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INSIDE



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Neenah News

Learning the ropes

Visitors to the Brigade in downtown Neenah try out climbing among the activities offered during the organization's open house last week. See story on Page 4.

Supervisors back pay adjustments

Chair, per diem rates based on wage study

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved a new pay structure for its members at its Tuesday meeting.

Under the existing policy, the county board chair is paid \$5,000 per year and the vice chair is paid \$1,500 per year. Supervisors are not paid a salary but are reimbursed \$50 per committee meeting they attend and \$75 for each board meeting. They may also be reimbursed for mileage, meals and lodging.

Each supervisor is responsible for reporting per diem expenses for reimbursement. The per diem reimbursement adds up, with some supervisors claiming thousands more than others.

A task force of seven supervisors appointed by the board chairman was approved in March to examine the per diem compensation and determine if there are changes that could be made to better suit the county. The panel compared the supervisor compensation of 16 other Wisconsin counties and found the majority offer a salary, with some offering a salary in addition to per diem reimbursement.

The board approved the recommendation to replace per diem reimbursements with salary increases for the chair and vice

SEE **Supervisor pay** ON PAGE 11

Victims' rights law keeps names out of crime accounts

Marsy's Law puts limits on incident reporting

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A 37-year-old Oshkosh man was inside a Neenah gas station last month when he was approached by two officers from the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) unit.

The man had outstanding warrants and was the subject of an undercover investigation. The officers entered the gas station and attempted to take him into custody. The details of what followed have not been publicly released, except that officers responded with deadly force and fatally

shot the man.

The Sheboygan County Sheriff's Office was called in to investigate and issued a statement that a preliminary investigation suggested the man may have displayed a weapon.

More than seven weeks have passed since the shooting, but the names of the man who was killed and the two officers involved are being withheld by officials, citing the constitutional amendment Marsy's Law, intended to protect crime victims.

The Winnebago County District Attorney's Office, Neenah Police Department and MEG unit all declined to release information about the shooting, referring a reporter to the Sheboygan County Sher-

iff's Office.

Sheboygan County sheriff Cory Roeseler declined to release any of the names of those involved.

"There's a lot of victims' rights with Marsy's Law and stuff like that and you're going to see that a lot more in the future where people are reluctant to release the details because in the situation the person is the victim at this point depending on how the district attorney looks at it," Roeseler said.

He noted that depending on the results of the investigation, the person who was shot may no longer be considered a victim and may be a suspect.

"You know, it just gets very confusing and at this point in time we're going to

wait to release the names until we get everything all reviewed," he said.

He estimated it could be another month or longer before the Sheboygan County district attorney completes the review.

The officers involved were a 42-year-old with the Appleton Police Department and a 31-year-old with the Outagamie Sheriff's Office. Both were placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

Marsy's Law is named after 21-year-old Marsalee Nicholas, who was stalked and killed by her ex-boyfriend in California in 1983. One week after her death, her mother was confronted by her daughter's

SEE **Marsy's Law** ON PAGE 11



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Legal support aids Afghan evacuees

Those who worked for U.S. face status lapse

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

The lingering uncertainty of Afghan refugees who worked with U.S. interests during the conflict that ended with the American departure in 2021 and still trying to obtain legal immigration status is interfering with job, education and housing opportunities.

Relief organizations have been offering legal help in that area among their support services that get new immigrants a fresh start in the region depending on their needs and goals. The Fox Valley took in about 200 of the new arrivals from among the estimated 900 to 1,000 who were placed statewide.

Molly Norton Smiltneek, a contracted attorney with World Relief-Wisconsin's Oshkosh office – which took on the needs of about half of the area's Afghan evacuees – has been helping those refugees who entered the United States with a two-year grace period, or parole, gain a reprieve that will let them move toward permanent immigration status.

"Getting people here doesn't mean that they can just start their lives over. Immigration status really does matter," she said in an interview. "They have kind of moved into this life of uncertainty for a long time."

Others in World Relief's Legal Services Department help those attempting to receive green cards under the special immigrant visa program because they can prove they worked for the United States during the long-running conflict in Afghanistan.

"Both groups of evacuees face a great deal of uncertainty due to Congress inaction in providing an immigration path for the people the U.S. evacuated," Smiltneek said. "Instead, our allies have to navigate the overburdened U.S. immigration system that is collapsing under the stress of their applications."

Earlier this summer the Biden administration said it would individually review and extend parole and work authorizations, which started to come in for her clients as those authorizations began to expire. She estimates that all but about 10% have received those reprieves.

The last-minute process overlooked some people who Smiltneek is now trying to help, some of whom are the only breadwinners in their families.

"Even more frustrating, we have two college-age Afghans who have been admitted to UW Oshkosh this fall. Most of their family members received the extension of their parole, but somehow these two, from two separate families, did not," she said.

Lawyers like Smiltneek were brought on to help World Relief, Catholic Charities USA and other resettlement groups, with support from the State Bar of Wisconsin and American Immigration Lawyers Association, to deal with the specific legal challenges of extending and securing legal immigration status that can qualify Afghan evacuees for a permanent resident green card.

Other legal help is directed at gaining special visas for those who can prove they worked for the U.S. in Afghanistan for at least a year, which involves multiple detailed interviews with applicants before they can be advanced toward green card status.

Smiltneek said one goal of the legal coalition was that no Afghan refugee in Wisconsin would have to file for asylum without lawyer assistance.

"There are great things that people are doing to help people out, but it feels like it's not enough," she said, "because we're all working within a system that's not quite set up to help us or help them."

Other evacuees wait anywhere from six months to more than a year after the initial interview process to learn whether they gain asylum and can pursue a green card, five years after which citizenship can be sought.

"World Relief is one of the many refugee resettlement agencies that decided very quickly after the evacuation that, that's how we were going to accommodate the Afghans. But all resettlement agencies are used to working with refugees, not people who were evacuated," she said. "In this situation they were paroled into the United States."

Refugees need to show they qualify to come here and have a well-founded fear of persecution based on the five legal grounds of race, religion, ethnicity, political opinion or particular social group.

Afghan evacuees were processed at military camps around the country, including Wisconsin's Fort McCoy, before they were resettled in late 2021 into communities similar to the process for other emigres but without the legal status of an accepted refugee.

Those now employed around the Fox Valley – such as at Amcor in Oshkosh – are likely to be sending money back home to their families in a country that has a devastated economy with few work or education options.

"They want to be reunified with their

families, but the Afghanistan they left doesn't exist," said Smiltneek, who noted one high school teen she works with whose family was not able to make it to the Kabul airport. He now works at least 40 hours per week on multiple jobs so he can support himself and separated family members.

A worst-case scenario of removal from the country is possible but unlikely with legal and political barriers to that, but Smiltneek said the immediate need is to remove uncertainties over their work and education opportunities as they establish themselves here.

"Our employment people have to get involved because (for) most of these Afghans their employment authorization cards are expiring so employers are contacting us," she said, where they have had to assure businesses that the employees have a reprieve on their status and still authorized to work.

The lack of permanent immigration status also can create housing and education obstacles, including to financial aid opportunities needed to pursue college education. Students cannot be approved for financial aid without proof of their parole being extended.

Smiltneek said one student's father was in the Afghan military, working in partnership with U.S. forces. The other's sisters worked for the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

Educational institutions and other area groups add to the overall effort to help refugees adapt to their new environment. The Winnebago and Outagamie literacy councils help provide English classes, Goodwill has provided skills training and World Relief is looking to partner with FVTC on manufacturing classes for refugees in their native language.

Rock the Block set for Doty Island

The Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity's fall Rock the Block event is underway this weekend on Doty Island in Neenah, helping homeowners make home repairs.

The first \$10,000 of each project is at no cost to the homeowners while they are required to help with their home renovation project in some capacity.

"Homeowners are feeling the pressure from the increasing cost of everyday living," said John Weyenberg, CEO of Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity. "Fortunately, generous donors have really stepped up to meet the need."

The program works on residential and community-based projects providing repairs, including roofing, siding, window and door replacement, porch repairs, exterior repairs and improvements, painting and landscaping. After Rock the Block events, residents have reported experiencing an increased level of pride in their neighborhood as well as a renewed friendship with fellow neighbors.

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Virtual health appointments placed on hold

School rules on telehealth access are questioned

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District is restricting telehealth and teletherapy sessions for students on school grounds and some residents are unhappy about it.

The issue was brought by residents at the Sept. 5 Board of Education meeting and discussed in more detail at a meeting Tuesday.

