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BREHMER



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Charges dismissed in '83 murder case

Neenah News

A Chilton man convicted in the 1983 death of a Neenah man whose remains were discovered last year at High Cliff State Park was acquitted last week of misdemeanor charges that he lied about the location of the victim's body.

A Calumet County jury found John Andrews not guilty of obstructing police in 2021 when he allegedly told investigators looking into Starkie Swenson's disappearance that he did not know where the body was. Hikers found Swenson's remains at High Cliff State Park in September of that year.

Andrews served two years in prison for homicide by negligent use of a vehicle in connection with Swenson's death after a trial in 1994, when Andrews, now 82, admitted to hitting him with his car. His Alford plea allowed him to be convicted on the lesser charge while still proclaiming his innocence.

Police said at the time of Swenson's disappearance he was having an affair with Andrews' wife and he struck Swenson, who was riding his bicycle, with his car on the property of Shattuck Junior High School.

Lawsuit dismissed over 2015 standoff

Shooting, hostage saga ends in court

By Bethanie Gengler Neenah News

A U.S. federal judge has dismissed a civil rights lawsuit filed by five people who were held hostage during a 2015 standoff at the former Eagle Nation Cycles shop.

The lawsuit filed in 2021 by attorney Walter Stern of Kenosha on behalf of Steve Erato, Michael Peterson, Ethan Moderson, Ryan Moderson and George Fuerte sought unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

The parties sued the city of Neenah and

responding officers Angela Eichmann, Shaun O'Bre, Tyron Thompson, Jonathan Kuffel and Marlyn Heiting, alleging the hostages' constitutional rights were violated when the officers improperly detained and arrested them after another hostage -Michael Funk - was mistakenly shot and killed by police.

Brian Flatoff started a confrontation over a motorcycle at the former Eagle Nation at 206 Main St. on Dec. 5, 2015. He took several parties hostage at gunpoint and the police response led to a four-hour standoff.

During the standoff, police were met with a hail of gunfire, with one of the first rounds striking an officer in the helmet. Documents say officers retreated from Eagle Nation and three minutes later another burst of gunfire came from the building.

Funk left the building holding a firearm, took cover behind a vehicle and then ran across the alley. He was shot and killed by officers who mistakenly believed he was the hostage-taker.

Shortly after, Flatoff was arrested. He was convicted and later sentenced to 100 years in prison. The two officers who shot Funk were not charged.

In the aftermath of the incident, the hostages alleged that police treated them like criminals instead of victims, stating they were detained and arrested without probable cause or warrant, violating the

SEE **Standoff lawsuit** ON PAGE 10



Cars are lined up in front of Neenah Middle School last week. Traffic patterns around the school have been updated.

School traffic patterns draw attention

District tries to ease some of the bottlenecks

By Bethanie Gengler Neenah News

The first days of school at the new Neenah Middle School and High School locations last week were met with traffic congestion, leading officials to make changes to deal with the flow.

The middle school is now in the former high school site on Tullar Road, while the high school has moved to a brand-new site off Winchester Road in Fox Crossing. Several parents took to social media to voice concerns about traffic congestion they experienced while dropping kids off at the new locations.

"It was crazy this morning," Amber Brezinsky said. "(It) took 30 minutes to drop off at this (middle school) and Tullar Elementary, which is on the same road less than a mile away."

"This morning was a nightmare navigating through there," Dustin Brehmer said.

"Y'all need to monitor the intersection



Buses pick up Neenah Middle School students at the end of the school day.

at Tullar and Cecil for people driving up the bike lane because they have no patience," Connie Polster said. "I was passed by a few cars this morning as they were driving in the bike lane."

In an effort to manage the congestion, Neenah police posted on social media that they've made changes to restrict movement for pickup and dropoff, with cones and signage in front of the middle school.

Vehicles southbound on Tullar Road were prohibited from turning left onto Byrd Avenue; vehicles traveling west on

Byrd were prohibited from turning left onto Tullar and vehicles exiting the middle school main entrance lot were prohibited from turning left onto Tullar.

Several parents said the changes helped but there's still room for improvement.

"Pickup seemed somewhat better today with the new lanes but something needs to be done about speed," Amber Hallberg said. "This is the second day in a row I have witnessed a vehicle almost hit someone

SEE **Traffic patterns** ON PAGE 10

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Publisher

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

Editor

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

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ThedaCare, Froedtert merger moves ahead

Neenah News

Froedtert Health and ThedaCare's boards last week officially endorsed combining their health care systems with approval of a definitive agreement outlining terms of their merger.

ThedaCare, the largest health care system in northeast and central Wisconsin, is building a third hospital facility to Oshkosh in addition to those of Ascension Wisconsin and Advocate Aurora Health as part of their alliance with Froedtert Health and Medical College of Wisconsin.

"ThedaCare and Froedtert Health have long legacies of investing in their communities. Both organizations are committed to helping Wisconsinites live their best lives, and we believe that the best way to do that is by coming together," said Dr. Imran A. Andrabi, ThedaCare president and CEO, in a statement. "We look forward to further defining how we will combine our organizations to make health care better for everyone we are privileged to serve."

Cathy Jacobson, president and CEO of Froedtert Health, added, "We are excited to continue the process of bringing our locally led health care organizations together, working in concert with the Medical College of Wisconsin. Creating healthier communities throughout Wisconsin will take a lot of work as we move ahead, and we're excited that we're one step closer to embarking on this journey."

ThedaCare and Milwaukee-based Froedtert Health announced last October they were building health care campuses in Oshkosh and Fond du Lac in a joint venture before the merger plans were announced.

The goal of the health systems is to launch the merged organization at the start of 2024, dependent and pending on customary preclosing conditions, further board approvals and regulatory approval.

"Our board is confident that Froedtert Health and ThedaCare is the right combination, and through our conversations over the last few months, we remain energized by the possibilities that exist to provide the best and most accessible care for the people of Wisconsin," said Jim Kotek, chair of ThedaCare's board of trustees.

Jacobson will initially assume the role of chief executive and Andrabi will serve as president. After a six-month transition period, Jacobson will retire and Andrabi will assume the role of president and CEO. The initial chair and vice chair roles of the board and committees will be equally shared between the parties.

Matt Wille, who most recently served as chief executive at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Mich., was named ThedaCare's chief operating officer last week, where he will collaborate with the executive leadership team. Mark Thompson, current chief operating officer and chief financial officer of ThedaCare, will transition to serve as chief transformation investment officer in the new structure created by the merger.

Popular dining spot adds a pub space on Commercial

By Jenny Grunwald

One of Neenah's favorite breakfast spots, Pappa's Cafe, has been in business for more than 35 years without any thought of slowing down. Located at 1360 S. Commercial St., the cafe has been able to succeed by changing with the times, and has embraced its biggest update to fit today's restaurant industry - adding on a bar section.

Owner David Pyszora's idea behind adding the bar, which opened July 1, was to create something with a more special dining experience than the many other restaurants only serving breakfast and lunch most days of the week. With the pub added, Pyszora wants patrons to know it won't be open as often as normal tavern hours.

Pappa's hours will remain from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, but Thursday through Saturday it will be open until 7 p.m. with a happy hour from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. The pub will be closed Mondays, but alcoholic drinks will be served in the dining area.

Psyzora wants to extend the pub hours, but like many businesses he is short of staff help. He also noted that though there are two different signs on the building and different hours for the pub and cafe, it is still one restaurant and food can be ordered in the pub area.

The bar area will eventually host private



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Pappa's Cafe added a bar section to the restaurant space and expanded some of its hours.

parties after it's more established.

"Whether it's a birthday party, a retirement party or a Christmas party for an office, they can come in whenever after 2 p.m. and they can have the whole place to themselves," Psyzora said.

Though the pub is a work in progress, Psyzora is playing around with different ideas geared toward bringing more business to it. The cafe is still a favorite breakfast outing for residents and he said it is only a matter of time before the pub gains the same recognition.

Neenah resident Brittany Shusta and her husband, Casey, enjoy the addition to the long-standing restaurant.

"(We) went there for breakfast and saw the pub and decided to get breakfast and a drink. Nothing more Wisconsin than getting a Bloody Mary with your Garbage Plate," she said. "It's a super cute space and (the) bartender was extremely friendly and fun. Enjoy both the cafe and the pub."

Pappa's is taking signups as it joins up with the fourth annual Commercial Street Pub Crawl starting at noon Saturday.

