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Water records lawsuit dismissed

Clayton sought Neenah's report on area growth

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A lawsuit brought by the Town of Clayton against the city of Neenah over its refusal to turn over a 2021 water study was dismissed last week after Neenah released redacted records to Clayton.

The lawsuit was dismissed with prejudice

– meaning it can't be refiled – and without the city paying costs or other damages.

At issue was a water distribution capacity and growth study report from 2021 that Neenah refused to turn over to Clayton in May in response to an open records request.

The report examines the western and northwestern sections of Neenah and determines the best course of action to add capacity to the water system.

The city's stated reason for denying the request was because the report was consid-

ered confidential, protectable as a trade secret and that permitting record access would result in harm to public interest.

Clayton sued in June, arguing Neenah's denial of the open records request was improper and violates Wisconsin's public records law. The town asked the court to issue an order compelling the city to immediately produce the report and asking for attorney fees and damages.

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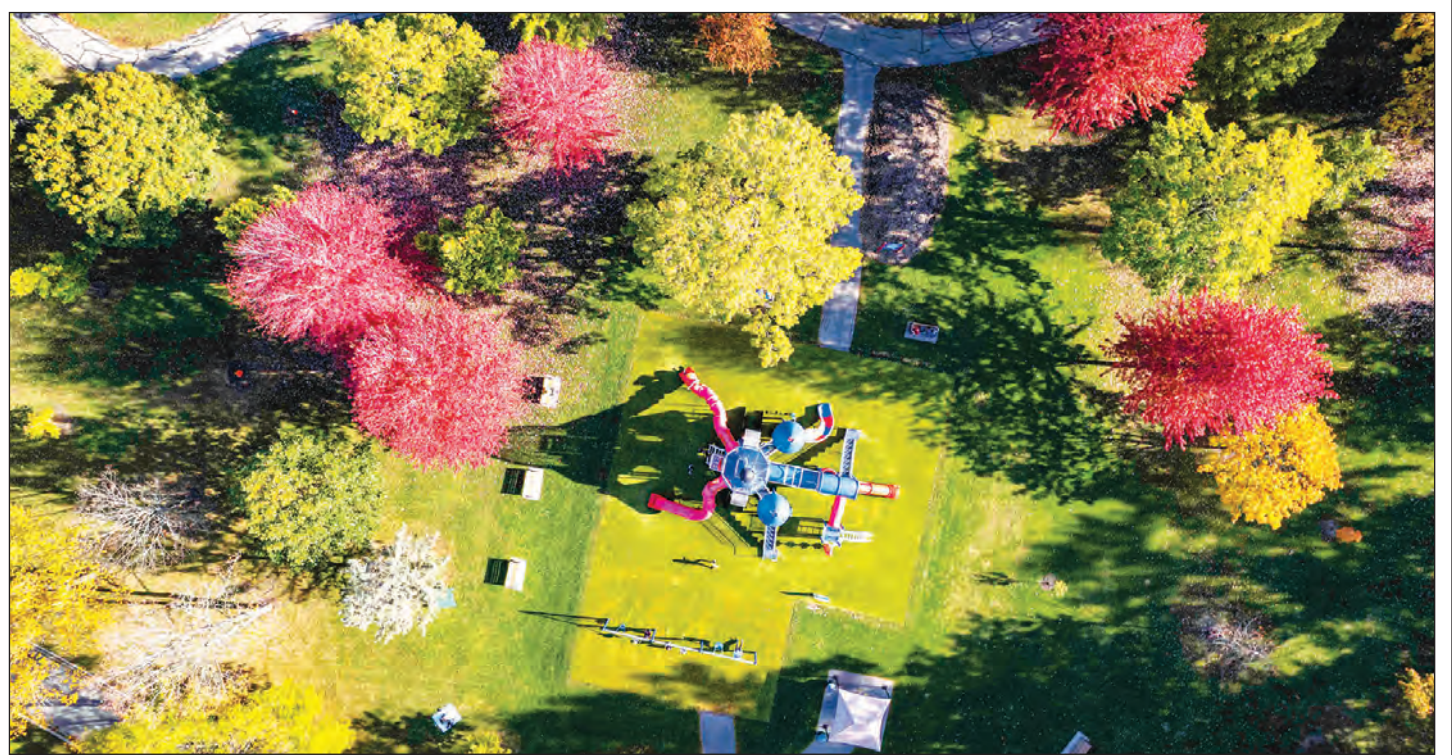


Photo by David Hall

Playground backdrop

Nestled amid the vibrant tapestry of autumn leaves, Riverside Park in Neenah transforms into a haven of beauty during the fall season with hues of fiery reds, golden yellows and rich oranges surrounding the playground area.

Art and craft fair thrives through organizers' energy

Helping Hands event serves NHS students

By Patti Lee
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

For some folks, helping others is just in their DNA.

Shelley Aaholm, Neenah High School World Languages educator, is in her 16th year as coordinator of the Helping Hands Art and Craft Fair along with the Orbit Closet that was created in 2011.

"In high school, Brian Hoffman, our social studies teacher at Sheboygan North, started a Christmas giv-



Aaholm

ing program. Once I got involved with that I just always wanted to do it," Aaholm said.

She stayed with that program throughout high school and the experience still informs Aaholm's life.

"Helping Hands is a huge, year-round volunteer endeavor," she declared. "And I'm OK with that because I'm good at it. I know what I'm doing and I enjoy the challenge."