Telehealth appointments gained popularity during the pandemic, allowing patients to attend medical and mental health appointments virtually.

The school district's policy is to prohibit

telehealth appointments in school buildings or on school grounds during the school day unless it has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the provider. The district's only MOU is with Us 2 Behavioral Health Care of Appleton.

In a memo, mental health coordinator Dr. Mike Altekruise wrote that there are concerns with allowing telehealth visits at school, including not enough staff available to supervise students, no adequate spaces available for privacy and confidentiality, attendance reporting issues when students miss class and equity issues related to students' access to therapy via telehealth.

In addition, Altekruise wrote that the school district has no mechanism to screen the quality and qualifications of providers or a course of action to take if a provider is suspected of harmful or unethical practices.

He also mentioned concerns with Child Find law, which requires public schools to identify and evaluate children who need special education.

"We are committed to Child Find law and there are implications for Special Ed/504 due to a school acknowledging the need for professional services," the memo said.

Former school board member and mental health therapist Amy Morrissey spoke about the district's decision at the Sept. 5 meeting. She said that restricting telehealth sessions on school grounds because of the inability to supervise or provide privacy "seem like hollow excuses given the mental health struggles many students are facing."

Morrissey cited a 2021 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report that found more than 42% of students felt persistently sad or hopeless and nearly 29% experienced poor mental health.

"The district is essentially creating barriers to establish mental health services for students that they have in place," she said.

Morrissey said there are benefits to allowing students access to telehealth appointments on school grounds.

"Telehealth allows for less time away from school and eliminates transportation concerns and restrictions with parents' schedules," Morrissey said, adding that Neenah is the only area district restricting sessions.

She said she's disappointed in the district's decision.

"As a mental health provider in the community, a parent in this district and a former member of the school board, this is disheartening and you should be embarrassed that it's being restricted," she told the board.

Former school board member Tom Hanby shared Morrissey's concerns, noting that telehealth appointments allow students to miss less class time and have more time with their counselors.

"It's difficult to see that huge push that we have on for mental health right now and then we're not doing everything that we possibly can to support it," he said.

Altekruise said the district supports mental health options for students and provides school-based therapy services to underserved students during school, but there are limitations to what staff are expected to do during the course of the day.

"We wouldn't allow medical personnel to come into our schools and provide medical procedures without some sort of liability concerns and I think we have liability whenever we bring folks in from the outside," he told the board.

He said one of the biggest issues is that if

a student becomes dysregulated after a teletherapy appointment the district doesn't have staff to address those challenges. He added that one of his concerns is with a child or teen eloping.

"And not being able to find a kid who you know is in crisis is a huge concern for us and knowing that happened on our school grounds? That's something that I'd have a hard time living with if I didn't do everything in my power to make sure that I crossed my T's and dotted my I's before I did any of those things," he said.

In addition, he said the school doesn't know how many students would participate in the program and it could be hundreds. At that point, he said the district may have to decide what students to turn away.

Board President Brian Epley questioned whether additional providers could sign MOUs with the school so that some telehealth sessions could be provided.

Altekruise said that brings up issues of how providers would be selected, where the district draws the line and how many entities are allowed in.

"Individual private practitioners, agencies, it could be anybody that wanted to come into our building and provide services ... we're talking about anybody that signs the contract, they could come in," he said.

He said he's been evaluating the success of telehealth appointments in other districts and has begun coordinating with mental health coordinators across the state.

"I've just not felt comfortable with the answers that I've gotten so far and for me as a therapist I'm not comfortable with the unsupervised (appointments) and just writing that off and acting like that's not an issue or a concern, and that really worries me," he said.

School district has offer for Jacobsen Road land sale

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) is again considering an offer to sell about 16 acres of land on Jacobsen Road in Fox Crossing after a previously accepted offer fell through early this year.

The land was purchased by the district in 1971 for \$30,000 and includes just over 3 acres of wetlands. Situated between Spring Road Elementary and Clayton Elementary, it was considered as a potential future site for an elementary school.

NJSD listed the land for sale at an asking price of \$550,550; about \$35,000 per acre. The board agreed to sell the land to a developer in November for \$460,000 but that offer fell through due to the buyer having issues securing a loan.

The latest offer comes from Good Faith Funding, which offered \$500,000 with plans to construct a single-family residential subdivision on the land.

The offer comes with the contingencies that the Village of Fox Crossing zone the land for redevelopment and that the buyer tests the bedrock for a depth of at least 8 feet, at the buyer's expense.

The property sale comes as NJSD recently opened a new high school in Fox Crossing and moved the middle school to the former high school site. Roosevelt and Wilson Elementary students moved to Horace Mann and Alliance Charter School moved to Wilson.

The district also owns about 58 acres of land at West American Drive and Irish Road in Fox Crossing that it's been leasing for farming and has listed for sale for \$3.95 million.

NJSD sold the Roosevelt School property at 215 E. Forest Ave. early this year for \$1 million to John Bergstrom, who donated it to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center. The building will be demolished and the property turned into green space.

The district also agreed last month to sell the Shattuck Middle School site to Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations for \$500,000. Sheikh plans to build apartments inside the school and to sell lots for development of single-family homes.

The property sales are expected to offset part of the about \$15 million that the district is over budget to build the new high school, make upgrades throughout the district and renovate the former high school.

The board is expected to vote on the Jacobsen Road sale at its Oct. 3 meeting and has until Oct. 5 to deliver an accepted offer to the buyer, with closing on March 30.



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Brigade keeps doors open to share its youth mission



Neenah News

Brigade members learn the basics of archery during the organization's open house last week.

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Brigade held an open house last week for youth to try out fun activities and learn about the services offered.

Executive director John Benberg said the organization holds an open house each year for families to see the building, meet the volunteers and ask questions. About 200 youth, family members, volunteers and staff took part.

"We're always glad to have people come through, whether it's an official event such as an open house or pretty much any time," he said. "If somebody shows up and we're open, we'll give you a tour."

The Neenah Brigade is the largest Brigade organization in the world, serving children in grades 5-12 in the Fox Cities since 1900. The nonprofit organization has a small paid staff and relies heavily on volunteers.

In the Building Leaders program from October through April, young people attend Brigade at 109 W. Columbian Ave. one night a week and participate in recreational activities, workshops, guest speakers and small group discussions. The cost for the 22-week program is \$125 and scholarships are available.

"We don't want socioeconomic status to be a barrier for youth to join us," Benberg said.

Additionally, the Brigade offers hobby clubs, music programs and camps at Onaway Island, a six-acre site on the Chain O'Lakes in Waupaca. The organization focuses on programming to promote wholesome values and character development.

During the open house, families partici-

pated in indoor rock climbing, archery, karate, an obstacle course and crafts, toured the four-story building and checked out the music program.

Program director Marnie Spielbauer presented an overview of programs, including rifle shooting, art spaces, a kitchen and woodshop. The organization also offers hunter, boater, snowmobile and ATV safety courses.

"There's very, very deep connections that are made in these programs and I think, for me, that's my favorite part because I believe that's why we're here," she said. "There's tons of opportunity and a fit for everybody."

Spielbauer discussed the Brigade's annual wreath sale fundraiser, which begins next month. Brigade youth collect orders and then begin filling and delivering orders starting in mid-November.

Another popular annual event is the Brigade's Christmas Giving program, where staff and volunteers provide clothing, gift certificates, toiletries and gifts to financially disadvantaged local families. More than 1,000 children received gifts through the program last year.

Benberg said there are many great youth organizations in the community, but what the Brigade offers is special.

"The Brigade experience is really unlike any other because the variety of hands-on opportunities under one roof is unparalleled, I think," he said. "And then the fact that we have so many caring volunteers that kids have the chance to spend meaningful time with, that's the one-two combination of impact on the kids that we serve."

DHS urges vaccination updates for fall

The state Department of Health Services (DHS) is asking residents to make a plan to get vaccinated against respiratory illnesses this fall as the updated COVID-19 vaccine has received federal regulatory approval, a new annual flu vaccine is available, and a vaccine and antibody to prevent respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is on the market.

DHS officials said that with cooler temperatures, the risk of respiratory illnesses rises.

"Each fall and winter, viruses like flu, RSV, and now COVID-19, begin to cir-

culate. While they may only cause mild illness for some, they can have a severe impact on our health, causing serious illness and even death. They can also have a severe impact on our lives, causing missed days of school or work," said Kirsten Johnson, DHS secretary-designee. "Fortunately, we have vaccines and treatments that can now help us protect ourselves and those around us from each of these illnesses."