New tool helps locate affordable internet

The state has launched the Internet Discount Finder website (apps.psc.wi.gov/ InternetDiscountFinder) to help households find free and discounted internet service for eligible residents.

The Internet Discount Finder matches residents with low-cost home internet service and discount programs by entering their address and identifying eligibility criteria. The tool will show available plans and describe next steps for enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP helps eligible households get a discount of up to \$30 per month for broadband service and internet connected devices.

Support is available by phone for individuals who cannot access the Internet Discount Finder website, including the Wisconsin Internet and Phone Helpline at 608-267-3595, Affordable Connectivity Program at 877-384-2575 and Wisconsin 2-1-1.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Bergstrom battle

The annual Bergstrom Bloomers vs. Bergstrom Bums game occurred during the 1950s. The Bums were composed of members of Bergstrom Paper men's softball team who competed in the Twin City Industrial League. They were given a number of handicaps to face off against the female Bloomers.

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Sidewalk plans not on same path with some residents

By Bethanie Gengler Neenah News

Residents on Alexander Drive who are unhappy with the city's plan to install sidewalks on the street in 2025 expressed their disappointment at last week's Common Council meeting.

The city's Capital Improvements Program includes installing 1,480 feet of sidewalk on both sides of Alexander from Bruce Street to Commercial Street in 2025, at an estimated cost of \$65,000. The street is also expected to be resurfaced that year, at a cost of \$122,000.

Richard Wangard told the council that installing sidewalks on the street would be costly and a waste of taxpayers' money. He said in the 20 years he has lived on the street, the possibility of the city installing sidewalks has come up twice before.

"You can see for yourself exactly how the impact of sidewalks would ruin this entire neighborhood and destroy yards, how sidewalks would put people walking them within 12 feet of picture windows," he said.

Wangard said the motivation behind sidewalks may be safety, but he countered that the only people walking on Alexander Drive are those who live on the street and walk their dogs.

"The destruction of yards and landscaping would cost the homeowners thousands of dollars and rob the neighborhood of its beauty," he said. "On my own property, I would lose three mature maple trees, a beautiful garden my master gardener wife created and all we created over 20 years of making our yard a showcase for Neenah."

Adam Paalman said installing sidewalks could lead to snow removal issues.

"Personally, where I live, the plow comes

through and I get a bunch of snow and I wouldn't know where to put it (if) in fact, I also clear sidewalks in addition to my driveway," he said, "as well as the money could be spent better elsewhere in Neenah."

William Fowler started a signup sheet for Alexander Drive residents opposed to the plan. He said sidewalks would put pedestrians in close proximity to his home and cause parking issues because a second vehicle parked in a driveway may block the sidewalk.

"I don't think the neighborhood was designed to have sidewalks," he said. "We have curb and gutter, we have a nice street, but I don't think it was designed (for them); that's why the houses were built as close as they were to the front to the street and it's important to consider that that's the way the neighborhood was designed."

Renee Hernandez said if people are concerned with traffic the city should put up speed bumps.

"My neighbors are correct there; it really is limited traffic, there's low pedestrian activity," she said. "It's a very peaceful atmosphere. I don't know why anybody would want to disrupt what is already working."

Wendy Garvey said she bought a house on Alexander in 2012 and one of the things she liked was that it didn't have a sidewalk.

"So, putting a sidewalk in will probably move us out," she said. "I've said that before and I mean it because we just don't want to maintain that."

Mayor Jane Lang and the council did not take up the residents' concerns but the mayor thanked the residents for being courteous and having a good attitude as they presented their opinions.



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Alexander Drive residents have expressed their opposition to a city proposal to install sidewalks along the street's homes.

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NEW Top Dog competition benefits canines

The NEW Top Dog 2023 contest is underway offering more than \$14,000 in prizes and a chance to name a beer after a furry friend with the online, vote-driven popularity contest.

The collaboration among six animal rescue organizations, six breweries and Kiwanis benefits pets and children in northeast Wisconsin. The Neenah Animal Shelter is matched up with Barrel 41 Brewing Co. in Neenah as one of the six teams vying for votes and support. The other shelters are Lakeshore Humane Society, Misfit Mutts, Mit Liebe German Shepherd Rescue and Sandi Paws.

Dog owners pay \$10 to enter their pup into their favorite shelter's photo contest. Contestants then encourage their friends and family to vote at \$1 apiece for their dog, with the top 10 dogs from each of the six contests winning prizes.

After 14 days of voting that ends Sept. 30, the top vote-earning dog will be crowned. The winning dog from each of the six local contests will become the face of their own beer.

The shelter with the most votes across all dogs representing their shelter will win a \$5,000 cash prize. The second highest will receive \$4,000, third will receive \$3,000, fourth gets \$2,000 and fifth gets \$1,000.

Proceeds from this contest will benefit participating shelters and Kiwanis. Go to newtopdog.com for more information on the contest.

Since the annual contest began, more than \$420,000 has been raised for children, shelters and humane societies.

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Intertribal powwow celebrates traditions, inclusion

Shattuck Park event returns this weekend

By Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski

Shattuck Park will be alive this weekend with the powerful sounds of drums and singing as the sixth annual Neenah/Menasha Intertribal Powwow rolls into the city Saturday.

The park, with its circular structure and seating around the middle, provides an ideal space for drum groups to take center-stage with the dancers performing around them.

The event began with Alan Caldwell, a Menominee tribal elder and educator, who wanted to educate others about the indigenous nations who were in the area long before it was colonized — mainly the Menominee and Ho-Chunk.

Those nations are still here, continuing to practice their traditions and culture. One of the ways they share that information is through powwows. The goal of the Neenah/Menasha event is to educate, inform and expose the community to the continued existence of the area's original inhabitants. It is also a celebration, both for the Native Americans themselves and community as a whole.

Caldwell's vision was for a "teaching powwow," which is why organizers encourage everyone attending to take part.

"Powwows can take place on or off Native American reservations, and can last anywhere from a few hours to three days," explained Cathy Caldwell, Alan's wife. "Ours takes place in the city of Neenah on a Saturday afternoon overlooking the Fox



Photo by Nick Jevne

Participants at last year's powwow, including Mayor Jane Lang (blue shirt), take part in the intertribal dance at Shattuck Park.

River on a site that was originally inhabited by the people whose culture we are celebrating and showcasing. It is called an intertribal powwow because no one tribe is sponsoring this event and all people from all nations are welcome to be part of it."

Powwows feature drum groups and dancers, all under the guiding eye of the emcee. For this event, that key player is Shane Webster.

Webster and his family travel the country attending powwows of different tribes. Webster is Oneida and Menominee,

though he describes himself as a born and raised Menominee. As emcee, his job is to introduce which drum group is up next, what type of song they will perform, introduce the dance style and educate the audience on the significance of the various dance styles. He encourages everyone to have an open mind.

"Try the food, watch the dancing, listen to the singing and drums, and listen to the humor and education," he said.

Drum groups are the heartbeat of a powwow — they provide the beat and the tempo of the song. It is such a powerful force that the dancers and audience align their heartbeat with the drum. The singers speak in their native language, and it is critical for them to truly understand the meaning of what they are saying.

Webster, who originally joined a drum group as a singer and later was a dancer, says "there are instructors to help, but it takes a long time to learn. The best way is to just be part of a group and keep practicing. The first time I sang, my group and I sang the wrong song. I was determined to learn from the experience and get better at each powwow, and I am. But I never stop learning."

There are several kinds of dances, including intertribals, where anyone can come to dance. Webster will let the audience know when an intertribal dance is coming up, where all people come together and dance as one. The tribes believe the dance sends energy to the creator and the participants receive it back as strength and health.

There are also fancy and grass dances, which have specific regalia. Women often wear a shawl during fancy dances, which makes them look a little like butterflies, while the men use erratic steps and jumps. The grass dance is symbolic, like the blades of grass moving with the wind. This style uses more patterns and is history-based.

The women also perform a jingle dance, where they wear regalia with cones that produce a special sound. They must dance in a certain series of steps as this dance tells a story. This dance is a medicine dance and is supposed to help people heal.

There are also traditional dancers, men and women. They wear colors and materials connected to the earth – buckskin, bone, feathers and ribbon. The women's dance movements are more subtle and methodical, making sure their feet touch the ground at all times so they stay connected to Mother Earth.

The men's steps are also structured and

methodical but can be quite energetic. The men often honor the natural world by imitating the movements of things in nature, such as animals, water and plants.