Before the first craft fair in 2008, Neenah High used to receive a \$1,000 grant from a local big-box store in the form of a gift card. Kept on hand by the principal, it was a rainy-day fund for student needs such as food items, clothing, shoes or personal products. In 2007, the school received an envelope from said store with a check for



Submitted photo

The Helping Hands Art and Craft Fair is held annually in the Einerson Fieldhouse at the now Neenah Middle School.

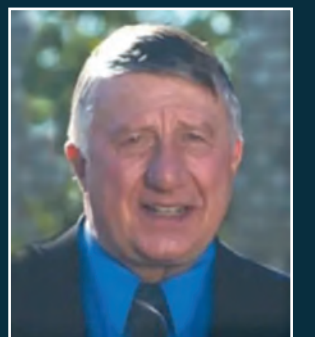
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General information/customer service: Jennifer Grunwald
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Publisher

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

Editor

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

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Special water dispenser tabbed as coolest

Neenah News

Plexus Corp.'s smart water dispenser, which offers filtered, flavored and sparkling water while replacing single-use plastic bottles, is this year's Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin.

The Bevi Bottleless Water Dispenser is manufactured by Neenah-based Plexus, which was crowned the winner of the eighth annual contest hosted by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) and Johnson Financial Group last week. The competition drew more than 187,000 votes to determine the ultimate winner among more than 100 products nominated representing dozens of manufacturing subsectors.

After an initial popular vote round and a bracket-style Manufacturing Madness tournament, four finalists competed for the Coolest Thing Made trophy.

"The Bevi Bottleless Water Dispenser combines sustainability and innovation to vastly reduce the carbon footprint of its end users, embodying our vision to help create the products that build a better world," stated Todd Kelsey, chief executive of appliances, electrical and electronics manufacturer. "This product, manufactured at our facility in Appleton, is representative of our global team's dedication and commitment in bringing that vision to life."

Bevi provides users the ability to customize their hydration, and users have been estimated to save more than 400 million single-use plastic bottles to date.

"Not only do our manufacturers produce a wide variety of products used all



Photo by Work Design Magazine

Two versions of Plexus Corp.'s Bevi Bottleless Water Dispenser are shown.

over the world, they provide high-paying jobs, invest in their communities and bolster our state's economy," said WMC president Kurt R. Bauer. "Congratulations to all of this year's nominees and especially to the entire team at Plexus."

Johnson Financial Group president and CEO Jim Popp added, "Plexus' un-

wavering commitment to craftsmanship and innovation is a testament to the spirit of manufacturing in Wisconsin. Thank you to WMC for continuing to showcase the dedication to quality and excellence from all of our finalists and reminding us of all of the Coolest Things made in Wisconsin."

County park bench dedicated to late supervisor

Neenah News

A memorial has been placed in Winnebago County Community Park in remembrance of the late county board supervisor Mike Norton.

Norton was passionate about politics and devoted his life to trying to help others through the government venue, according to his obituary.

For 23 years Norton served on the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors representing District 20, which encompasses the western side of Oshkosh between Witzel Avenue, Knapp Street and West 15th

Avenue. His county board service was the second longest among active members.



Norton

Board, Wisconsin Counties Association on Health & Education Committee and

National Association of Counties.

Norton is credited with starting Winnebago County's annual wheelchair wash that he also co-chaired.

The program helps residents ensure their wheelchair is serviced and cleaned for safety.

Norton passed away unexpectedly in April at age 58.

A Mike Norton memorial bench and tree was placed in the south end of Winnebago County Community Park at 501 east County Y during a ceremony last week.

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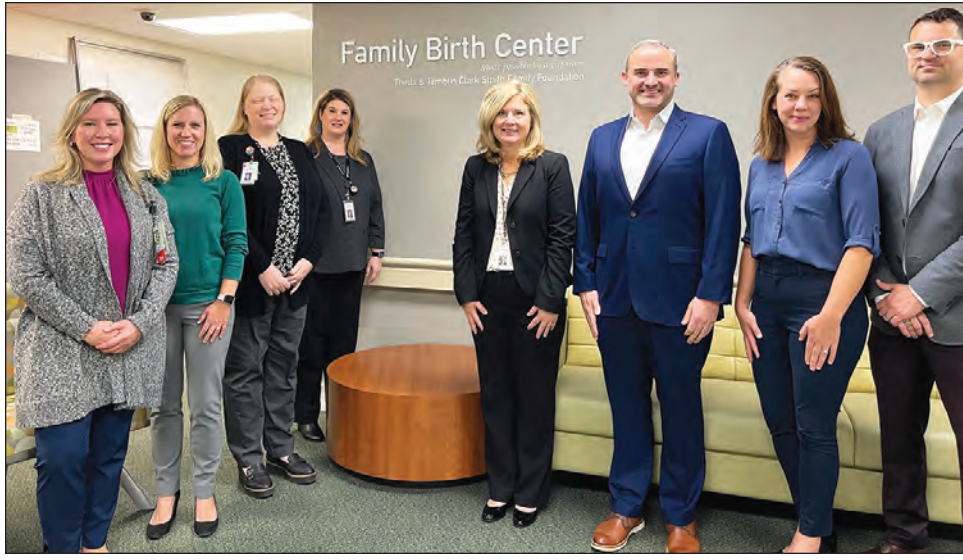


Photo from ThedaCare

Dedicating the new Theda Clark Peters Family Birth Center last week were (from left) Kelly Otto, clinical supervisor; Kimberly Goodacre, birth center manager; Grace Gonzalez, vice president of nursing; Barbara Beuscher, chief philanthropy officer; Lynn Detterman, senior vice president of ThedaCare South Region; and Pierce Smith, Joy Radford and David Radford from the Theda and Tamblin Clark Smith Family Foundation.