People can check with their health insurance provider to find a doctor, clinic or pharmacy where vaccines will be available.

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Neenah Historical Society photo

Original metro route

An interurban railway connected Oshkosh to Kaukauna via Neenah, Menasha and Appleton. It was maintained primarily by Wisconsin Traction, Light, Heat and Power Co. In 1912 the fare was 2 cents/mile meaning it would cost about 25 cents to go the 14 miles between downtown Neenah and downtown Oshkosh.

St. Mary Catholic seniors garner academic honors

St. Mary Catholic Schools recently announced academic honors for two of its seniors.

Senior Charles Cedergren, son of Christine and Thomas Cedergren, was named among this year's list of National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists.

To be named a finalist, Cedergren and SMCHS will submit a detailed application including his academic record, participation in school and community activities, leadership abilities and honors and awards received. Further requirements include an outstanding academic record throughout high school, being endorsed and recommended by a high school official, writing an essay and earning an SAT score that confirms the earlier qualifying test results.

As a semifinalist, Cedergren's score ranks in the top 1 percent of more than 1.4 million students who took the PSAT last year.

"This level of recognition is a testament to his dedication and pursuit of academic excellence," High school Principal Patti

Fouts said with the announcement.

Honorees who are then further honored as National Merit Scholar Finalists in spring 2024 are eligible for associated scholarships worth thousands of dollars.

St. Mary Catholic senior Ian Alejandro Albino-Gonzalez, son of Juan Anibal Albino and Joanly Gonzalez, earned an academic honor from the College Board National Recognition Programs. The recognition program celebrates the student's hard work and showcases their academic performance.

The academic honors for rural area, Black, Indigenous, and/or Latino students are an opportunity for students to share their strong academic achievements with colleges and scholarship programs that are seeking to recruit diverse talent.

Eligible students are invited to apply at bigfuture.collegeboard.org during their sophomore or junior year and are awarded at the start of the next school year in time to share their achievements in high school as they plan for the future.

Lakeland University, city offer School for Seniors

Lakeland University and the city of Neenah's Committee on Aging will again be hosting the School for Seniors on Sept. 29 with four information sessions at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 140 S. Green Bay Road, starting at 8:45 a.m.

Residents of Neenah and area communities are welcome to attend free of charge.

Event coordinator is Joshua Kutney, Lakeland executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs, who volun-

teers with the Committee on Aging and has organized the event with other committee members to meet the needs of seniors.

Sessions include Protect Yourself from Common Scams, Community Resources Meet & Greet, Artificial Intelligence, and Laughter and Wellness.

Seating is limited. Call 920-886-6125 to RSVP by Monday or complete the School for Seniors RSVP form at ci.neenah.wi.us under Departments and Community Development.

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Suicide prevention comes in compassionate forms

September spotlights challenging subject

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, highlighting a difficult discussion for people to have as we check in and make sure our loved ones are safe.

Winnebago County residents have multiple resources they can use if they or someone they know is contemplating suicide.

In each of the last two years, more than 900 Wisconsinites have died by suicide, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In 2021, there were 905 deaths by suicide and 926 in 2022. The CDC reported people between ages 25 to 44 had the highest suicide rate in 2022.

In Winnebago County there are several resources for individuals contemplating suicide as well as resources for friends and family. One of the best is the 988 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline where people can call or text to speak to a counselor about what they're dealing with or what a friend or family member is going through.

Heather Foust, Behavioral Health Division manager, said people can call or text that number to speak with someone or get resources to help a loved one. She added the text option is used more by young people.

Foust and Tammy Steier, Behavioral Health Deputy Division manager, said they would like residents to know about 988 in the same way people reference calling 911. The 988 National Suicide and Crisis lifeline is a 24/7 resource and is one



Billboards in the area are highlighting the Veterans Crisis Line/988.

of the best places for people to contact if they are thinking about suicide or harming themselves.

If someone calls or texts 988 and the counselor on the line thinks the caller needs immediate support, they will be transferred to the Winnebago County Crisis Line, 920-233-7707.

Other resources include walk-in service at the County Human Services building at 220 Washington St. in Oshkosh. Someone having suicidal thoughts can go to the building and talk with a specialist from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Foust said a lot of people find that simply having social connections can be helpful for mental health concerns, especially for people that feel isolated. She noted it's important for friends and family to know these resources are available to them because the individual having these thoughts is a loved one.

"It touches everyone," Foust said. A study done in 2018 estimates that each death by suicide influences 135 people either by grief or in some way are affected by the death.

Another resource is the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) with offices in Oshkosh and Appleton.

NAMI Oshkosh is one of the few run out of a city as most are run at a county or regional level, but executive director Mary Lord Janness believes Oshkosh needs these resources due to the high suicide rate in the city.

Steier, who has almost 30 years of experience in the field, said there is a link between suicide and mental health, with depression commonly seen in a lot of people.

Foust and Steier agreed there is now less of a stigma surrounding mental health, mental illness and suicide.

"Efforts to reduce the stigma leads to more people asking for help," Foust said. She said it's not perfect, but there's positive progress in talking with someone about suicide or someone harming themselves.

"We still have work to do on reducing stigma," Steier said. "The more that it's out there and talked about, I think, the more that people feel that it's OK to share their thoughts."

One thing people may not know is how to have conversations about suicide with a child or best friend. Even though it may not be comfortable, Foust said it is best to be supportive and direct.

"Don't dance around it," Foust said. "Say the words."

This includes asking the question, "Are you thinking about suicide?"

Rail safety efforts aim to avoid crashes

About a dozen people are hurt in train-related crashes every year in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin State Patrol's September Law of the Month is rail crossing safety to remind drivers and other road users to remain alert at the more than 4,000 public crossings in the state.

This is designated Rail Safety Week, a partnership between law enforcement agencies and Operation Lifesaver to encourage people to make safe decisions around railroad tracks.

State Patrol officers will participate in

Steier added, "The conversation needs to be out in the open."

The National Institute on Mental Health has a five-step action plan to help someone in emotional pain: Ask, Keep Them Safe, Be There and Listen, Help Them Connect and Stay Connected.

It is also a good practice if someone is having suicidal thoughts that lethal items be removed from their situation so they don't have access to items like medications or guns.

Foust and Steier have spoken with people that have attempted suicide who have said, "Thank goodness I wasn't successful, because it does get better."

Steier added the saying is true that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

Family and friends should also know there's an imminent risk if someone is talking about wanting to die or a desire to kill themselves or if someone is talking about feeling hopeless. There are other risks people can look for – mood swings, a change in their sleep or withdrawing from others or activities.

Gov. Tony Evers this month announced the state Department of Health Services is committed to reducing suicides among high-risk populations over the next five years. The CDC is helping states identify these high-risk populations.

In Wisconsin, the program is focused on reducing suicide among men 25 and older who live in rural areas and reducing self-harm among adolescents ages 10-19, Evers said.

The Milwaukee Veterans Administration Suicide Prevention Team has coordinated the posting of billboards in the region advertising the Veterans Crisis Line/988 to increase awareness of the assistance available at all times to veterans and service members, family members and friends.

"It's important to talk about these things because it touches everyone," Foust said. "Anyone reading this article should know they can reach out for help at any time."

If you or someone you know is having suicidal thoughts and is looking for help:

- Call or text 988
- Call National Suicide Prevention Hotline – 800-273-8255
- Call Winnebago County Crisis Hotline – 920-233-7707
- Call NAMI Peer Support Line – 800-950-6264
- Text "HOPELINE" to 741741

Rail safety efforts aim to avoid crashes

Operation Clear Track, an enforcement and education effort focused on specific crossings with significant levels of train and vehicle traffic.

"Operation Clear Track is where we work with law enforcement agencies to educate motorists and pedestrians about being safe around railroad crossings," said Gary Koerner, state coordinator for Wisconsin Operation Lifesaver. "We're going to go all out and try to get that message out there that trains can be great to watch but stay far away. They're very hazardous."

Police SWAT teams take man into custody

The Neenah Police Department and Winnebago County Sheriff's Office SWAT teams assisted the Outagamie County Sheriff's office in serving a search warrant at a residence in the 100 block of Washington Avenue at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday. A male subject known to law enforcement was taken into custody.

Neenah police said there was no threat to

the public and as a precaution, the Neenah Joint School District was notified and area schools were put on a secure notice with additional law enforcement presence.

The district said the doors of Washington School nearby were locked and people were not allowed to enter or exit because of the police presence, and that classes proceeded as usual.