Webster says powwows help keep the traditional songs alive.

"We have to learn the correct song to sing for the correct style of dance. The singers need to say the correct words in our language or it doesn't have any meaning," he said. "By learning the songs, we are honoring our ancestors. Some drum groups and singers are creating new songs inspired by the old, and that keeps us going. "

For many, powwows are a family affair. When Alan Caldwell passed away a few months after the first powwow in 2016, Cathy, a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Tribe, took over the planning. Webster's son is learning the songs and aspires one day to be a lead singer. Webster is hopeful that all his family members will continue participating in their own way. He wants them to be able to speak the language, sing, dance and be proud of who they are.

Although powwows are planned and organized by people who are members of tribal communities, Webster believes they are a great way for people to understand each other and reduce hatred and prejudices.

Neenah Mayor Jane Lang remembers a particular moment from a few years ago.

"There was a circle dance, an intertribal. It was so great to see the members of the tribes and our community members all holding hands and enjoying themselves. There were so many smiles," she said. "I would love to see the friendships continue. The powwow is one of my favorite events in Neenah."

Webster agrees. "Our family motto is, 'People fear what they don't know and hate what they can't become.' Powwows share and explain the Native American culture and the intertribal dances show that everyone can participate. I hope this is one step in promoting understanding and acceptance."

This Saturday's event starts at 1 p.m. Musician Clinton Miller, a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, will be at the Future Neenah Farmers Market performing from 10 a.m. to noon. In case of rain, the powwow will be held at the Boys & Girls Brigade.

The powwow, sponsored by the city of Neenah, Future Neenah and Bay Bank, is presented by the Neenah Historical Society and Menasha Historical Society.



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First weeks at new Neenah High: A student's perspective

By Finnar Severstad News contributor

It's been two weeks since the start of the 2023-24 school year, and students have been settling into 500 Rocket Way and getting a feel for the new school.

While there was previously uncertainty over the building and policies surrounding it, at this point students have become much more comfortable with the change. It has breathed new life into the district, with excitement from students and staff alike about exploring what the high school has to offer.

After nearly half a month, those going to the school daily have had a fair amount of experience with the ups and downs of the building, and are starting to get an idea of how the average school day will play out for the future.

Simply walking through the building is enough to fill someone with awe. The sleek modern look, tall hallways and giant windows, and common areas with comfortable seating make it feel more like a college or museum than a school. Many hallways are quite large, meaning students can get through them with ease.

Given there is no central hallway as there was at the old school, hallway traffic is spread out and students don't have much trouble getting around. The exception is the main hallway through the atrium, which even still is an improvement over the Link that existed at the old high school, seeing as the entire student body is no longer traveling the same hallway simultaneously.

While there was initial confusion as to the layout, students have expressed that as of now they have learned the location of



Photo by Jami Severstad

Neenah High School brings a modern look with tall hallways and large windows.

all their classes, with one student saying they understand the layout better than at the previous location. The four academic wings, while identical looking and confusing at first, are relatively intuitive, and the common areas are being used in a differ-

The sports facilities also are impressive. There were people initially concerned that too much of the budget was going into

sports, citing the football field and weight room. Those spaces are no doubt going to be used to their fullest extent, and even as someone not involved in athletics, I'm excited to see people get use out of them. It is a shame there's no pool, but it's an understandable decision considering the expense and the fact that the pool at the middle school is still usable.

By far the largest challenges for most

students are during lunch and after school. Many have complained that they struggle to find a seat in the atrium or dining areas around the school, and the line for lunch takes nearly the entire period to get through. Nearly all students and some parents have seen the after-school mess, when students either have to wait their turn in a line of cars to get out of the parking lots or wade through crowds of confused kids to find their bus.

The good news is that Principal Brian Wunderlich has already addressed the lunch situation, and the traffic issue is something the district will no doubt find solutions for.

With the new school came new policies to keep everyone acting appropriately for the new space. Some include: effectively banning food in classrooms in an attempt to keep the floors clean; asking everyone, including teachers, not to put posters on the walls (for advertisement or education); the subtle switch in the grading system that they tried to implement last year; and the controversial rule disallowing use of cellphones for any reason during class periods.

It seems they have had success with similar rules in a limited capacity – the phone ban was in place at the middle schools last year - and it will be interesting to see the outcome of these rules over time.

It's relieving to see most of the apprehensions eliminated once the building was populated and getting its time to shine as a school, and the community no longer had to rely on so much speculation about how the building will work. Here's hoping it continues running smoothly from here on out.



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ktoberfest offers opportunity to connect with local breweries

Now is the time to support our local craft breweries. Why? Because they need you now more than ever.

As a whole, beer consumption has dropped in the U.S. Not off a cliff, but it's steadily declining. The reasons aren't crystal clear, but here are some things to think about:

- In 2022, overall U.S. beer volume sales were down 3%, and in the first half of 2023, craft beer sales declined by 2% (Brewers Association)
- "(Beer) sales are down. Market share is shrinking. Spirits-based drinks are ascendant." (Slate.com, July 2023)
- Beer is still the most widely consumed alcoholic beverage by volume; however, across the entire alcohol industry, beer is losing market share of retail dollars. Spirits sales in 2022 accounted for nearly 43 percent, while beer accounted for 41.2 percent. That's the first time ever that beer fell to second place. (Statista.com)
- Nationwide draft beer sales (beer consumed on tap at a brewery, restaurant, tavern, etc.) are down nearly 30% from before the pre-pandemic levels, which disproportionately impacts craft brewers that rely more heavily on draft sales (Brewers Association)

That last one really has no one to blame. The pandemic caused most of us to adopt new habits when it comes to enjoying beer. We couldn't visit breweries for a long time, so we erected at-home bars, purchased kegerators, built backyard firepits, expanded our decks, and got really comfortable drinking at home.

Now, it's time to put energy back into Neenah beer-makers, and you won't be



alone. Small breweries across the U.S. are bucking slumping sales trends.

The writer of an independent newsletter about American drinking called "Fingers," Dave Infante, says that small breweries — 70 to 80 percent of revenue coming from taproom sales or onsite carry-away sales — nail the sweet spot for modern beer success. "If you can make a living doing that for you and your three employees, do that all (expletive) day long. Don't get any bigger, ever," he advises.

While we don't know exact sales numbers, that description closely describes our Neenah breweries, Barrel 41 Brewing and Lion's Tail Brewing.

If you are able, fine readers, do what you can to support them. Brewing is an industry for which Wisconsin is known, and their presence adds to the culture of

Make a stop this week for a 4-pack at Barrel 41. Meet a friend to try the newest release at Lion's Tail. Grab a bite to eat from a food truck after work; both breweries regularly have them onsite. Every visit means a lot to these hard-working

Here are some additional upcoming opportunities.

Get a head-start on your Oktoberfest celebrations by going to Badger State



Oktoberfest celebrations last September included this one at Lion's Tail Brewing in Neenah.

Brewing in Green Bay either tonight or tomorrow afternoon. Food trucks, beer specials and "contests," whatever those may be.

Lion's Tail 8th Annual Oktoberfest happens Sept. 22-23 (3 to 11 p.m. Friday and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday). This event is a local treat and as traditional as you can get without being in Munich. The beer hall atmosphere under the tent, the sausages, the polka music, the hammerschlager, the lederhosen and dirndl, the beer! You have two days, so why not go twice? It's THAT much fun.

Sept. 30 is Appleton's Octoberfest (yes, they spell it with a "c" not a "k"). OK, we need to be clear here; this isn't as focused on local beers as we'd like it to be. The presenting sponsor is Spaten, maker of Germany's classic Oktoberfest. The problem? That brewery is owned by the Anheuser-Busch InBev brewery group, the true enemy of craft breweries everywhere. Only a handful of Wisconsin craft brews are represented (Vintage, Potosi, One Barrel, O'so), yet only one Appleton beer will be present: McFleshman's

Oktoberfest. The event does benefit local charities, which is commendable, but more local beers should be featured.

Speaking of McFleshman's Brewing, they're hosting the Fox Valley Lagerfest on Oct. 7, from 2 to 6 p.m. According to their website, they'll be "shutting down State Street," and having "live music all afternoon. Food trucks and games galore." That sounds local ... and lively.

Barrel 41 doesn't have a special event this time of year, but they did release an Oktoberfest beer a week ago.