ThedaCare dedicates its new family birth center

Neenah News

To recognize the 114th anniversary of ThedaCare opening its doors, the health system is updating the progress of the next phase of its modernization project at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah with the newly named Theda Clark Peters Family Birth Center.

Theda Clark Peters directed a significant portion of her estate to be used to build a hospital in Neenah after her death. On Oct. 18, 1909, Theda Clark Hospital first opened on the 6th birthday of her daughter.

As part of the Neenah hospital's \$100 million modernization project, the Theda and Tamblin Clark Smith Family Foundation donated funds toward the updated birthing center.

"The gift was a fitting contribution given Theda Clark Peters' tragic death from complications during childbirth," said Joy Radford, foundation executive director. "This event shaped Theda Clark Smith personally and philanthropically. The foundation wants to honor that desire to care for the community, and in particular, the women, children and families who will benefit from the birthing center."

Families will notice updated rooms in some areas, including modern furniture for partners and family members supporting new moms and babies.

ThedaCare announced last October the creation of an Obstetrical Emergen-

cy Department (OB-ED) and Hospitalist Program in the birthing center with comprehensive care for expectant mothers. Women who are more than 16 weeks pregnant will go to the obstetrical triage area in the OB-ED for evaluation without waiting for the patient's doctor to arrive on site.

The next areas of focus for the modernization include Main Street, where key diagnostic outpatient services will be located on the first floor; and a new dining area on the main floor for visitors and team members. The full project is expected to be completed early next year.

Vinnie's Pantry opening set Nov. 16

Neenah News

The grand opening for the new Vinnie's Pantry scheduled to take place Thursday has been rescheduled to 1 p.m. Nov. 16.

St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) director of operations Jeremy Pingel said issues with the new location arose that needed to be corrected before opening.

The food pantry is free to residents of Neenah and Menasha. Construction began in July on a new 27,000-square-foot location at 1421 S. Commercial St., next door to the SVDP resale store, which is where the pantry is currently.

Pingel said the pantry is still in need of food and monetary donations to meet the needs of the community.

Information on donating is available at svdpneenah.org.

Direct care clinic opens in Neenah

Neenah News

Triple T Health, a new direct primary care clinic serving Neenah and the Fox Cities area, is now open at 163 E. North Water St. in Neenah.

Unlike traditional primary care practices, a direct primary care facility makes health care affordable to people regardless of whether they have insurance.

Founded by Dr. Jacqueline Koski, Triple T Health does not bill through insurance companies and doctors can work directly

with patients. The clinic offers fee-for-service care, along with most typical procedures, labs and medications at or below regular retail prices.

Patients will be billed directly and can pay a monthly membership fee to receive benefits. Patients receive direct-to-doctor access, extended visits, and some diagnostic and procedural services at no extra cost.

To learn more, call 920-215-0022, contact drkoski.com or go to www.DrKoski.com.

Holiday for the Horses fundraiser planned

Beaming Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted services, is holding a Holiday for the Horses fundraising event from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel in Neenah.

This gala will be hosted by co-emcees Stacy Engebretson of WBAY and Jim Webb, owner of Krueger's True Value Hardware in Neenah. Guests will enjoy a dinner, live music, raffle baskets, auctions, giveaways and photos with Sparkles, Beaming's mini horse mascot.

All proceeds will be used to support Beaming's equine support programs for

children and adults with diverse abilities, veterans, troubled and hurting youth, children and families affected by trauma, and seniors living with dementia and Parkinson's and their caregivers.

Children and adults who participate in equine support programs will speak at the event about the impact Beaming has made on their lives.

Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased at givebutter.com/holidayforthehorses2023.

More information is available by contacting Katie Samuelson at incbeaming@gmail.com or 920-851-6160.

Sturgeon spearing license deadline nears

Spears interested in harvesting a lake sturgeon from Lake Winnebago during the 2024 sturgeon season must purchase their license before Tuesday.

While there are unlimited licenses available for Lake Winnebago, applicants for an Upriver Lakes tag have already been authorized and have until the start of the spearing season to purchase a license.

Residents and nonresidents can purchase a license through the Go Wild system (gowild.wi.gov) or at license sales location. License sales help fund sturgeon management activities on the Winnebago system.

The 2024 sturgeon spearing season will open Feb. 10 and run for a maximum of 16 days or until any of the predetermined harvest caps are met.



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Young girl works through challenges amid an active life

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

If you saw Averi Conner playing a prank, cheering on her big sister at a hockey game or reading a book, you'd have no idea that she experiences a host of medical challenges.

But each night when 8-year-old Averi goes to sleep she begins having uncontrollable seizures; on average between 30 and 50 per night.

Now the family is hoping the community will come together to support Averi by helping to purchase a special bed that has the potential to return her independence and improve her quality of life.

Averi lives in Fox Crossing with parents Ashley and Fred and 12-year-old sister Mackenzie. Her medical diagnoses include autism, epilepsy, sleep apnea, doose syndrome, lennox gastaut syndrome, apraxia and global developmental delay.

Despite Averi's medical challenges, the Conner family has done their best to give her a normal life.

The Spring Road Elementary third-grader is an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors Unit 33. She makes cards and care packages for deployed military personnel and sings carols at assisted living facilities during the holidays.