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Calendar of events

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

Monday, Sept. 25

Monday Morning Book Klatch: "Stranger in the Woods," 10 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, Sept. 26

Fused by Numbers: A Women's Collaborative Mural, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
 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., Memorial Park

Saturday, Sept. 30

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
 Future Neenah Wine Walk, noon, 16 downtown locations
 YouthGo's Hallows Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Friday, Oct. 6

First Friday Concert Series, Sean Gaskell, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library
 YouthGo's Hallows Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Saturday, Oct. 7

Mayor's Charity Run/Walk, 8:30 a.m., Loop the Lake Trail
 YouthGo's Hallows Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Sunday, Oct. 8

Sunday Concert Series: Driftless Plowboys, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Business news

Home discount retailer **Big Lots Inc.** is holding a grand opening of its newest store at 699 S. Green Bay Road in Neenah starting at 9 a.m. Saturday. The 35,000-square-foot store will bring as many as 35 new employment opportunities to the community, according to a press release. Shoppers at the grand opening will get 20% off everything, as well as scratch-off cards to the first 100 customers Saturday and Sunday. Big Lots stores are open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

J. J. Keller & Associates Inc. has introduced a consultant-led environmental, social and governance (ESG) Reporting Service to serve companies' performance and initiatives. The service provides a consultant who manages the reporting process, including onsite assessment, staff interviews, collection and review of company-provided data, materiality assessment, lifecycle measurement of components, carbon footprint measurement, and creation of a final report. For more information about the service, visit JJKeller-Consulting.com/environmental-consulting or call 844-803-0172.

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Marathon challenge met with family's team spirit



Neenah News

Dan Langlois and son Gabriel completed the Community First Fox Cities Marathon last Sunday in a team effort.

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

It may have been a year of setbacks for 13-year-old Gabriel Langlois, but the Neenah teen is moving forward at a swift pace after completing the Community First Fox Cities Marathon last weekend.

Gabriel, who uses a wheelchair, rolled across the finish line with father Dan five hours and 53 minutes after the marathon began. Gabriel was all smiles after successfully completing the 26.2-mile race, while Dan said he was ready to eat several bags of M&Ms.

Born with spina bifida, Gabriel is paralyzed below the waist, but that hasn't slowed him down. He's been participating in marathons since he was a toddler and previously completed the 5K Fox Cities Marathon alongside his classmates at Spring Road Elementary.

Last year, Gabriel and Dan completed the Fox Cities Half Marathon along with Gabriel's grandfather, who was 73 at the time. Publicity from the race attracted the attention of the Fitchburg nonprofit Paul's Party, which gave Gabriel a brand-new racing wheelchair.

In the months leading up to this year's marathon, Gabriel would put on up to five miles in his racing wheelchair after school. On the weekends, he and Dan were completing up to 16 miles around Neenah.

Gabriel underwent spinal fusion in June, a surgical procedure where rods were placed along his spine to help straighten out scoliosis. An infection required him to undergo four more operations and weeks of recovery in the hospital.

Dan and wife Sara are no strangers to medical setbacks as Gabriel is one of four



Fox Cities Marathon photo

Gabriel Langlois crosses the finish line at the Community First Fox Cities Marathon.

children the couple adopted who have special needs. In August, Gabriel was in Children's Wisconsin hospital in Milwaukee and the family was unsure if he would be able to participate in the marathon.

After four weeks of recovering at home, Gabriel and Dan were back to pounding the pavement. The Sunday marathon started at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh-Fox Cities in Menasha and ended at Riverside Park in Neenah.

Gabriel pushed himself through, with Dan stepping in to push the wheelchair when he became too tired. The pair successfully completed the race with a few blisters and a sense of accomplishment.

"We were never in it really to win it," Dan said. "We're in it to finish."

Winners of the men's category included John Hollister of Neenah in first, Eric Hofferber of Oshkosh in second and Keith Lindsey of De Pere in third. First place in the women's category went to Breanne Terakedis of Billings, Montana, second place went to Tricia Barden of Marinette and Katie Renz of Appleton placed third.

After months of medical complications, surgeries and hospital stays, finishing the marathon was a sign to the Langlois family that things are looking up.

"Just seeing that he's not letting anything slow him down or get in the way of what he wants to do, even though he's in a wheelchair," Dan said.

When asked how it felt to complete the marathon, Gabriel's face lit up with a smile as he raised his hand and gave a thumbs up.

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Lasagna Love delivers comfort food to communities

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

An international nonprofit is connecting communities and sharing love locally – in the form of lasagna.

Lasagna Love has been making its way around the Fox Valley, with volunteers offering to prepare lasagnas and deliver them free of charge to the doorsteps of local families.

The organization was started by Rhianon Menn in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Feeling helpless



to deal with the struggles of families in her San Diego community, Menn created a platform to connect neighbors for home-cooked meal delivery.

The organization's mission is to feed families, spread kindness and strengthen communities. In the three years since its start, Lasagna Love has become a movement across the nation, delivering more than 350,000 lasagnas and feeding more than 1.5 million.



Maneage

Krueger

Families and individuals can privately sign up at www.lasagnalove.org to receive a meal with no questions asked. Lasagna recipients may also be nominated by a community member.

The recipient is matched with a local volunteer who coordinates preparation and schedules a day and time for contactless delivery of the lasagna, with no money exchanging hands.

Nanette Maneage of Mukwonago is the Lasagna Love regional director for Wisconsin and Minnesota. She started volunteering in 2021 and has since made and delivered 102 lasagnas in her community.

Maneage said there are no requirements or restrictions on who can receive a lasagna through the program. Teachers, working parents, health care workers and those recovering from illness or surgery are among the recipients. Maneage also delivers to those who are homeless.

"You know, I've met people on the corner of the grocery store to drop it off," she said. "I cut their lasagna for them, I give them plates, I give them napkins and I normally take something for them to drink."

Maneage is passionate about providing lasagna to new mothers. She partners with an organization for unwed teen mothers to deliver lasagnas once per month.

"Because it's so important," she said. "It's so hard for moms, especially if they have another younger kid, for them to still pay attention to the new baby and then try to do dinner. It's always a struggle."

Barbara Krueger of Neenah is a local Lasagna Love leader who has volunteered for the organization since June. In that time, she delivered more than 20 lasagnas to area



residents.

"It's a dose of positivity when we need it the most," she said.

And why lasagna?

"I don't know of anybody who doesn't like lasagna," she said. "Lasagna is basically a comfort food."

An important aspect of Lasagna Love is the organization's goal to eliminate stigmas and barriers associated with asking for help.

"Because a lot of times when people need help, they're afraid to ask for help," Krueger said. "It may be embarrassment for whatever reason. It could be income, it could be family issues. I just think people have a really hard time asking for help."

Maneage said she loves that the organization is judgment free.

"It's not financial, it's not need based; a mom could want a night off or just need a break and need some help and we'll deliver a lasagna to her," she said. "It is no judgment."

Lasagna Love currently delivers an average of 3,500 lasagnas each week in the United States, Canada and Australia.

In northeast Wisconsin, 113 volunteer chefs have served 2,055 people with 501 lasagnas so far in 2023. Statewide, the organization has 425 volunteers.

Maneage said Lasagna Love is always in need of volunteers who purchase their own ingredients and donate their time to cook and deliver the lasagnas. The volunteers may use whatever recipe they choose and work with recipients to address dietary requests or restrictions. They may volunteer as frequently or infrequently as their schedule allows.

For individuals who want to participate in Lasagna Love but may not be able to afford ingredients, the organization hosts local food drives to offset the cost.

Under the Club Ricotta program, participants make a monthly donation to support Lasagna Love. Donors can also sponsor ingredients for a local lasagna chef in exchange for a commitment from the chef to cook and deliver a certain amount of lasagnas each month.

One of the recipients that Krueger delivered to was a single mother of three who recently underwent surgery for breast cancer.



Photo from Lasagna Love

Volunteers in Columbus, Ohio, are shown at work preparing meals. The Lasagna Love movement has delivered more than 350,000 lasagnas and fed more than 1.5 million.

"Receiving my lasagna made me feel so cared for and allowed for me to sit and enjoy a long night of good conversation and laughs at the table with my children," she said. "Thank you so much."

Krueger said she often receives messages of gratitude from those she's delivered lasagna to and although she doesn't expect responses from recipients, she appreciates them.

"It's just a good feeling to be able to give and help somebody," she said.

Maneage agreed.