Among all the beer news and headlines you may be seeing out there, here's one not to worry about. The claim that the Biden administration will limit you to only two beers a week is "absolutely false," according to White House spokesperson Kelly Scully (as much as U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz wants you to believe it). Cheers to you, PolitiFact.com; let's drink up!

We're here for our readers. Let us know which local brewery you're visiting, and we'll meet you there! Or let us know what we should cover in the next W+H=Bcolumn. Email us: wife.husband.beer@gmail.com.



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Mental competency under review in killing of dog

Neenah News

An 18-year-old Neenah man was ordered to undergo a competency examination last week after entering a plea of not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect for allegedly killing a puppy last year.

Elias Ebel is currently free on a \$1,000 signature bond to a felony count of mistreatment of animals causing death. His bond conditions include absolute sobriety, that he have no contact with a witness referred to in the criminal complaint as A.N. and not possess any pets.

A Neenah police report said last September officers received a tip from Fox Crossing police that a puppy had been killed. Officers learned the 6-month-old pitbull named Luna belonged to Ebel's girlfriend.

In August 2022, Ebel, his girlfriend, A.N. and another person lived with an elderly woman on Bridgewood Drive. On Aug. 6, police responded to a report that a young pitbull was tied up outside since the night before, was whining all night and

Documents say police spoke with Ebel, who said the dog wasn't brought in overnight but it was not his responsibility to let her in because it was his girlfriend's dog. The dog was believed to be killed three days later.

A.N. told police that Ebel woke him in a panic, stating that they needed to leave and get rid of the dog because he killed her by accident.

"The defendant threatened to beat up A.N. if he didn't help him and told A.N. they couldn't tell anyone," the criminal complaint stated.

A.N. said he and Ebel put the dog in Ebel's vehicle and drove somewhere near Ebel's grandparents' home on Cumings Lane and hid the body in the backyard under a deck with a pool attached. After they returned to the home, A.N. said Ebel forced him to clean up blood in the garage.

Officers spoke with Ebel's grandfather, who said his neighbor had a deck and pool similar to the description of where the dog was dumped. He and the neighbor said for the past three weeks there was a foul smell and they assumed it was coming from a dead animal.

Police obtained permission to search the yards and located a garbage bag under the neighbor's deck with the decomposing remains of the dog. An examination revealed several of the dog's ribs had been

Ebel told police that A.N. had killed the dog by hitting her and kicking her over the course of two days as discipline for going potty in the house. A.N. denied abusing the dog and said Ebel was responsible for the dog's death and was now blaming it on

In January, Ebel was placed on probation for battering his 16-year-old girlfriend the preceding month while using methamphetamine.

In February, Ebel's probation officer reported to police that he admitted to killing a puppy but wouldn't go into any detail except to say that his personality "Zod" made him do it. Ebel later told investigators that when he drinks or does drugs he hears voices and Zod is an inner voice.

She was able to get out of the vehicle and

According to the criminal complaint, an

officer asked Peters if he was the one who

called 911 and he responded by stating "I

Documents say that while providing

Judge Scott Woldt revoked Ebel's probation in August and sentenced him to time served. On Sept. 1, a mental health professional reported to police that Ebel allegedly admitted to torturing and killing other animals, outlined a plan to kill a random person and expressed thoughts of hurting his pregnant girlfriend's unborn son.

A prosecutor filed a request Sept. 6 asking the judge to modify his bond to a \$10,000 cash bond and to add the conditions that he take all medications as prescribed and that he comply with the 24/7 drug program.

Last week, Judge Daniel Bissett modified Ebel's bond to include the two conditions but left the \$1,000 signature bond in place. Ebel was ordered to undergo a competency evaluation, with the examiner required to submit a report to the court by Oct. 23.

Ebel is due back in court Oct. 30 for further proceedings. He faces a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to 3.5 years in prison if

Man in Waupaca County court for mother's death in Clintonville

call 911.

Neenah News

A 19-year-old man who recently moved from Neenah to Clintonville was in Waupaca County court Monday, facing a first-degree intentional homicide charge for fatally stabbing his 39-year-old mother

Jordan Peters was arrested Sept. 4 after Clintonville police and ambulance responded to a call around 12:30 p.m. where they found a woman on the ground.

Police have not identified the victim but an obituary identified her as Peters' mother, Angela Zahn, of Neenah. Police said

Peters had recently moved to the Clintonoccurred.

Peters

ville area from Neenah and his mother was visiting when the incident Police said Peters

told them he was riding in the front passenger seat of a vehicle being driven by Zahn when

stabbed her" and threw a folding knife to the ground by the officer's feet.

aid to Zahn she told police that her son stabbed her and "he hates me." She was transported to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah, where she was prohe allegedly stabbed her once in the chest. nounced dead.

Documents say Peters told police he had wanted to kill Zahn for about a year and had been planning it over the last

When asked about what happened, Peters stated, "I guess I got really angry and was thinking about the past and got to that breaking point and just stabbed her," documents say.

Peters is incarcerated at the Waupaca County Jail with a \$1 million cash bond. He's due back in court for a preliminary hearing Tuesday.



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Menswear shop finds special fit with personal visits

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

A Neenah man is changing the way men shop by bringing custom fitted suits directly into businesses and homes.

Jon Liesener is a former teacher and coach who decided he wanted to do something different. After spending two years working for a small menswear shop in the Fox Valley, he realized there's few places to get quality men's attire in the area.

"And even though you can go to a box store or a chain for menswear, you're never quite sure if they're going to have what you want and if there's going to be someone there knowledgeable enough to truly help you," he said.

That's where Liesener comes in. He started Suited Menswear in August 2020, bringing the shopping experience directly

"I saw there was a need for more on site services for customers, at their home or office, and then I also saw that there was an opportunity to provide menswear for weddings, where they could own it instead of renting and get a lot more value for their money," he said.

He collaborates to design, measure, order and tailor suits, sport coats, trousers, shirts and accessories.

"It's nice that you don't have to get in your car and cross your fingers that A, they're going to have something in your size; B, you're going to like it; and C, there's going to be someone that actually is going to have your best interests in mind and be able to direct you and educate you

on the right thing to buy," he said.

Liesener's business offers more than custom men's clothing. He strives for exceptional service, measurement and tailoring, and specializes in outfitting groomsmen for weddings, with an average suit package costing \$300.

"I come to the group for the measurement and then I bring everything back to the group and we do a fitting and then I take everything to my tailor, who's also

a local Neenah business," he said.

His services include a wardrobe consultation where he works with customers to go through their closet, incorporating existing clothing into updated looks and deciding what needs to be re-



tired and donated.

"The more versatility I can provide in their wardrobe, the more they're going to wear it and they're going to get their money's worth," he said.

He also offers screen printed and embroidered apparel and accessories. Businesses and schools invite their employees, students and parents to purchase an order directly from an online store he creates, and he takes care of the details.

"So that the school or business doesn't have to worry about collecting money, collecting orders, collecting sizes, I just work with the businesses and the schools to identify what apparel they want and how they want it to look," he said.

The clothing and merchandise come from vendors he has identified as offering high-quality products at a reasonable price point.

"It was important to me when I started, I didn't want to just be the guy that only sold expensive clothes to people who had a lot of money," he said. "I wanted to be able to reach everybody."

Suited Menswear has more than 60 fivestar reviews on Google. Shane Cullian said he used the business to outfit his groomsmen for his upcoming wedding.

"Having known Jon for many years, I can't say enough about his professionalism, how he treats and communicates with his customers, and the lengths he's willing to go to serve those he works with," Cullian wrote in a review.

Tara Suplicki said she has used Suited Menswear for several apparel orders for a local clinic.

"We are impressed every time," Suplicki wrote in a review. "He is so responsive and just an overall amazing person to work with. He gave us such diverse apparel and sizing options to make everyone in our clinic happy."

Some of the positivity around his business is because a custom fit helps boost his customers' self-esteem.

"If somebody's wearing clothes that fit them properly, not only do they feel better, they look better because it's trimmer to their frame," he said. "But also, it shows other people their attention to detail."

Residents can connect with Liesener at



Suited Menswear brings the clothes shopping experience to its customers.

920-252-3364 or suitedwi@gmail.com.

Liesener, 42, lives in Neenah with wife Sara and sons Eli and Zach. When asked what he enjoys about his business, he said it's seeing the reaction on customers' faces when they try on clothing fitted for them.