Before her epilepsy became severe, Averi was chosen as Little Miss Neenah and went on to be named America's Little Miss Wisconsin Toddler.

In recent years, Averi's seizures have increased in frequency and intensity, requiring her to occasionally wear a helmet to guard against injuring herself.

"At a moment's notice, there's no trigger and no signs of it happening, it's like somebody just hit the off button and she collapses

to the ground," Ashley said.

From the time Averi goes to sleep until she wakes up, she continues having seizures throughout the night that last anywhere from a few seconds to a few minutes. At the three-minute mark, the family administers an emergency medication to stop the seizures.

Because the seizures primarily occur when she's sleeping, Averi is at a much higher risk for sudden unexpected death with epilepsy, referred to as SUDEP. The Centers for Disease Control estimates about 1 in every 1,000 people with epilepsy experience SUDEP each year, with most of the cases occurring during or immediately after a seizure.

Since Averi began experiencing nighttime seizures about two years ago, Ashley has stopped sleeping in her own bed and begun sleeping with Averi on the couch. The family recently learned of the Cubby Bed, which would provide a secure environment for Averi and allow Ashley to return to sleeping in her own bed.

The Cubby Bed has mesh and fabric doors to protect against falls, padded protection to guard against injury and safety sheets to guard against entrapment. The bed features a camera, mic, speaker, environmental sensors, circadian light and a safety alert system.

"It would send me alerts and let me know if there's movement, any sound, any increase in body temperature, because it has an infrared sensor in it," Ashley said. "Also, we can do voice talk so I can hear her and I can talk to her through the camera if need be."

The bed is full size and Averi would be able to use it long term.

"Averi will have her independence back and live a semi-normal childhood with be-

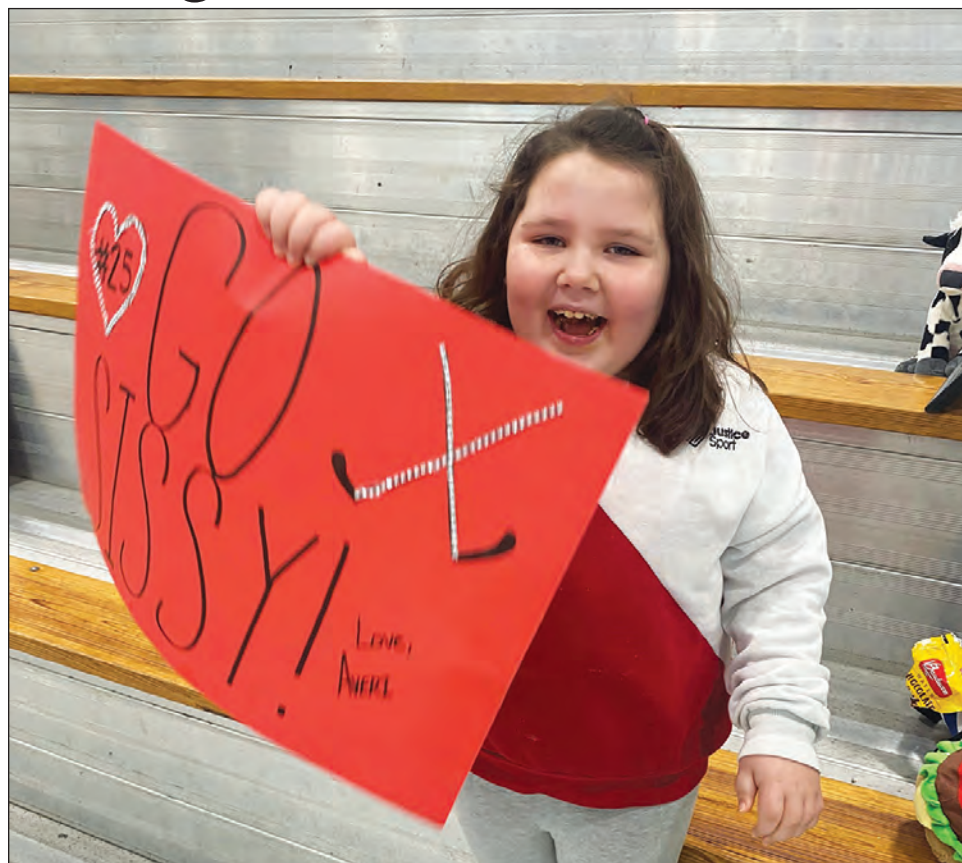


Photo from Ashley Conner

Averi Conner of Fox Crossing cheers on her older sister Mackenzie at a recent hockey game.

ing in her own bed," Ashley said.

The total cost for the bed and mattress is around \$9,000. The Conner family spent months applying for insurance to cover a Cubby Bed, which included submitting letters from Averi's pediatrician, neurologist and sleep doctor.

"They all said that Averi needs this bed in order to live a longer life and have a safer sleep area," Ashley said. "It would help with her medical monitoring because they can actually see what happens and it's basically a medical necessity for her."

Unfortunately, insurance denied coverage for the bed.

"So now we must either let Averi continue sleeping on the couch with mom or pay for the bed out of our own pockets," Ashley said. "Having a medically complex child is already a struggle financially, so having this added to our pockets is even more of a strain."

The Conner family has begun fundraising and is hopeful the community will support Averi by helping to purchase a Cubby Bed. Donations may be made at gofundme.com/help-averis-sleep-safe or by donating to the "Help Averi Sleep SAFE" fund set up at Community First Credit Union.