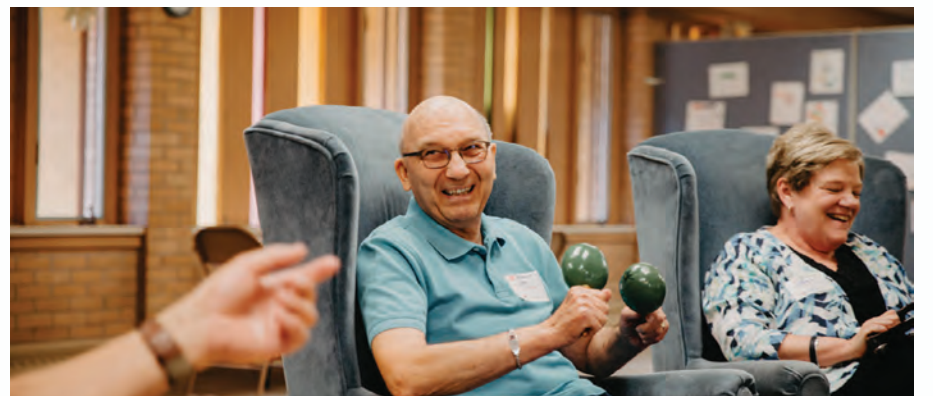
"It feels great," she said. "You know you just made somebody's night a little bit easier and that's a really good feeling."

While Lasagna Love may have been started to bring communities closer together during the pandemic, Krueger said its mission is just as important today.

"We need to help people struggling, whether it be sharing a meal, donating food or whatever it takes, we need to spread kindness and get it back," she said.



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Child care center director gets an early career start

By Casey Britten
FOX VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The support and encouragement 23-year-old Cassie Knauer received during her own education planted the seeds to help her nurture young minds.

As Cassie Knauer started out her senior year at Appleton West High School, her dilemma was a familiar one. “I had no clue where I wanted to go for college or if I even wanted to go,” she explained.

One thing she knew for sure was that she loved taking care of children and wanted to make a career out of it. She had already taken several early childhood education classes in high school, plus she had a connection with the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at Fox Valley Technical College.

“I knew (ECE instructor) Judi Bourin from playing softball with her daughter. Judi gave me great insight about the program,” she said.

So Cassie enrolled in the ECE program, with a 24-credit jump-start: Through her dual credit classes — ECE-specific as well as general education — by the time she graduated from high school, she was already a full semester ahead on her college degree. She graduated from FVTC in 2020, and thanks to her credit advantage and a healthy dose of determination and know-how, Cassie became one of the youngest FVTC graduates to ever direct a child care center. At 21, in 2022 she accepted the position of center director at Discover Little Miracles Child Care Center in Neenah.

“When the opportunity at Discover Little Miracles popped up, I was excited but scared at the same time because I didn’t know if I was ready,” she said. “It was defi-



Cassie Knauer is center director at Discover Little Miracles Child Care Center in Neenah.

ninitely a challenge, but I was up for it and felt very passionate about the administration side of child care and excited about teaching the teachers.”

In her role, Cassie leads all child care operations: enrollment, staffing, classrooms, children and staff files, employee continuing education, activities and state licensing. In addition, she handles all business operations alongside one of the owners, including budgets, payroll, expenses and income. She returned to FVTC to earn her Child Care Administrator certificate, providing her with the expertise and credentials to run a center.

The hands-on, practical education and supportive environment are what Cassie appreciated the most about her FVTC ed-

ucation.

“Through the practicums in child care centers, you get to see what it’s really like in a real-life setting,” she said. “But the number one thing I loved about my education was the amount of support I received. There are so many people who played a role in setting examples, supporting me, and helping me to get to where I am today.”

Two of Cassie’s biggest supporters are FVTC Early Childhood Education instructors Judi Bourin and Kathy Meetz.

Judi recognized Cassie’s drive early on, while she was still in high school.

“Cassie was well aware of her passion and goals and connected with her high school dual credit instructor early in her high school career,” she said. “It’s all about con-

nections and Cassie was able to connect with those individuals who could help her reach her goal.”

Kathy added, “We’re proud of all our students, but particularly the ones that establish a goal and meet that goal. And Cassie had high goals. To be a director of a child care center at 21 years old? That is very uncommon. We’re really proud of her.”

Cassie is happy to be living her dream.

“Ever since I was a young girl, I’ve wanted to work with children. I love supporting them in their learning and watching them grow,” she said. “Every day is different, and every day is important to the children you’re working with. Being a constant in their lives makes the biggest impact on them.”

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Marsy's Law

FROM PAGE 1

killer at a grocery store. She was unaware that he had been released on bail days after the murder, according to the Marsy's Law website.

The well-funded effort to pass the law in states across the country is led by Marsy's brother, tech billionaire Henry Nicholas. A dozen states have passed similar versions of Marsy's Law and in Wisconsin it was approved by 75% of voters in the 2020 spring election.

Margo Kirchner is director of the Wisconsin Justice Initiative, an organization that raised legal challenges to Marsy's Law, first trying to keep it off the ballot and then bringing a lawsuit challenging its validity in court.

Kirchner said that buried in Marsy's Law are provisions that erode the rights of those accused and allow the law to be fashioned as a tool to restrict the release of information in police shootings.

Wisconsin defines a victim as "a person against whom an act is committed that would constitute a crime if committed by a competent adult." The victim label attaches before there's been any determination of facts.

If the victim is deceased, the victim label moves to the person's spouse, parent or legal guardian, sibling, child, person who resided with the deceased at the time of death or other lawful representative.

Marsy's Law provides victims the right to privacy and to "not have his or her personal identifiers ... used or disclosed by a public official, employee, or agency," according to the Department of Justice.

A Department of Corrections administrative directive issued in 2020 notes personal identifiers include the victim's Social Security number, telephone number, street address, post-office box, ZIP code and email address.

In the Neenah shooting, the Sheboygan sheriff's interpretation appears to be that both the officers who shot the man and the man they shot could potentially be victims.

"If the police are claiming to be acting



Neenah News

Public safety officials are shown at the scene of a fatal shooting Aug. 2 on South Commercial Street in Neenah.

in self-defense, then they're claiming to be the victim," Kirchner said, "and if the person shot is claiming that he or she was wrongly shot, that person is claiming to be a victim. So you've got competing people claiming to be victims, and the Marsy's Law language in the constitution doesn't really address what happens in that situation."

The vaguely written constitutional amendment and the question of who qualifies as a victim under Marsy's Law are leading to inconsistencies in its application.

In Oshkosh, the officer who shot Montreal Clark in March and the officer who shot Benson Thao in June have not been identified, while the men who were shot were publicly identified within weeks of the shootings. Clark and Thao both survived.

In Grand Chute, both Pierce Don Lee Folkerts' name and the name of the officer who shot him were released the day after the incident last month. Folkerts survived the shooting.

In Kaukauna, both the name of the officer and the 28-year-old Oshkosh man who was shot last week are being withheld by police. The man was taken to a hospital where he was listed in stable condition.

Winnebago County District Attorney Eric Sparr said that before Marsy's Law, most criminal complaints would have victims' names.

should rethink this in our own heads on what are our constituents are going to say and I bet most of them would say, 'No, keep what you got,'" he said.

Supervisor Morris Cox agreed. He said the county board needs to limit spending, adding that eliminating per diem reimbursements may also remove an incentive for supervisors to attend meetings.

At the start of Tuesday's board meeting, chair Tom Egan announced that District 29 Supervisor Rachel Youngquist resigned from the board, citing the inability to continue committing to attending the lengthy meetings, which often stretch from three to five hours.

Supervisor Steven Binder said the suggested compensation was based on a wage study to determine how to fairly compensate supervisors.

"If you don't think that you're worth what the average supervisor makes, then vote it down; apparently you don't think you're worth much," he said. "You should be worth what the average supervisor gets paid."

Supervisors Conley Hanson and Jim Wise said the compensation change may encourage people to run for a supervisor position who may not have considered it before.

The board voted 28-5 to approve the compensation package, with Zellmer, Cox, Julie Gordon, Timothy Ernst and Jeffrey Beem voting against.

officer's name out in the public may make officers less likely to shoot someone in the future and allows the public to monitor whether there's a pattern of behavior, he said.

"Now, the other problem, though, is if we look at it from the other side, is there an increased risk that a victim is going to suffer negative consequences as a result of a disclosure when that victim is a law enforcement officer that shot somebody?" he questioned. "And I think the answer to that is yes, as well."

Kirchner questioned whether the officers themselves are claiming to be a victim or if departments are applying a blanket rule to police shootings.

Police officers are public servants expected to have greater transparency. Allowing the officers to claim victim status under Marsy's Law could reduce accountability and restrict public disclosure.