"You know, there's more to life than what you wear," he said. "But certainly, when you can put people in clothes that make them feel more confident and feel better about themselves, that's a really rewarding part of the job."

Workforce board choses new members

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) elected four members from the public and private sectors to lead the organization for one-year terms in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Laura Biehn was elected board chair. She has been a member of the FVWDB board of directors since 2015 and has been employed at Sargento Foods, Inc., since 2017.

Dale Walker was elected vice chair. A member of the board since 2014, he is employed by Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton as the director of business and industry services, leading the division

JoAnn Hall was elected treasurer and will

also chair the organization's Finance and Personnel Committee. Hall has been a member of the board since 2014 and has been employed as the dean of economic and workforce development at Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac since 2002.

Sarah Pantol was elected secretary. She has been a member of the board since 2019 and is employed as director of human resources at Flash Inc. in Green Lake since 2017.

Brian Kaminske, who served as the chair of the FVWDB board since 2021, has advanced to the role of immediate past chair. Kaminske has been employed by Waupaca Foundry in Waupaca since 1994, currently serving as HR manager.

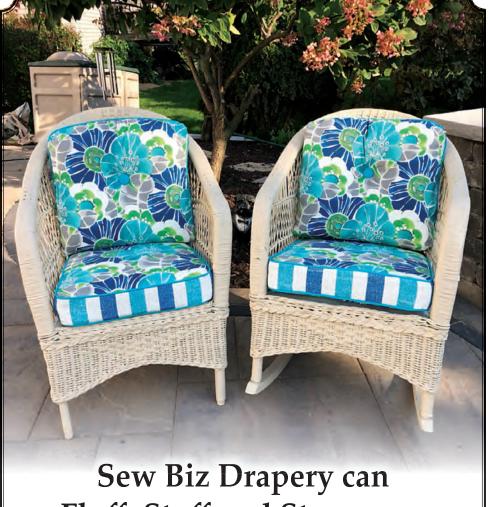
Business news roundup

Volatus Infrastructure LLC is now Volatus Infrastructure & Energy Solutions (VI&E Solutions), the company announced this week, stating that the expanded name emphasizes the company's universal multimodal electric charging stations. The rebrand launches a new website at vie.solutions. The company also signed a memorandum of understanding to work with LEO Flight to provide manufacturing support of LEO's wireless VertiStop charging technology. Neenah-based Volatus will also supply the Indiana-based electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vehicle manufacturer with vertiport infrastructure. LEO Flight is the world's first electric jet flying car company with its LEO Coupe a fully electric, eVTOL flying car.

Quill Creative Studio has been named a Pulse Champion of Young Professionals by the Fox Cities Cham-

ber. This designation recognizes employers who pledge to provide support and a positive work environment for young professionals within their company. Quill Creative Studio is an Oshkosh-based creative branding agency for clients across the industry spectrum from boutique businesses, savvy startups, and local nonprofits to national corporations with global reach.

The Northeast Wisconsin Manufacturing Alliance's 12th annual Excellence in Manufacturing/K-12 Partnerships Awards" will be held Oct. 24 at Resch Expo in Green Bay. The event will spotlight best practices of manufacturing and education collaborations throughout northeast Wisconsin as well as showcasing top talent from local manufacturing companies. The dinner and awards program will start at 6:15 p.m. More information is available at NEWMA2023Awards.eventbrite.com.



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Family shares marathon experience

Neenah News

Four generations of one Neenah family will be participating in Sunday's Community First Fox Cities Marathon led by 82-year-old Carl Jersild, who will participate in the half marathon with family and friends.

Jersild will be joined by his son Howard, who is also an Ironman competitor, granddaughter Lauren Johnson Pearre and great-grandson Ford Pearre.

The elder Jersild will be crossing the finish line as a five-year cancer survivor along with family members of two other generations who have had similar health battles.

Jersild trained with Ironman competitor Dr. John Haselow for his first 26-mile race, the Chicago Marathon, at age 45.

Carl and his wife, Marilyn, are frequently walking the trestle trail, enjoying laps through downtown Neenah and around Kimberly Point, according to their daughter Christine, as works to build and maintain strength and endurance.

"Carl's family has enjoyed cheering him on throughout the years," Christine said in an email. "This one is special. He beat cancer and he's keeping the old man out, as Clint Eastwood says."

School hall of fame banquet tickets on sale

Tickets for the 2023 Neenah Joint School District Hall of Fame banquet are on sale at the District Administration Building and on the district website

Five people to be honored include Jack Ankerson, Byron Bell, Tori Bohannon, Andrew Coan and Marty Robinson. This is the eighth year of the event and brings the total number of members of the Hall of Fame to 49.

The banquet will be held Oct. 7 at Neenah High School as part of home-coming festivities. Tickets are \$30 each and will be on sale until Oct. 2. Tables may be purchased for \$340, which includes sponsorship for the event and eight tickets.

Those wishing to sponsor or purchase a table may contact Amy Gunderson at agunderson@neenah.k12.wi.us or 920-751-6800 ext. 10102.

Speech and debate event set at high school

The Neenah High School speech and debate team is hosting a Rhetoric Revolution showcase night from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Neenah High School cafeteria, where family, friends and residents can watch students perform live.

Unlike traditional competitive activities, speech and debate tournaments are not accessible to the general public.

A showcase gives students an opportunity to demonstrate public speaking, rhet-

oric and political philosophy in front of a broader audience and increase awareness for the program.

A buffet of dessert and snack items, homemade and donated by the members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, will be available.

Admission is \$5 and the show is accessible to all ages. The event is a fundraiser to help to cover tournament entry fees, hotel rooms, transport costs, food and other expenses.



Two Stevens Point Area Senior High School cross country runners help a Marquette University High School student cross the finish line in a meet earlier this month in Neenah that received some national attention.

Runners' help of opponent gets notice

Neenah News

A heartwarming display of sportsmanship took place during a cross country meet in Neenah early this month.

Aloysius Franzen, a senior at Stevens Point Area Senior High (SPASH), finished the boys' varsity race in first place Sept. 1 with a course record time. Close behind was a Marquette University High School runner who was in line for second place when he lost his footing, stumbled and was unable to get back up due to exhaustion, according to a social media post on the SPASH Panthers page.

SPASH sophomore Cooper Erickson was in the third-place spot and passed the Marquette runner right before the finish line. Instead of crossing the line, Erickson

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stopped short and returned to his fallen opponent.

Together with SPASH junior Ethan Olds, they were able to encourage the Marquette student to get back up and the three crossed the finish line together.

"It was such an amazing show of sportsmanship!" SPASH posted on Facebook. "No one would have faulted them for just running past and finishing the race; it is competition after all. The sportsmanship shows the character that we aspire for all of our athletes and many have it."

The SPASH team took first place at the meet. A photo of the three young men crossing the finish line has been shared widely on social media, even making it on ABC's "Good Morning America."

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Light support

Members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 33 supported local police during the Be a Light in Your Community fundraiser at the Culver's restaurant in Neenah recently. The funds will go to the Police Lights of Christmas program, where gift cards are purchased and stocked in squads for officers to give out around the holidays.

Traffic patterns

FROM PAGE 1

in the crosswalk. Today the vehicle went right through, (with a) crossing guard and kids in it. Luckily none of those children decided to run across."

At last week's Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer took up the concerns.

"The first day of travel, there were some challenges both there (at the high school) and at Neenah Middle School, which we're working through," she said. "I'd recommend that parents consider having their children carpool like we're going to suggest they do to the game on Friday night as well."

To create an efficient flow for the Sept. 8 football game against Kaukauna, traffic was one-way throughout the high school site, with vehicles entering at Winchester

David Kujawa + Jennifer Chandler

John + Susan Vette

Road and leaving on the south side of the property onto Larsen Road.

Resident Tamara Hasz spoke at the school board meeting and said there are concerns that there isn't enough parking at the high school and questioned whether there will be even fewer parking spaces when snow removal becomes necessary.

"Given the fact that there's limited walkable access to the high school, it means that there's going to be a lot more students needing them," she said.

Pfeiffer said she was at the high school during the first day of school and there were plenty of parking spaces.

"We have about 1,100 parking spaces at Neenah High School, far more than we had at the current middle school, so I don't envision a problem with that," she said.

Police said they will continue to closely monitor traffic and will re-evaluate as issues arise.