During Sunday's Green Bay Packers game and the Nov. 12 Packers game the Conner family will be selling tickets for a 50/50 raffle and prize baskets at The Dome at 1338 S. Commercial St. The family is also accepting donations of raffle baskets for the fundraiser.

Another way to support the family is to purchase a piece of a Mickey Mouse puzzle that Averi picked out. Each piece is \$5, with the family accepting cash or Venmo donations to @Ashley_Conner. Those who purchase a piece write their name or a note on the back and once all the pieces are sold the puzzle will be put together, glued, framed in a shadow box and hung next to Averi's bed.

"That way she can flip it over and see the names or see the picture and then she'll always have that memory of the people that cared about her and that helped her sleep safe," Ashley said.

Stacy Beduhn of Sweet Creations by Stacy home bakery in Greenville is assisting the family by donating 10% of cookie decorating kit sales through the end of the year. The cookie kits must be pre-ordered by visiting www.sweetcreationsbystacy.com or the business' Facebook page.

"When health insurance will not cover things needed in your child's life, that's when people need to come together and help out," Beduhn said.

Ashley created a Facebook group called "Averis Fight Against Epilepsy" to update the community on Averi's journey to getting proper treatment.

The Conner family believes a Cubby Bed is one step in the path to helping Averi be a normal child.

"She's just a very happy kid and we want to keep her around," Ashley said. "We're trying to get this bed so we can keep her safe and help her live a long, happy life."




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Pets' final resting place at issue with shelter move

Cemetery fate arises with property change

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The fate of a 57-year-old pet cemetery is uncertain with the Neenah Animal Shelter moving to a new location next year, leaving some pet owners wondering what will become of their late fur friends.

The shelter was just 4 years old when the Memorial Pet Cemetery was started as a way to raise funds. Situated on the northwest portion of the property at 951 County G, the cemetery parcel was considered low land that wouldn't support a building.

Sandwiched between the shelter building and a pond, the cemetery takes up a large portion of the shelter's green space. It is not fenced in and doesn't have a private entrance or parking. Visitors park in the shelter's lot and walk between the building entrance and a dog exercise area for access.

About 1,000 burial plots were sold there between 1966 and 2005. Some have markers, while other pets are buried in unmarked spaces. But now owners are learning the cemetery may not be their pet's final resting place.

Next year the shelter is moving to a brand-new location less than a mile away at 2475 Progress Court and it plans to sell the current property. The cemetery creates a challenge in trying to market the building and property around it.

Board president Mary Setton said the shelter has been receiving inquiries about the plans for the cemetery.

"We understand the sensitivity of the



Neenah News

The pet cemetery at the existing Neenah Animal Shelter includes about 1,000 burial plots.

cemetery issue for those who have pets buried there and will treat this with utmost respect," she said.

Robin Cleveland was one of several residents who commented on the shelter's social media post on the topic last week.

"It's hard to lose a fur baby," she said. "Then to hear we might lose their final resting place is beyond heartbreaking."

Ginny Frank said she has a dog buried there.

"I don't think it should be disturbed," she said. "It's a sacred place."

David Hartman said his first family dog was buried in the cemetery in 1989.

"We have a marked grave and I (and) my children and great-grandchildren have stopped out there," he said. "We never expected it to change. It would be nice if the entire property could be made into a pet cemetery."

Niki Langohr-Hahn said not all the pets buried there could be relocated, noting her family's two dogs are in unmarked plots.

Paula Jansen told Neenah News her dogs Maxwell and Sneaker were buried there in the 1970s.

"When momma buried them there, we felt it was forever," she said. "Where will my family pets end up?"

Comments on what to do with the pet cemetery largely centered on keeping it in place, expanding it or turning it into a dog park or conservation area.

Jansen suggested that donors could purchase the property, remove the building and make the cemetery larger.

"We all know how everyone loves their pets here," she said. "Selling gravesites would pay for any maintenance needed."

But some residents noted the challenges involved.

"Who is going to maintain the property?" Donna Rasmussen questioned. "The shelter doesn't have the money to do that. Will those who want to keep the property mow the lawn, etc. Also, the sale of the current property could help with the deficit for the new shelter. I think we need to care for the living animals first."

The nearest area pet cemetery is Forrest Run in Sherwood, which was started in 1984 and owned by Patrick Fahrenkrug, who also owns Kessler-Fahrenkrug Funeral Home in Neenah.

Fahrenkrug said about 500 pets are buried at Forrest Run and an additional 12-15 pets are buried there each year. Pet cemetery lots are sold for \$500, which includes a burial fee and a concrete foundation. If the family chooses, they can also purchase a marker.

Forrest Run has four sections, with one

containing burial plots and the remaining sections reserved for future development. A perpetual care fund is in place and the land is deeded as a pet cemetery so it can never be used for anything else.

"It's set up just like a human cemetery with the idea that it will never be abandoned," he said.

Fahrenkrug said the majority of Forrest Run's business comes from the two pet crematories operated on the five-acre property. Forrest Run partners with 25 area veterinary clinics to provide pet cremation services.

"I can tell you from the point of Forrest Run that the pet cemetery itself, as a standalone business, would not be able to operate as just a pet cemetery," he said. "The cremation business supplements the pet cemetery."

Forrest Run has three full-time employees who operate both the cemetery and crematories. In summer months, Fahrenkrug said about 30% of the staff's time is dedicated to maintaining the cemetery grounds.