"These are all things that are just not answered by Marsy's Law itself by the text of it and are going to be worked out in courts in the future by law enforcement departments, prosecutors, defense attorneys trying to figure out what it really all means," she said.

Kirchner said the lesson to be learned is for the public to know what they're passing when they vote on an amendment because voters may not have been in support of Marsy's Law if they had known it would restrict the rights of the accused and prevent the release of information in police shootings.

"Media groups and nonprofits that are very concerned about open records and things like that - if we rewound three or four years from now, would things be different? I think that had people known how Marsy's Law was going to play out, they may have voted differently."

Supervisor pay

FROM PAGE 1

chair and setting a \$6,000 annual salary for supervisors.

Starting in April, the board chair salary will go to \$16,800 per year; and the vice chair to \$8,400 per year. The increase is because "their work is typically more burdensome and requires many more hours," according to the task force's report.

Committee chairs will be compensated an additional \$75 per month per committee addition. Mileage reimbursement will remain the same.

Non-supervisors appointed to serve on committees, boards or commissions who are not acting within the scope of their employment are eligible for a \$50 payment for a half-day meeting but not more than \$75 per day and expense reimbursements.

The current budget for supervisor wages is \$125,000. The annual cost of the new compensation package is estimated to be just under \$253,000.

At a meeting Sept. 5, Supervisor Doug Zellmer said he doesn't think constituents would be in favor of such a big pay increase.

"This is a pretty steep increase and I think the voters of Winnebago County would not like what we're doing because of the big increase, so I think all of us

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Dean delivers again in win as Rockets eye Lightning

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Grant Dean said he never knows what a game is going to hold for him.

"I just go with what the gameplan is," Neenah's standout junior running back said. "I don't have a plan for a big game or anything. I just play."

That seems to be working well for the Rockets.

For the second time in four games this season, Dean reached the end zone six times in leading the Rockets to a 42-20 win over Oshkosh West last Friday night. He finished with 223 yards rushing on 25 carries – an average of nearly nine yards per tote – and scored five touchdowns while also hauling in a 58-yard touchdown pass on his only reception.

Dean, who also posted six touchdowns against De Pere in the season opener, totaled more than half of the Rockets' yards from the line of scrimmage while scoring on runs of 2, 1, 3, 54 and 1 yards.

"He's a great weapon to have obviously," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "With Evan (Vanevenhoven) down, he's really taken on a big load."

Dean accounted for all of Neenah's touchdowns against West, including four in the first 13 minutes of the game that staked Neenah to a 28-0 lead and West would get no closer than the final score.

Chase Collins had 69 yards on eight carries, while Ashton Van Beek completed 6-of-11 passes for 180 yards. Luke Keller had four catches for 121 yards and set up a pair of Dean short touchdowns.

It was the kind of win Neenah needed following the Week 5 loss to Kaukauna.

"We knew we had to bring energy against Oshkosh West because we came out flat (against Kaukauna) last week," Dean said. "We know we have a tough stretch coming up so we had to get a big one here."

Appleton North will certainly be a step up in competition as the Lightning enter the game with a perfect 5-0 record and are coming off a 42-0 thrashing of Oshkosh North.

The Lightning are averaging nearly 37

Week 6 games

Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games)

Appleton North (3-0) at Neenah (2-1)

Kimberly (3-0) at Oshkosh North (0-3)

Oshkosh West (0-3) at Kaukauna (2-1)

Fond du Lac (1-2) at Appleton East (1-2)

points per game this season, while defense has allowed a total of 41 points this season and surrendered more than nine points just once in five games.

"They are a really physical football team and they are big," Jung said. "They play really good defense so that's a challenge for us. Our offense has been pretty good but they are going to give us some challenges."

Plus, the Lightning may have a little added motivation.

Neenah knocked off Appleton North last season on its homefield, 21-10, and the Rockets figure the Lightning are going to be out to do the same on Friday.

"They are going to be looking for us this year because we got them in a close one last year," Dean said. "Appleton North is a great team and their defense is very stout."

Appleton North's defense may be just as stingy as it was last year when the Lightning reached Level 3 of the Division 1 playoffs, but its offense is proving to be actually better.

The offense scored more than 24 points just once last season and averaged about 15 points per game in Fox Valley Association play. So far this season, the Lightning have failed to score at least 24 points in a game only once and have registered totals of 21, 34 and 42 in starting the conference slate 3-0.

Leading the way for the Lightning is dual-threat quarterback Luke Kritzer, who has completed nearly 70 percent of his passes this season, while throwing for nine touchdowns without an interception. He is also Appleton North's second-leading rusher behind Jack Robinson.

Dual-threat quarterbacks have caused issues for the Neenah defense this season and that was something the Rockets would



Neenah News

Luke Jung (15) and Will Radies (23) wrap up an Oshkosh West ball carrier last Friday night.

be focusing on this week in practice.

"We've had a quarterback like that in Week 1 and we didn't handle it that well," Jung said. "(Kritzer) gives them another dimension. Our pass defense has gotten better but we have struggled containing quarterbacks so we are really going to work hard on that this week."

The matchup against Appleton North will be the first in a tough stretch for the Rockets.

Following the showdown with the Lightning, Neenah will travel to Kimberly to take on the top-ranked Papermakers before returning home to tackle an improving Fond du Lac squad that beat Kaukauna last week. The Rockets lost to the

Ghosts in Week 4.

Although the three-week stretch could determine the overall success of the season for the Rockets, Jung said his team excels at taking the one game at a time approach and they will need to focus on each game as it comes up in order to have a chance for wins.

"That's always been our mantra the last couple of years, just one week at a time. We focus on becoming better each day and going 1-0 each week," Jung said. "Even if you asked some of our players, they may know we play Kimberly and Fond du Lac next, but I bet they don't know order because they know that we have to take care of this week first."

Zephyrs aim to even Trailways record at winless Deerfield

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

St. Mary Catholic head football coach Josh Young was pleased to see the way his team played in the second half against Fall River/Rio last Friday.

The Zephyrs rallied from a 14-0 deficit with three second-half touchdowns to claim a 20-14 win over the Pirates for the

team's first Trailways Conference victory.

Young would just like to see his squad start better and not be forced to come from behind to collect a victory.

"It was good to put together a good second half and pull that one out," Young said. "We still haven't put together four quarters of good football. It seems like we put it together in the second half, which has played

a role in some of the games we lost."

Outside of the Week 1 win over Rosholt, the Zephyrs have outscored three of their four opponents in the second half after facing a double-digit deficit at halftime or in the second half of each of the four games.

Against Ozaukee, Pardeeville and Fall River/Rio combined, the Zephyrs outscored those three opponents 40-7 after halftime but managed just six points in the first half of those games.

Young is hoping against Deerfield the Zephyrs can play well both before and after halftime.

"If we can put together two halves of football, that would go a long way to help us pull things out," Young said. "Instead of having to play from behind and try to make something happen in the third and fourth quarters."

The Demons enter the game with a 1-4 record and have dropped all three Trailways games, including a 42-0 defeat to Cambria-Friesland last week.

But Young believes that Deerfield is better than their record indicates and will pose some challenges to his offense.

"Defensively they seem pretty solid," Young said. "I think we present a few things that they haven't shown that they can cover on video, some of the things we do. I think

Week 6 games

Trailways Conference

(records reflect Trailways games)

St. Mary Catholic (1-2) at Fall River/Rio (0-3)

Lourdes Acad. (3-0) at Johnson Creek (3-0)

Fall River/Rio (0-3) at Pardeeville (2-1)

Cambria-Friesland (0-2) at Randolph (2-1)

a lot of it will come down to making adjustments during the game after we see how they react to what we are doing."

The Demons feature running back Jackson Drobac on offense. Drobac is averaging about five yards per carry and is also Deerfield's second-leading receiver with 11 catches.

The Zephyrs counter with a defense that surrendered 216 rushing yards against Fall River/Rio but forced three Pirate turnovers in the game.

Linebacker John Schultz led the team with a whopping 19 tackles, while Daniel Harness finished with 16 tackles and an interception he returned for a touchdown.

Schultz also was one of the offensive leaders for the Zephyrs last week with 78 yards rushing and a score, while Ashton Post had 80 yards of total offense and hauled in a 26-yard touchdown pass from Maddox Dwyer for the go-ahead touchdown.



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Cleveland remains mainstay on Rockets offensive line

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Don't be surprised if after a win by the Neenah High School football team there is a stream of singing coming from the victorious locker room.

