim coach at Neenah. "We're definitely hopeful that we'll get to experience the atmosphere of competing at the new school. But right now, we have

a beautiful eight-lane pool that's in good condition."

A new cross country trail is currently being built and won't be available until next fall. The Neenah cross country teams have only one home meet scheduled this fall at Memorial Park.

All sports teams will train in a new weight and conditioning room that is in close proximity to all of the fields.

"It's a really cool design where you get a great view of the football stadium," Jung said. "It's going to be very functional, not only for us, but for everyone. You're going to be able to get a lot of athletes from different sports in there. It's really nice. We didn't skimp on anything."

"Our weight room numbers at the old high school have been really good in recent years and they're going to get even better. Right now, you're seeing athletes in all sports buying into the building of an athlete through the weight room."

Braunel is also excited about the new weight room.

"It has a great design and flow to it, and it's all state of the art," Braunel said. "It comes at a perfect time. Our participation numbers in the weight room have been phenomenal and this gives us another boost."

None of the stadiums or fields has yet been named and are for sale in terms of naming rights, according to Strick.



Submitted photo

Here is a look at the front of the new Neenah High School.

School project

FROM PAGE N1

concrete, which averages out to more than 1,260 truckloads. Electricians installed more than 2 million feet of wire in the school, which is heated and cooled by a geothermal well system.

New classrooms and sports facilities will greet new students but also veteran teachers, coaches, administrators and staff who get a fresh start with upgraded spaces.

“We are excited to celebrate with you, our

community, and express our gratitude for recognizing the importance of educating children throughout our district,” Pfeiffer said. “We not only have a new high school to celebrate, but we also have a transformed middle school; we have improvements to all of our elementary schools, including additional space because the fifth-graders are now going to be at our middle school. This is an inspiring and special moment for us and one that will reignite our Neenah pride for decades.”

The community got its first good look at the new high school Aug. 13 with a

ribbon-cutting ceremony and self-guided tours. Orientation events for students also were held that week.

Principal Brian Wunderlich thanked the community for helping create the new school.

“Our kids are the return on investment and you’ll see it different every single year, whether it’s a senior graduating this year or a pre-K student who is just about to start their 13-year journey through the Neenah school district,” he said. “I promise you that myself and our staff will work every single day to make the absolute most of this as they have

all along and that return on investment is going to be tenfold what you think it will be and that’s what I’m truly excited about.”

School board president Brian Epley expressed gratitude for the community members, engineers, staff and board members who took a chance on the school.

“With the opening of this building, we’ll positively impact the educational experience for every single student – and that is a tremendous opportunity to celebrate,” Epley said.

About 2,000 students will be enrolled in the high school this fall.



Submitted photo

The school’s common areas feature various seating types and arrangements, which feels straight out of a college campus.

Family visit

FROM PAGE N5

Mom: Is there a way to close off the academic wings?

NHS Senior: There are doors that can restrict access to the school. I was told they’d be used in the morning to keep kids in the atrium until 7:50.

Dad: There’s got to be stuff built into this place that we don’t know. With the introduction of a new facility, I would like to have heard more about safety by now.

NHS Senior: The only thing I know is that the main doors lock after 8:00. If you come in late, you have to go through the office, but that was the same at the old high school, so nothing has really changed.

Mom: I thought one of the main drives of the plan was increasing security at all of the schools.

NHS Senior: It has been mentioned before how they have a lot of security measures in place that we can’t even see right now. It’s good to know that they have plans for safety, but I didn’t like how they worded that. It sounded like they were trying not to disclose what the security measures were, and that’s something I really want to know.

Dad: It’s something that everyone deserves to know. And, it’s not like Neenah hasn’t had some scares in the past few years.

NHS Senior: In general, I feel like being physically in the building and getting to walk around was really helpful and eased some of my fears about the logistics of actually going to class there. But, there are so many things I still don’t know about how the school is going to work, and there are so many important questions that still need to be answered.

Congratulations on the new Neenah High School!

65th ANNIVERSARY
Evergreen
CREDIT UNION

We are on a mission to be the most environmentally responsible credit union in the nation while continuing to deliver amazing service to our members.

Membership is open to everyone who lives, works, or attends a two- or four-year college in Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago and Calumet counties.

www.evergreencu.com

1500 W. American Drive, Neenah, WI 54956

133 N. Richmond Street, Appleton, WI 54914

N NEENAH WITH PRIDE



Past and Present



Krueger True Value, since 1866, is your locally owned hardware store. We're proud to be a member of the True Value family, and we're here to serve our community. Whether you're a pro or taking on a DIY home improvement project for the first time, we're right here in your neighborhood with the expert advice, tools, equipment and products you need to get the job done.

COME IN AND SEE US TODAY.

RUMMAGE SALE

SAVINGS UP TO 75%!

**STARTING TODAY,
AUGUST 25 — ONE WEEK ONLY**

—ALL DEPARTMENTS—

- One-of-a-Kind
- Scratch & Dent
- Discontinued Items
- Gently Used Items
- Lawn Equipment
- Tools
- Furniture



999 Winneconne Ave, Neenah • 920-722-1588
Monday-Friday 8am-6pm • Saturday 8am-5pm • Sunday 9am-2pm