Fahrenkrug said pet cemeteries like that at Forrest Run are important to grieving pet owners.

"For people that want to have their pets buried, they just want to make sure the place they bring them is going to be there forever, otherwise they wouldn't spend the money to do it," he said.

Fahrenkrug declined to comment on the Neenah Animal Shelter's pet cemetery but said he has offered his services as a consultant while the shelter staff navigates the process of determining what will happen to it with the property slated to be sold.

The shelter is holding listening sessions at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday in the Neenah Public Library's Shattuck Room for residents to provide feedback on what will become of the pet cemetery.

Executive director Cindy Flauager said the shelter is primarily interested in hearing from those who have family pets buried there.

"Wanting to be sensitive to the folks that entrusted their fur babies' last resting place to us, we are looking for the best solution to this difficult situation," she said. "What are our options? We would like to hear from all of you, especially those of you that have your loved pets buried in the cemetery."

Those unable to attend the listening sessions may send their thoughts, ideas and concerns to Flauager by emailing executivedirector@neenahanimalshelter.org.



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Veterinary services adjusting to meet growing demand

Advice offered for better pet care experience

By Cheryl Hentz
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Last week, we looked at the significant problem of a veterinary shortage in the United States, including in our neck of the woods, and the many things causing it.

Some local veterinarians are not currently taking on new patients unless the owner is an established client adopting another pet. Others are accepting new clients, while others say they are just taking it one day at a time.

But there is some good news on the horizon.

Valley Veterinary Hospital went from a small clinic with only two exam rooms at their former location to a brand-new facility at 2765 Jackson St. in Oshkosh this year, with six exam rooms and state-of-the-art equipment with all the bells and whistles.

They're also looking to add an urgent care operation to their clinic in the foreseeable future.

"That will definitely fill a need within the (Oshkosh) community. There's not another emergency facility outside of Blue Pearl (formerly the Animal Referral Center) in Appleton within a 75-mile radius," said practice manager Stephanie Zeddies, a certified veterinary technician at Valley Veterinary Hospital. "Our thought process is to fill that need by offering urgent care services. We're currently interviewing for those positions."

She can't say when their urgent care will open because they're still in the early stages of interviewing but are hoping to open it sometime in 2024.

"We are hiring for both (our general practice and the urgent care). We'd love to add an additional general practice DVM and one to two urgent care doctors," Zeddies said, adding that they want to have just the right candidate or candidates in place before opening their urgent care, making it right for everyone involved.

"But what I imagine it would look like would be our seeing less severe cases, just like a human urgent care. It would be more minor things that could be addressed within a timely manner. Any kind of orthopedic surgery or things along those lines, or overnight stays, we would still refer to Blue Pearl."

While an urgent care veterinary service is much needed and will be welcomed, it will not eliminate the veterinarian and support staff shortage.

That said, there are many things pet owners can do to make the shortage easier on them and their pets.

- Before adopting a pet, make sure your vet is taking on new patients of existing clients; or if this is a first-time pet, make sure the vet you call is taking on new clients.

- When you know you're adopting a pet, call the vet ASAP to schedule a wellness exam appointment, rather than waiting until you actually have gotten the pet.

- Schedule appointments for routine things in advance. It's not uncommon to make appointments six months to a year in advance for wellness exams, vaccines, etc. When you are at the vet for a wellness exam or vaccinations, make an appointment for the next time. If you get a reminder card in the mail, call right away to schedule an appointment rather than waiting until the shots or exam are due.

- Expect that if you call with a concern about your pet's health, you may have to

wait a couple of weeks to get in.

- Just because you may not see a lot of cars in a vet's parking lot, it doesn't mean they're not busy. There are a lot of things going on behind the scenes that people aren't aware of. The vet may be juggling intense internal medicine cases over the phone with three specialists to take good care of a patient.

- "Expect the veterinary staff to ask you more questions than normal over the phone to see if they can manage the problem that way," said Heidi Burnett, doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM) with Animal Hospital of Oshkosh. "If they do ask you triage questions over the phone, be very direct, factual and brief in your answers."

- Understand that if your current vet doesn't have an opening, you may have to take your pet to an emergency clinic or other veterinarian office, especially if the case is serious. Your vet's office will understand and not be upset with you for going elsewhere for treatment of a problem. All vets, regardless of the practice, are on the same team. If you do have to go to another vet, ask the treating veterinarian to send reports, images, etc. to your existing vet so they can be aware of what's going on and can maintain that information, especially if they must see your pet for follow-up or at some point in the future.

- Have a healthy understanding of the shortage and be patient and kind when calling your vet – or any vet office for that matter. They are not trying to avoid seeing you and your pet. They are trying their best with only so many hours in a day and so much staff, and trying to figure out when or if they can get someone in.

- Do what you can with preventive medicine, advises Lowell Wickman, DVM and owner of Badgerland Veterinary Clinic. "Preventative care is always a way to stay ahead of most things and stave things off before they get serious. All too often people let things slide until it becomes an emergency situation."

- Instead of buying a puppy or kitten online, from a breeder, or from signs that you see along the side of the road, "look around for a pet from a shelter or rescue where there's already a dog or cat in need of a home. We don't need to continue to add to the population," Wickman said. "When you (get a pet from those other sources) you're just adding to the population of pets that need veterinary care. It also opens a spot for a breeder to continue breeding pets. There are enough pets in shelters, rescue and humane societies in this country without producing new ones all the time."