Saturday, Sept. 16

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

Scheels 10K Run/Walk, Ascension 5K Run/Walk, 9 a.m., Riverside Park

Commercial Street Pub Crawl, noon, six locations

Intertribal Pow Wow, 1 p.m., Shattuck

Sunday, Sept. 17

Community First Fox Cities Marathon, ThedaCare Half Marathon, 7 a.m., UW Oshkosh-Fox Cities; finish at Riverside Park

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Hollywood Master Directors: Howard Hawks, 1 p.m., Neenah-Menasha YMCA

Thursday, Sept. 21

Author Meet and Greet: Carmen

Leal, 4 p.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Art After Dark: Renaissance Faire, 5:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

A Durable Dane: The Eddy Hanson Story, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, Sept. 22

Lion's Tail Brewing Co. Oktoberfest celebration, 3 p.m., 116 S. Commercial St. Fused by Numbers: A Women's Collaborative Mural, noon, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Saturday, Sept. 23

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

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

Lion's Tail Brewing Co. Oktoberfest celebration, noon, 116 S. Commercial St.

Friday, Sept. 29

YouthGo's Hallows Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., opens at Memorial Park

Saturday, Sept. 30

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

Future Neenah wine walk, noon, 16 downtown locations

Falls prevention classes offered at YMCA

Stepping On, a falls prevention program proven to reduce falls by 30%, is being offered over seven weeks from 1 to 3 p.m. Mondays from Oct. 2 through Nov. 13 at the YMCA Neenah/Menasha.

Stepping On offers strategies for avoiding falls, including balance and strength

exercises, home safety check suggestions and medication review. The workshop is designed for people 55 and older who have fallen and have a fear of falling.

There is a suggested donation of \$15 to attend. Contact the Winnebago Public Health Department at 920-232-3000 to register.

Standoff lawsuit

FROM PAGE 1

Fourth Amendment.

The city agreed to enter into settlement negotiations with the hostages in February, but later backed out after reviewing damage claims submitted by the parties. In June, the city filed a motion for summary judgment.

Judge William Griesbach presided over the lawsuit. He previously presided over a 2014 lawsuit that alleged police used extreme force during a 2012 drug raid at Eagle Nation, which resulted in a misdemeanor drug conviction for less than a gram of marijuana. He also presided over a wrongful death lawsuit brought by Funk's widow. He dismissed both lawsuits.

In a ruling issued Sept. 5, Griesbach noted the Fourth Amendment guarantees the right of people to be free from "unreasonable searches and seizures" by the government. He wrote in his ruling that under the circumstances, the hostages' detention was reasonable and no constitutional violation occurred.

"Against the background of the ongoing threat and the rapidly evolving situation, it was reasonable for the officers to conclude that it was necessary to detain plaintiffs and briefly put them in handcuffs to confirm the individuals' identities and be able to safely investigate without interference," he wrote.

The city argued that the officers are

entitled to qualified immunity, which asserts that government officials performing discretionary functions are immune from civil liability for constitutional violations "as long as their actions could reasonably have been thought consistent with the rights they are alleged to have violated."

Griesbach ruled that the defendants are entitled to qualified immunity, noting there was no "instant set of facts" that clearly established a violation of the hostages' constitutional rights.

Griesbach awarded summary judgment to the city, ordering that the plaintiffs take nothing and dismissed the lawsuit.

City attorney David Rashid said the judge made the right decision in the case, noting his ruling is consistent with his preceding rulings in favor of the city and its officers for the other companion Eagle Nation lawsuits brought since the event.

"Yes, surely the city is pleased with this decision, as we believe it again serves to vindicate the brave men and women who served as law enforcement officers for the citizens of Neenah that fateful day; and we trust that this will finally close the chapter for the city and our police department in defending such suits for this unfortunate incident," he said.

Attorney Stern didn't respond to a request for comment.

The city expended just under \$45,000 defending itself and the officers in the lawsuit.



Communities

gardina?



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Photo from Valley VNA

Community gatherings

Valley VNA Senior Care hosts a Lyrics and Laughter program for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias, as well as their caretakers, to enjoy music, dancing and singing in a group setting. The free public event promotes camaraderie and shared joy, and allows caregiver to enjoy time with their loved one in a safe environment. The program has been credited with enhancing conversational skills and increased engagement with other participants. The next six-week session starts Oct. 5.

Watershed Alliance sets sustainability projects The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance has work with underserved and minority "We are excited to embark on these

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance has announced two Climate Smart Agriculture projects designed to foster sustainable agriculture farming practices. These projects, totaling over \$12.8 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), will generate sustainable practices that will contribute to climate resiliency and take steps in ensure northeast Wisconsin Farmers can compete in the changing demands of the industry.

One of the projects, made possible through an agreement with Edge Dairy Cooperative, will focus on farming techniques that sequester carbon and reduce runoff to local waters through improved soil health. Fox-Wolf partnered with eight counties to increase staff capacity at the Land Conservation Departments to provide technical assistance to farmers. Partnering counties include Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

The second project, supported directly by USDA, will focus on reducing runoff and sequestering carbon. Fox-Wolf will





work with underserved and minority farmers to gather data that establishes the connections between healthy lands and the quality of the end products. Farmers will be empowered to make an economic analysis of the productivity of their farmland to implement targeted climate adaptation strategies for long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

"We are excited to embark on these Climate Smart Agriculture projects that demonstrate our commitment to conservation and the sustainable future of farming in our region," said Jessica Schultz, executive director of the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

For more information on the projects and Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, visit www.fwwa.org/FarmClimateSmart.

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Rockets look to bounce back against Oshkosh West

By Steve Clark Neenah News

No matter how unpredictable a football coaching staff tries to be, at some point and on some level they all have tenden-

And the more times facing an opposing coach, the easier it is to learn what those tendencies are.

That's a problem this week for Neenah as the Rockets travel to face Oshkosh West in a Fox Valley Association contest at UW Oshkosh's Titan Stadium. The Wildcats are under first-year coach Joseph Ray, which means Neenah had a much more intense week of preparation for the game.

"It's a whole different animal from what it was the year before," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "We have to put a little

Week 5 games

Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games) Neenah (1-1) at Oshkosh West (0-2) Oshkosh North (0-2) at Appleton North (2-0) Kaukauna (2-0) at Fond du Lac (0-2) Appleton East (1-1) at Kimberly (2-0)

more time into preparing than we normally would because we don't have as much film and we don't have a game plan from the year before."

The game plan for the Rockets is pretty straightforward at this point.

With junior quarterback Evan Vanevenhoeven still injured - he is getting closer to returning and took part in some aspects of practice this past week - much of Neenah's offense runs through talented running back Grant Dean.

Dean has rushed for 579 yards and eight touchdowns so far this season and put up 109 yards and a touchdown in the Rockets' 16-9 loss to state-ranked Kaukauna last week. It was the first time in 17 regular-season games Neenah didn't reach double digits.

As good as Dean is, Neenah may need to broaden their attack against a solid West defense.

"Ashton (Van Beek) is doing a great job at quarterback but he's young, so we have to lean on Grant and teams know that. They are starting to gap us out," Jung said. "Oshkosh West has good size and they do a good job defensively. They don't give up

big plays and make you earn your scores."

Van Beek, a freshman, will be making his fourth start in place of Vanevenhoven and is the team's second-leading rusher, while also throwing for 318 yards and three touchdowns. Against Kaukauna last week, Van Beek was limited to just 49 total yards and was intercepted three times.

West's defense has allowed 34 points in each of the past two weeks, but those came in losses to powerhouses Kimberly and Appleton North. The Wildcats allowed just 23 points combined in winning their first two nonconference games.

Offensively, West has struggled a little bit which could open the door for the Rockets to be a bit more aggressive on that

SEE **Neenah football** ON PAGE 15



Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic's football team took a step forward last Friday night.

Now the Zephyrs are hoping to leap back into the win column on Friday with a long road trip to Fall River/Rio.

The Pirates and Zephyrs are both 0-2 in Trailways play so Friday's game which is played in Fall River - will be an important one for potentially earning a WIAA playoff berth. The team that falls to 0-3 would have to win out to be eligible for the postseason.

The Zephyrs - who are 1-3 overall, with their three losses coming to teams who are a combined 10-2 - played well in a 21-18 loss to Pardeeville last Friday at home, even outscoring the Bulldogs 12-0 in the second half to rally from a halftime deficit.

Garrett Weninger threw for 271 yards and three scores in the game - all to Mason Wagner, who led the receivers with 10 catches for 129 yards – but was also intercepted three times.