And leading the musical celebration is likely to be senior center Nate Cleveland.

"I really love singing," said Cleveland, who has participated in choir in high school. "After wins, we have a good time in the locker room and it ends up like karaoke in there."

So, could the next boy band sensation come from the new locker rooms at 500 Rocket Way?

"I'm thinking (the group) would include Will St. Clair, Chase Collins, Sam



Cleveland

Scheer and maybe Grant (Dean)," Cleveland answered when pressed for a lineup that also included himself. "I think we would all get pretty hyped together."

Cleveland's singing ability may remain a mystery to most outside of the Neenah football program but his ability on the field in a Rocket uniform isn't in question.

The senior is in his third year starting on the offensive line for the Rockets – with nearly all of the starts at center – and has garnered all-Fox Valley Association each of the past two seasons. Not many sophomores start on the line in the FVA and even fewer are ranked among the best in the league, but Cleveland has certainly earned the recognition he's received.

"He's also a two-year captain and that doesn't happen very often in our program. The kids just really respect him," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "He's smart so he is able to make all of the line calls and than he's an aggressive and really good blocker. He's been the rock for the offensive line for the past two seasons."

Cleveland said he has played up and down the offensive line since he started football in the third grade, but honed in on center in seventh and eighth grade. When he made the jump to high school he stayed at that position.

His first varsity start in the opener of his sophomore season wasn't even at the position where he was most comfortable.

Senior Standout
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"Blake Dietzen got hurt so a week before the scrimmage I got called up and was told to start taking varsity reps (at left guard)," Cleveland said. "I was hesitant but once I got playing the first couple of games, I realized I could do this. I realized it was going to be a challenge, but I just had to work through it."

Cleveland started the first games of the 2021 season at guard before another injury allowed him to move back to his more comfortable spot at center.

The 5-foot-10, 255-pounder has been there ever since.

"That's really awesome that we have a kid who is a dependable snapper and he always has been," Jung said. "That sets the tone for everything we do."

Playing center is more than just snapping the ball, though.

There are pre-snap reads to make and communicate with his fellow linemen and then, of course, there is the need to keep those in the different-colored jerseys off his teammates.

"You are kind of the leader of the offense along with the quarterback," Cleveland said. "It's not easy. Once you snap the ball, then you have to go block the biggest guy on the field. It's just tons of reps at that position to really progress the snapping and hitting at the same time. It's not something everyone can do but once you get it going it's not that bad."

In his three seasons, Cleveland has helped pave the way for some pretty impressive Rocket runners, too.

From quarterbacks Matt Jung and Evan Vanevenhoven to running backs Jase Jenkins and Grant Dean, Cleveland believes that having talented ball carriers can make a line look good.

"You just have to get your hats on people and let them make plays," Cleveland said. "That's one thing I have been blessed with in my high school career is having really good backs."

And Cleveland and his linemates may not be the ones crossing the goal line with the ball cradled in an arm, but they certainly can celebrate their contribution



Neenah News

Neenah senior Nate Cleveland is a three-year starter on the Rockets' offensive line with nearly all of those starts coming at center.

to such plays.

"Being on the offensive line, you don't get talked about too much. You just kind of stick your nose in there and start grinding," Cleveland said. "We aren't the biggest group of guys and we just try to

work hard and outwork our opponents. Seeing those long runs shows off our hard work."

One thing that has helped Cleveland

SEE **Senior standout** ON PAGE 15

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

St. Mary Catholic second at invitational

The St. Mary Catholic girls volleyball team finished second at the Trucker Invitational in Clintonville on Tuesday, falling to Shawano in the title match.

The Zephyrs went 2-1 in pool play beating Gillett and Shawano, while losing to Ripon. St. Mary Catholic then topped Clintonville in the semifinals.

Leading the Zephyrs at the net were Lauren Fischer with 33 kills, Eliana Brenn with 19 kills and Audrey Norville with 15 kills. Sammie Weiss posted 45 assists in the tournament, while Stella Virlee finished with 34.

Topping the St. Mary Catholic defense was Olivia Noel with 33 digs followed by Fischer with 28 digs and Norville with 21.

The Zephyrs also collected a Big East Conference win Tuesday, rolling past Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah 25-13, 25-12, 25-23.

Fischer finished with 13 kills and nine digs while Brenn tallied eight kills and five aces. Virlee and Weiss totaled 15 and 13 assists, respectively, while Virlee added five digs and Weiss had five aces.

SWIMMING

Rockets roll past North/Lourdes in dual

Aaliyah Lima led off a 1-2-3 finish in the 200-yard freestyle and Neenah dominated the FVA dual meet against Oshkosh North/Lourdes by posting a 124-45 victory.

Lima, who also finished first in the 100-yard freestyle, was followed by Anna Mulroy in second place and Addy Benner in third in the 200-yard freestyle.

Naomi Cortina also won a pair of events for the Rockets, placing first in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard breaststroke. Rylie Bauman in the 50-yard

freestyle, Sydney Hansman in diving and Emma Bottensek in the 100-yard backstroke also collected wins.

Adding second-place finishes for the Rockets were Breleigh Mauer in the 50-yard freestyle, Hannah Slabbert in diving and Kacie Stamm in the 100-yard freestyle.

Neenah also finished first in all three relay events.

GOLF

Rockets secure a one-shot victory over Fond du Lac

Aubrey Oitzinger carded a 37 to earn medalist honors and Neenah finished with a team score of 172 at Rolling Meadows to edge Fond du Lac by one stroke in a Fox Valley Association dual meet.

Natalie Quella added a 42 for the Rockets followed by Annika Searles with a 45 and Annabelle Hodges with a 48.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Neenah swept by Fond du Lac

The Rockets came up short in a Fox Valley match against Fond du Lac on Tuesday night falling at home to the Cardinals 25-20, 25-12, 25-22.

Miles Weaver led the Rockets with 12 kills, while Ben Donaldson had four and Benjy Bell added three. Cam Diekfuss led the team with 20 assists.

Leading the team in digs was Malachi Wang with 14, while Weaver had seven.

Over the weekend, Neenah went 2-4 at the Dave Hash Invite, hosted by Kaukauna High School.

The Rockets topped FVA rival Appleton West in the first match of the tournament and then picked up a win in three sets against Greenfield, with losses coming to South Milwaukee United, Waukesha West and Mukwonago.

In the win against Greenfield, Weaver totaled 17 kills with Donaldson added

eight and Diekfuss racked up 34 assists. Donaldson led the way against the Terrors with five kills, while Weaver had four.

On Monday, the Rockets won the first set against Madison West but lost the match 20-25, 25-16, 25-15, 25-23.

Weaver had 15 kills, followed by Bell with seven and Julian Kuehn and Donaldson each with six. Diekfuss had 28 assists, while Weaver led the team with 11 digs.

CROSS COUNTRY

Klawikowski, Veith lead Rockets at Winneconne

Braedy Klawikowski led the Neenah boys team at the Winneconne Invitational on Tuesday, placing seventh overall.

Jackson Holzheu in 18th was the next Rocket finisher followed by Sam Kleisner in 39th, Owen Martin in 31st and Gideon Benner in 34th.

Neenah finished fourth among 13 teams in the boys race.

The Neenah girls placed fifth overall, with Brooke Veith scoring the best finish for the Rockets in 19th place.

Claire Gloudemans added a 35th place for Neenah, while the rest of the scoring runners were Callie McElroy in 42nd place, Kat Russell in 43rd place and Elise Braaten in 45th place.

SOCCER

Rockets top Cardinals to stay unbeaten in FVA

Blake Rhodes and Owen Wise each tallied a goal as Neenah improved to 6-0 in the Fox Valley Association with a 2-0 win over Fond du Lac on Tuesday.

Wise and Keegan Vande Hei earned assists in the match.

Neenah also scored a pair of wins over the weekend at the Marshfield quadrangular, beating Wisconsin Rapids 3-0 and Marshfield 5-2.

Rhodes had a pair of goals, while Vande Hei, Wise and Preston Schamens also

scored for the Rockets against Marshfield. Ayden Weisbrod finished with three assists.

Vande Hei and Alex Thayer were listed as the goal scorers against Wisconsin Rapids while Justin Gallmeier finished with two saves in goal. Gallmeier also had three saves against Marshfield.

Zephyrs pick up pair of victories

Kieran Barrientos and Braeden Brenn each scored a goal to lead St. Mary Catholic to a 2-0 nonconference win over Xavier on Saturday.

The Zephyrs followed up that win with a 9-1 thumping of Random Lake in a Big East Conference match.