- Spay or neuter pets. Without that there are a lot of unnecessary births because too many people don't control their pet's breeding habits well enough.

- Feed pets well and keep them as healthy as possible.

- Be flexible with how your pets are being seen and cared for. "If a schedule is completely booked, many clinics will offer a drop-off service where you can leave your pet there for the day and it can be seen in between appointments," said Dr. Heidi Leder with Appanasha Pet Clinic in Menasha. "The staff can then call and offer a plan of care later. We offer this a lot, but clients often turn it down. Be open to alternatives ways of having your pet cared for versus having a specific appointment at a specific time."

- Many clinics have a wait list, so if a cancellation occurs, people can perhaps be squeezed in.

- Many veterinary clinics also have



Veterinarian services in the region and nationally have been in more demand while pet care resources are being challenged.

emergency spots or same-day appointments that are held open on their calendar and filled on a day-to-day basis for that same day, as situations arise. There may be a few openings in some veterinary schedules if something comes up and a pet needs to be seen that same day. But those are often filled quickly.

- Consider pet insurance. Unfortunately, vet bills can come with high price tags, and it can be hard not to let that affect your pet health care decisions. A major benefit of pet insurance is that it can reimburse you for vet costs, helping you get your pet the care they need without hesitation.

"Many pet insurance companies have wellness plans as well as emergency plans. And plans are often customizable, based on the family and their budget," Zeddies said. "Some plans are strictly for emergencies with no deductible. Wellness-type plans cover a lot more things, but they are a little more expensive and often have a deductible. But having some kind of pet insurance makes your relationship with your vet (much) better because you're not worried about your finances and you're just going to do what's best for your pet. Taking the financial aspect out of your visit allows for the best care."

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Photo by David Hall

Seasonal bridge

In Doty Park during the fall, nature's artistry and the echoes of history come together in a blend of beauty and culture.

Shooting details released in Menasha death

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The name of a man fatally shot Oct. 7 in Menasha and the officer who shot him were released last Friday.

Kenneth Blevins, 43, was shot by Menasha officer Derrick Rotta during the incident, according to the state Department of Justice (DOJ).

In a press release, the DOJ said officers from the Menasha and Fox Crossing police departments responded to a domestic dispute in the 1100 block of Geneva Road in Menasha around 3 p.m. Oct. 7.

Upon arriving, police encountered Blevins, who was armed with "bladed weapons" and Rotta discharged his firearm and struck him. First aid was rendered but Blevins was pronounced dead at the scene. No law enforcement was injured.

Rotta has more than four years of law enforcement experience and was placed on administrative leave after the incident, the DOJ said. Officers from both Menasha and Fox Crossing were equipped with body and squad cameras.

The DOJ's Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is leading the investigation with assistance from the Wisconsin State Patrol, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and Neenah Police Department. Once complete, DCI will turn over investigative reports to the Winnebago County district attorney.

The Menasha shooting marked the second deadly police shooting in the area in as many months, after the Aug. 2 shooting of 38-year-old Nathan Briese by two investigators with the Lake Winnebago Metropolitan Enforcement Group who have not been identified.

Ruling set on arrest leading to fifth drunk driving charge

Neenah News

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Bryan Keberlein will issue an oral ruling Wednesday on whether to suppress evidence in a fifth-offense operating while intoxicated (OWI) case due to lack of reasonable suspicion for a traffic stop.

Joseph Yonke, 42, of Neenah was charged and taken into custody April 15 for OWI and operating with a prohibited alcohol content, both fifth offenses with an alcohol fine enhancer.

According to the criminal complaint, police Sgt. Samuel Santiago was monitoring traffic within the area of West Winneconne Avenue and Jackson Street in Neenah around 2 a.m. when he witnessed a vehicle driven by Yonke traveling east that started to veer right, partially crossing into the adjoining lane. The vehicle suddenly braked, made a U-turn and crossed the double solid median to travel west.

Santiago conducted a traffic stop and noted he smelled intoxicants from Yonke's breath, his eyes were red and bloodshot and his speech was slurred. Yonke allegedly told Santiago he had a few beers at his brother's residence in Oshkosh and although he didn't feel drunk, "this is going

to be bad."

Field sobriety tests were performed and Yonke was arrested and transported to the hospital for a blood draw. He was taken to the Winnebago County Jail where a preliminary breath test indicated his blood alcohol concentration was 0.16, twice the legal limit.

Yonke has past OWI convictions in Winnebago County from 2002, 2005, 2014 and 2017. Fourth offenses and greater OWI convictions are felony charges in Wisconsin.

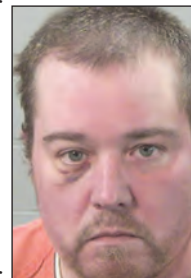
Yonke was in court Tuesday with attorney Scott Ceman for a motion hearing. Ceman filed a motion to suppress all evidence obtained after Yonke was pulled over, arguing Santiago did not observe a sufficient traffic violation before the stop and did not have reasonable suspicion or probable cause that the driver of the vehicle committed an offense.

The court adjourned with an oral decision set for 3 p.m. Wednesday. Yonke is free on a \$250 cash bail with conditions of absolute sobriety, that he comply with the conditions of the county's sobriety program, bring an alcohol monitoring device to every court hearing and not operate a vehicle without a valid license.

Child porn activity brings conviction

Neenah News

A 49-year-old Neenah man was convicted last week on charges for possessing nearly 400 images of child pornography.