The Pirates struggled against the pass last week against Lourdes Academy, allowing the Knights to complete 17-of-19 passes for 148 yards. The Knights also racked up 171 rushing yards on Fall River/Rio, which could mean a big night for the Zephyrs' offense.

The Zephyrs would certainly be interested in getting its running game going. Through four games, the Zephyrs have just 131 yards on the ground and are averaging just 2.4 yards per carry. Talent-

Week 4 games

Trailways Conference

(records reflect Trailways games) St. Mary Catholic (0-2) at Fall River/Rio (0-2) Randolph (2-0) at Johnson Creek (2-0) Lourdes Academy (2-0) at Pardeeville (2-0) Cambria-Friesland (0-2) at Deerfield (0-2)

ed back Ashton Post has gained just 41 yards on 16 carries so far this season.

St. Mary Catholic has relied on Weninger offensively and the senior has completed better than 56 percent of his passes heading into Fridays game and has thrown for nearly 800 yards through four games. Daniel Harness, Wagner and Maddux Dwyer are the team's three leading receivers with 23, 14 and 10 catches, respectively.

Defensively, the Zephyrs have been led by John Schults who has already accumulated 67 tackles this season and is coming off a 12-tackle performance. Isaiah Hennessy leads the team in tack-

That defense will have to try to shut down one of the more physical running backs in the conference in Ayden Price, who racked up 110 yards on 30 carries last week and also completed a pass.

Overall, the Pirates threw the ball just nine times against Lourdes Academy, the same number of pass attempts in their past three contests so the Zephyrs run defense will likely be tested.



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Close set losses haunt Neenah against Kaukauna

By Dustin Riese
News Contributor

Neenah's girls volleyball team ran into another tough Fox Valley Association opponent Tuesday night and the Rockets came up short in a close match against Kaukauna, 25-21, 25-17, 25-23.

"It was a very intense match last night. Kaukauna is a very solid and wellcoached team," Neenah head coach Nate Leitermann wrote in an email. "Our girls battled to the end, but ultimately just came up short. We made a run in the third and final set, but just could not get over the hump."

The Rockets built a three-point lead early in the first and stayed in front for most of the set before Kaukauna closed the set with a 9-2 run to grab the lead.

The Ghosts kept the momentum rolling into the second set by jumping out to an 8-3 lead. Kaukauna extended the advantage throughout the set and the Rockets could never get closer than 16-

11 after an Elizabeth Oldenburg ace on a Lilly Romjue kill.

After Neenah grabbed the lead early in the third set, Kaukauna surged ahead and held a tight lead much of the set. The Ghosts later had a burst of points that earned them a 24-15 lead, but Neenah had an answer.

The Rockets put together an 8-0 run, highlighted by several kills from Makenna Baker, to pull within a point only to see the Ghosts get the final point they needed on a sideout to close out the match.

Claudia Merizon led the Rockets with eight kills, while Baker, Ella Nigl, Elaina Kramer and Romjue each finished with

Leia Kersten registered a game-high two aces, while Ella Lindgren led the team in digs with 12 and Ally Corrente added seven.

Corrente also finished with a teambest 11 assists.

Prep sports roundup

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Rockets finish 4-3

at two-day tournamentNeenah posted wins over Sun Prairie

West, Racine Case, Barneveld and The Prairie School at the two-day Kettle Moraine Invitational.

Ella Nigl led the Rocket hitters with 29 kills over the course of the tournament, while Claudia Merizon finished with 25 and Makenna Baker finished with 21. Baker also led the team with 11 blocks.

Elizabeth Oldenburg led the Neenah servers with 14 aces, while Nadia Marchionda finished with 11. Oldenburg also topped the team with 43 digs followed by Ella Lindgren with 29.

Marchionda led the team with 31 assists, followed by Ally Corrente with 22 and Merizon with 17.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Rockets fall in five sets to Tritons

Neenah twice rallied to tie the match but couldn't take the decisive fifth set as the Rockets fell to Green Bay Notre Dame 27-25, 23-25, 25-21, 21-25, 15-10 on Tuesday.

It was the third straight loss for the Rockets who also lost FVA matches to Kimberly and Appleton North over the weekend.

Miles Weaver finished with eight kills and Cam Diekfuss had 12 assists in the 25-16, 25-11 loss to the Papermakers. Against the Lightning, Weaver again led the team with six kills as the Rockets lost 25-14, 25-12.

BOYS SOCCER

Zephyrs stay unbeaten with pair of wins

St. Mary Catholic had three different goal scorers in a 3-0 win over Green Bay NEW

Lutheran on Saturday and followed it up with a 4-0 victory over Kiel on Tuesday.

AJ Groppel, Kieran Barrientos and Jacob Hall scored in the win on Saturday as the Zephyrs outshot NEW Lutheran 27-7.

Nathan Sieske and Groppel chipped in assists.

Against Kiel, Groppel scored just before halftime to boost the Zephyrs to a 2-0 lead and St. Mary Catholic added a pair of second-half goals for the victory. Groppel scored both goals in the first half for St. Mary Catholic, while Barrientos and Will Lawniczak had second-half goals.

Barrientos and Groppel also notched assists in the win.

Rockets post pair of wins at Sheboygan tourney

Ayden Weisbrod finished with two goals and an assist to lead the Rockets to a 4-0 win over Winnebago Lutheran in the first game of the Sheboygan South tournament on Saturday.

Grant Romjue and Owen Wise also scored for the Rockets, while AJ Price and Keegan Vande Hei also picked up assists.

Charlie Bellos and Julian Gallmeier combined for the shutout in goal.

The Rockets followed up that win by beating Sheboygan South 8-1, keyed by seven second-half goals.

Romjue led the Rockets with three goals and two assists, while Wise also picked up a pair of goals. Alex Thayer, Weisbrod and Rylan Mendoza also scored in the game for the Rockets.

Blake Rhodes, Kristian Heyes and Miles Hessenthaler added assists in the win.

Sheboygan South's lone goal came on a penalty kick.

On Tuesday, Vande Hei tallied the lone goal while Wise picked up the assist as Neenah upended Kimberly 1-0 in a Fox Valley Association match.

Gallmeier made two saves in net for the shutout.

GOLF

Oitzinger, Quella lead Rockets at invite

Aubrey Oitzinger and Natalie Quella each finished in the top five as the Rockets finished a close second to Kaukauna at the Sheboygan Invitational on Monday at Town & Country Golf Club.

Neenah finished with a score of 330, just four shots behind Kaukauna in the final team standings. Green Bay Preble was a distant third with a score of 360.

Oitzinger led the way for Neenah with a round of 77, finishing one shot off of medalist honors. Quella tied for fourth with a score of 79.

Annika Searles was the next lowest Neenah golfer with a score of 85 to tie for ninth place, while Angela Hodges finished in a tie for 17th with a score of 89.

On Tuesday, the Rockets grabbed an FVA victory over Kimberly at High Cliff Golf Course.

Neenah finished with a score of 162,

while the Papermakers tallied a 179.

Quella led the team with a 39, followed by Oitzinger and Searles at 40 and Hodges with a 43.

SWIMMING

Neenah picks up FVA dual meet win

The Rockets swept all three relay races and posted a pair of 1-2 finishes to lead the way in a 101-85 win over Appleton West/Kimberly on Tuesday.

Alliyah Lima had a hand in both 1-2 finishes for the Rockets, placing first ahead of Breleigh Maurer in the 200-yard individual medley, while placing second behind Naomi Cortina in the 100-yard backstroke.

Emma Bottensek picked up a pair of wins in the 50-yard freestyle and 400-yard freestyle, while Cici Pirwitz added a victory in diving.

Adding second-place finishes were

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15



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Bottensek finds comfort zone swimming fast

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

With all the splashing and kicking and pounding the water that is done while swimming lap after lap, it would seem that terms like "calm" or "relaxing" wouldn't be apropos descriptions.

But for Neenah senior Emma Bottensek, being in the pool and going through long sessions of cranking out laps, that's exactly what it is.

"I know it doesn't look like it, but swimming does help me relax," Bottensek said. "It helps you through a lot of things and it can kind of calm me down sometimes.

"Honestly, sometimes (when I'm swimming at practice) I just zone out because that's all you can do."

There is something, though, that she would like to do if she could.

"I wish I could sing. I think of songs in my head sometimes," Bottensek said. "Sometimes I think about that I'm doing this to get better and it's going to pay off. I'm not just doing it for fun."