Barrientos finished the game with a hat trick, while Carlos Verhoff scored a pair of goals in the win. Also finding the back of the net for St. Mary Catholic were Grant Bergstrom, Luke Fairweather, Harry Bergstrom and AJ Groppe.

Groppe and Grant Bergstrom each finished with three assists in the game.

TENNIS

Rockets cap FVA dual meet season with win

Neenah wrapped up the conference season with a 6-1 win over Oshkosh West on Tuesday.

Individual match results were not available.

St. Mary Catholic continues to roll

The Zephyrs won all seven matches over Fox Valley Lutheran and Menasha at a triangular on Saturday, while the team did not drop a game in any of the seven flights against Kiel on Tuesday.

St. Mary Catholic is ranked 10th in the latest WIAA Division 2 poll.

Individual match results were not available.

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Senior standout

FROM PAGE 1

develop on the football field is another sport he participates in.

Cleveland has been a member of Neenah's wrestling team since he was a freshman and sees a carryover onto the football field.

"Your footwork gets a lot better, the mental edge you have from wrestling carries over to football and helps you a lot. I've seen my progression," Cleveland said. "I give credit to my (wrestling) for helping me with my football career. Wrestling is good for football and I'd like to see more guys coming out for the sport."

Cleveland narrowly missed earning his first trip to the state wrestling tourna-

ment last February but is hoping to make that trek his senior year.

"I've been working my whole high school career for that and it is a really big goal I've had," Cleveland said. "I will work as hard I can to get down there and if I can get down there, I think I will do pretty well. I just have to trust in my coaches and trust my effort."

Before wrestling ever begins, Cleveland does have a football season to finish up and focus on.

The Rockets are once again in the hunt for a top finish in the Fox Valley Association but their goals bigger than just taking home a conference crown.

"All we can do is try to get better every single week and limit the mistakes and communicate better," Cleveland said. "We have to get better over these next four weeks to get into a position where

we can make that trip down to Madison. That's the goal. We've been dreaming about it for a while."

Beyond high school, Cleveland isn't set on a future but would like to continue to play football. He said following his senior season he will see what his options are.

Playing in college would be something Cleveland believes he would enjoy, but it will be hard to beat the experience of being a lineman in the FVA.

"There's definitely a part of me that doesn't want to give up football and I think there is a real shot I could keep playing," Cleveland said. "Being a lineman in the FVA is tough because the conference is no joke. There are a lot of great football players. I think it's special because not a lot of people can do what we do and it's an experience I've really enjoyed doing."

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Obituaries

Mark A. Grunwald

Mark A. Grunwald, also known to many as "Gruny", passed away unexpectedly on



September 8, 2023, at home. Born June 16, 1956, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, he was the youngest son of late Ralph and Rose Mary Grunwald. Mark graduated from Oshkosh North High School, and attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, graduating with a bachelor's degree in business. In September 2022, Mark retired after 11 years of owning Mark and Susie's Piggly Wiggly, and 47 years of working at other Piggly Wiggly locations.

Mark loved and was so proud of his

children Sara, Michael and Jennifer, and he enjoyed watching them grow into successful adults. He cherished the little moments with them, whether it was chatting with Sara about current events, watching Michael coach his son's baseball games, or going to the movies with Jennifer. While his retirement was short, Grandpa Gruny's greatest accomplishment during this time was cheering on his grandson Eli at every baseball game he played this summer. And, his granddaughter Gemma could always count on him having a pocket full of fruit snacks.

Mark was dedicated to his work, and with the help of his wife Susie, created a community- and customer-focused business with Mark and Susie's Piggly Wiggly. Always going above and beyond for their customers and others, Mark prided him-

self in helping people. Mark also enjoyed the special relationships he had with all of those he worked with over the years.

Anyone who talked to Mark, knew his love of sports, especially baseball and the Milwaukee Brewers. One of his favorite pastimes was to watch, listen, or go to Brewers games with family and friends. Mark liked to stay active, and in retirement he took up biking which quickly became part of his daily routine, riding all over Oshkosh.

Mark is survived by his wife, Susie, daughters Sara (Aaron Zakowski) Grunwald and Jennifer Grunwald, son Michael (Larissa) Grunwald, grandson Eli and granddaughter Gemma, brothers Tom (Diane) Grunwald and Tim Grunwald,

sister-in-law Christine Grunwald, nephews Eric (Cheryl) Grunwald and Nathan (Taegan) Grunwald, and niece Jill (Carlos) Talbot. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Jerry, and nephew Matthew.

A celebration of life will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home, 100 Lake Pointe Drive in Oshkosh, from 11am-2pm on Sunday, October 1, 2023. Stop by anytime, wearing your Milwaukee Brewers attire. In lieu of flowers, monetary or food donations in Mark's name can be made to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry.



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Kid Scoop

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Why do I cry?



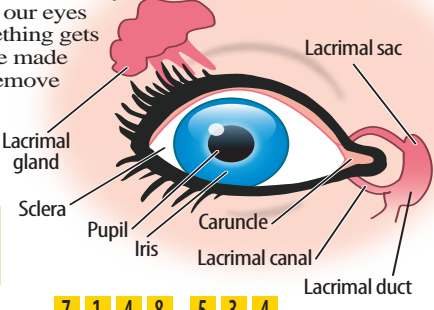
Everyone Cries Sometimes

Crying is natural! Sometimes crying gets the sadness out, and after a good cry, we feel better. There is a good reason for this. Tears contain some special ingredients that make you feel better.



Why do tears come out of my eyes?

Your eyes always have tears. There are special glands near your eyes that make tears. Most of the time, they make just enough to keep our eyes clean and healthy. If something gets in your eye, more tears are made that rinse your eyes and remove what shouldn't be there.



What's in tears? Use the code!

1 = A	4 = L	7 = S
2 = E	5 = O	8 = T
3 = I	6 = R	9 = W

Mostly **9 1 8 2 6**. A little **7 1 4 8 5 3 4**, and something that kills germs. When you blink, your eyelids spread the tears around your eyeballs.

The **5 3 4** helps keep the **9 1 8 2 6** close to your eyes.

Happy Tears

When people have a lot of happy feelings inside, that can bring out the tears, too. Circle the things that sometimes make you cry happy tears.

Seeing a family member who lives far away

A happy ending in a movie or book

Laughing with your friends

Winning an award

Brain to Glands!

A part of your brain turns the "tear faucet" off and on. This happens when you feel strong emotions—happy and sad.

Your eye glands can produce more than half a cup of tears in minutes. This is too much for the eye glands to hold, so the overflow tears fall out of your eyes. Sometimes, overflowing tears go down your nose. That's why when you cry, your nose might run.

Circle every other letter to discover what the glands that make the tears that flow to your eyes are called.

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

Three Types of Tears

Follow the maze to learn about each.

BASAL TEARS
Made to protect your eyes when smoke or onion fumes get in them.

REFLEX TEARS
Always in your eyes to keep them moist and clean.

EMOTIONAL TEARS
Made when you're feeling emotional, such as happy or sad.

How big is the gland that produces tears? Hold this page up to a mirror to discover the answer!

dnslp lsmlpsl A ns to exsz ert zi .bnomls

Happy/Sad

Happy and sad mean opposite things. Look through the newspaper for words that mean the opposite. Glue the words onto cards and play a game of fish where a "match" is two words that mean the opposite.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify antonyms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

SCIENTISTS CLOSER SUPPER

Crocodile Tears

Replace the missing words!

Long ago, a _____ told a story about crocodiles crying to get people to come _____. When they did, **SNAP!** _____ time!

People started saying certain kinds of crying are "crocodile tears." It means a person is just pretending to be _____ to get something.

Strangely, _____ have noticed that sometimes crocodiles **DO** indeed cry when they _____, but not for emotional reasons.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Understand the origin of idioms.

Double Double Word Search

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

AWARD
BLINK
BRAIN
CLEAN
CRY
EYES
FEEL
GERMS
GLANDS
HAPPY
NOSE
PUPIL
SAD
TEARS
WINNING

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

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

Kid Scoop Together

What's the difference between sweat and tears?

Your body makes liquids. Some of those liquids are tears.

Some are sweat.

While they are both wet, they do different things.

Tears keep your eyes from drying out. They can also help you feel better.

Sweat comes out of your skin to keep you cool on a hot day. Sweat also cools you down when you exercise.

About how many tears do our eyes produce each day?

We produce about 5-10 ounces of tears every day.

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Write On!

Is it okay to cry?

What is your opinion? Write about it!

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