Bottensek is one of the leaders of a talented, experienced Neenah High School swim team that has gotten off to a strong start this season.

She is a three-time state qualifier, who earned her first trip to state in an individual event last season where she placed 10th overall in the 100-yard backstroke.

"It was a little stressful (going to state in an individual event) but I'm glad I was able to do it," Bottensek said. "I knew I was around (10th place) going in but now I know I could have done better. Hopefully I can go back because I'm excited to see what I can do this year."

Bottensek said she got started with the sport at swimming lessons and by age nine was on her first swim team.

But she wasn't an instant dynamo in the

Senior Standout

pool. In fact, it would take her a while before she found her competitive spirit.

"Then I was just hanging out with my friends and being part of a team, which is an important thing," Bottensek said. "I didn't get really competitive until my freshman and sophomore year."

So, what changed?

"I definitely grew a lot and I just started putting a lot more time and effort into it. Then it kind of just hit me that I'm good, but I could be better," Bottensek said. "Coaches started reaching out to me about having potential and I kind of took it from there.

As accomplished of a swimmer as Bottensek is, it would seem that a return trip to state would be a given.

Yet, for swimmers the chance to make it to state comes down to a single performance in a single meet on a Saturday in October and Bottensek does worry about her plans getting derailed.

"I get in my head a lot thinking about messing up and not making it to state," Bottensek said. "Stuff like that is definitely going through my head right now. But it's still early in the season and I'm excited to see what I can do and what this team can do."

Although swimming is mostly an individual sport, there are definitely some team elements to it and that's what Bottensek values the most.

'The biggest thing I take with swim

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15



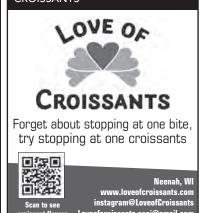
Neenah High School senior Emma Bottensek is a three-time state qualifier who hopes to return to the state meet this season.

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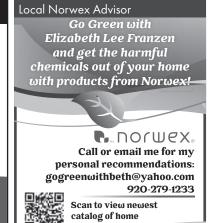


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Avoid common football injuries with healthy steps

ThedaCare Communications

Fall sports seasons are underway, increasing the possibility of physical injuries for student athletes. Here's a review of some of the most common injuries football players experience and some ways to avoid them.

"It shouldn't be surprising that football ranks high on the list of sports where athletes experience frequent injuries. In fact, it has the highest rate of injury of any sport," said Dr. Nickolas Linkous, orthopedic sports surgeon with ThedaCare Orthopedic Care. "As with all sports activities, there are ways to lessen the likelihood of injury. And it is important that athletes, coaches, parents and others help students take steps to stay safe and healthy as the participate."

Linkous said some of the initial steps to help athletes is to ensure young people have warmed up their muscles properly before practices and games. He also said wearing the correct type of protective gear that fits properly, such as helmets, mouth guards, proper shoes, knee pads and shoulder pads.

"Participating in the right conditioning and training programs for the sport and position played is also important," he said. "Overall, athletes should focus on maintaining and increasing flexibility by participating in aerobic activities, strength exercises and endurance drills. Staying hydrated and eating a health diet are also very important."

The most common injuries experienced by football players include knee ligament injuries, foot and ankle injuries, quad, hamstring and groin strains, head injuries, shoulder and neck injuries, and wrist and hand injuries.

Linkous noted that football season for most school and recreational leagues typically lasts only about 10 weeks.

"If someone gets injured and has to miss several weeks, that can be a significant portion of their season, in addition to the physical problems they experience," he said. "That makes diagnosing and treating injuries in a timely manner important."

Concussions are the most serious injury concern for football players. Nausea, dizziness, headaches, loss of concentration, blurry vision, or loss of balance are common signs of a concussion, and the athlete should report such symptoms to their coach or athletic trainer immediately.

Neenah football

FROM PAGE 12

side of the ball.

West was limited to just 88 total yards by the Lightning last week, but Jung sees their offense as growing and could have some new wrinkles in it by Friday.

"We're looking at (being aggressive) but we are also trying to figure out as their offensive is growing what else are they going

to be adding," Jung said. "They have weapons and have some formations that give us some problems. They run an offense that's a little bit different than what we see so that can be challenging."

Neenah's defense, which is being led in tackles by Connor Briones, Luke Jung and Aiden Carey, held Kaukauna to less than four yards per carry on 41 attempts a week ago. The defense also recorded a safety in



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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

Cortina in the 200-yard freestyle, Anna Mulroy in the 100-yard butterfly and Rylie Bauman in the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke.

Lima, Bauman, Kacie Stamm and Mulroy teamed up to win the 200-yard medley relay, while it was Cortina, Bauman, Stamm and Bottensek on the winning 200-yard freestyle relay team. Bottensek, Lima, Mulroy and Cortina teamed up to win the 400-yard freestyle relay.

CROSS COUNTRY

Zephyr girls win title at Nightfall Classic

St. Mary Catholic finished first in the girls Small School Division at the Nightfall Classic on Friday.

Lauren Ripley (second), Claire Higgins (fourth) and Addison Dinka (11th) led the way for St. Mary Catholic.

The boys finished in fourth place led by Benjami Schoeni and Nathan Seiske in seventh and eighth place, respectively, while Ethan Auer and Ian Albino finished 11th and 12th, respectively, for the Zephyrs.

Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

team is teamwork," Bottensek said. "It's all about teamwork. Getting close to your teammates pushes you and that's how you get better. The whole aspect of swimming is very individual, but when you are with a team that's how you move forward."

Bottensek, who is undecided about whether she will swim collegiately, swam on relays at state as a freshman and sophomore and was a member of the Rockets' 400-yard freestyle relay team that qualified for state and placed 16th.

She said there is certainly a difference between swimming as an individual and being a part of a relay.

"When you are with a relay it's so fun.

There is so much energy," Bottensek said. "You see us behind the block and we are laughing and goofing off. We have this whole routine of huddling and yelling and making noise. It gets the adrenaline going."

Not only is Bottensek fueled by her teammates, the strong tradition Neenah has in girls swimming is also something that has been a driving force for her.

"I wouldn't be the swimmer I am today without the tradition," Bottensek said. "Coach (Carrie) Raeth is all about tradition and we follow it because we don't want to let her down. It's great because you get into a routine, you get good at a routine and then you pass it on to the younger kids – I can say that now because I'm a senior - and we get to see them experience it for the first time and it's really exciting."

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A **need** is something you *must* have in order to survive. You need shelter, clothing, food, water and sometimes medicines.

A want is something you would like to have, but can live without. A music player, a computer, a television and a bike are wants, not needs.

ometimes it is hard to decide if something is a need or a want. For example, cake is a food. but it is not a need. It's a want.

Which of these following foods are more wants than needs





What do you think?

In today's world, is education a want or a need?

Standards Link: Economics: Differentiate between needs and wants.

Snack Time Puzzler

The school cafeteria is making students think before they buy a snack. The prices are all written in code!

Code: A = 1 B = 2 C = 3 and so forth until you get to Z = 26

To figure out what each snack item costs, you must first find out what number goes with each letter in the word. Then, add the numbers that "spell" each word to get the price.

For example:





JUICE

BAR

CHEESE GRANOLA

Standards Link: Economics: Understand the difference between basic survival needs and nonessential items.

WANTS and NEEDS

Newspaper Search

Look through the newspaper for pictures

of things that represent wants and needs. Paste them into the spaces below.

NEEDS

WANTS

Scoop Puzzier 🔷 Four students were asked to list their needs. How many did

each student list? Use the clues to complete the chart.

- · None of the students listed more than five needs.
- No one listed the same number of needs.
- The total number listed was 13.
- · Hayley listed three needs.
- Dylan listed fewer needs than Hayley.
- · Kayla listed the most

Standards Link: Algebra: Solve number problems involving addition and subtraction

STUDENT NEEDS Hayley Dylan Kayla Oscar TOTAL

NEEDS THINK **SNACK SHELTER** WATER **SURVIVE** MUSIC VIDEO BIKE

double

WANTS

FOODS CAKE **PLAYER PRICES**

ITEM

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

Word Search

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

Kid Scoop Together:

something to do with money!

Unscramble this list of words. Hint: They all have

NEPYN

CLINEK

MEDI

OADRL

TONADE

HACS

ROBRWO

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions Spelling: Use the conventions of spelling.

Kid Scoo-do Ku

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

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