Rougeux

Christopher Rougeux entered no contest pleas Oct. 13 in Winnebago County Circuit Court and was found guilty of three felony counts of possession of child pornography.

Documents say the Neenah Police Department received a report from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Cyber Tipline and executed a search warrant in August 2022 at a home on Marathon Avenue where Rougeux lived with his mother.

Investigators took several phones and electronic devices into evidence. A forensic examination and extraction of the devices revealed about 384 images of child pornography depicting children between about 3 and 8 years old.

Rougeux was taken into custody in September 2022 and agreed to give a statement to investigators. Documents say Rougeux told officials he began searching for child pornography about two years before his arrest and it started to spiral down from that point.

Rougeux said he would take screenshots of child pornography from searches and forums he was looking at but never directly contacted or spoke to anyone. He faces a fine of up to \$100,000 and up to 25 years in prison on each of the charges at sentencing set for Dec. 18.

Jail time ordered in sexual assault case

Neenah News

A Neenah man will spend about six months in jail and five years on probation for repeatedly having sex with a 15-year-old when he was 23.

Luke Sagers, 28, was convicted Monday of third-degree sexual assault and ordered to pay about \$31,000 in restitution.

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Michael Gibbs also sentenced him to an additional three months in jail, two years in prison and three years of extended supervision, all of which were imposed and stayed, meaning Sagers will only serve those terms if he vio-

lates his probation conditions.

According to the criminal complaint, the victim contacted police when she was 18 in May 2022 to report that she had a sexual relationship with Sagers that began in 2019 when she was 15 and ended when she was 16.

The victim met Sagers when they were both employed at local restaurant and said she repeatedly told him that the relationship wasn't right because of her age.

One incident occurred in Arrowhead Park where the victim said Sagers sexually assaulted her after grabbing her by the throat and pushing her against a tree, which caused her to hit her head.

During a recorded phone call with the victim, Sagers admitted to knowing that she was 15 years old during the sexual relationship and acknowledged the incident that happened in the park.

In an impact statement, the victim wrote that she now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, an eating disorder and depression. She said she can no longer tolerate physical touch.

"I had my whole life ahead of me (and) now I can't even hug my own mother," she wrote.

Sagers was taken into custody at the sentencing hearing Monday.

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Junior Achievement seeking volunteers

Junior Achievement (JA) provides supplemental school lessons for kindergarten through 12th grade students and teaches them how to develop the skills to succeed in the workplace, manage money and achieve life goals. Those passionate about helping young people in the community are sought as JA volunteers.

Starting now through May, volunteers are needed for student programs in Neenah, Menasha, Oshkosh and Omro. They can choose the lessons and grade level they are most interested in teaching.

JA provides opportunities for face-to-

face or online mentoring in schools, ways to create career-oriented videos and training to assist at student scholarship competitions.

During the 2022-23 school year, 665 volunteers connected with 10,941 Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Waupaca county students to teach them how to manage money, how businesses work and how to become entrepreneurial thinkers.

Those interested can find information at wisconsin.ja.org or call the JA office at 920-882-0773.

Business news roundup

Discover Little Miracles Child Care Center reopened this week at a new location at 1554 S. Commercial St. after an open house was held Oct. 19. Led by Cassie Knauer, the center cares for about 70 children and has some openings available by contacting cassie@discoverlittlemiracles.com for more information.

Secura Insurance announced it will no longer accept new home and auto insurance clients as it exits the personal lines insurance market over the next two years. The company will be nonrenewing existing personal lines business for a complete exit by Dec. 31, 2025. The company said

in a press release that it is working with all affected employees to find alternate positions within the company. Secura president Garth Wicinsky said the company will focus its efforts on service and products for commercial lines, specialty lines, agribusiness lines and farm lines.

Fibre, a downtown Neenah yarn shop, has moved to 121 W. Wisconsin Ave. The new store has been open since Oct. 10 in a more open space with all types of yarn and sewing, knitting and crocheting accessories, and gift items. The shop also will be offering classes in the near future.



Neenah News

Layla's Place will be taking the space at 218 W. Wisconsin Ave. formerly occupied by Bar 22.

Wisconsin Avenue location finds new tenant with Layla's

By Jenny Grunwald
NEENAH NEWS

A new bar called Layla's Place will open in downtown Neenah next month at 218 W. Wisconsin Ave. A grand opening will take place Nov. 3, with doors opening at 1 p.m.

Bar owner Chris Paulson has been a local business owner for 22 years in the Fox Valley and named Layla's Place after his daughter.

Hayley Sorensen will be taking on management for the new establishment. Sorensen has been both an employee and manager for the past five years in another of Paulson's bars in Appleton.

"We are excited to be a part of the Neenah community and we are looking forward to being a part of the events happening at The Plaza and surrounding area," Sorensen said.

Layla's Place is replacing Bar 22 at that location, which closed in September after 11 years of operation. The bar was the second

downtown tavern that closed in as many months, following Paper City Pub in August.

"Our staff is excited to join the Neenah community," Sorensen said. "(Chris) and his staff are eager to offer Neenah our spin on specialty drinks, a wide range of beers, and a delicious assortment of light snacks and appetizers."

The bar will offer in-house games, hot drinks and snacks after residents decide it's time to warm up from taking a skate around The Plaza ice rink or after a walk downtown.

"Expect a festive bar for any event or holiday, we love an excuse to make our bar feel festive and welcoming," Sorensen said.

Layla's Place will also host special events, work gatherings and retirement parties. After the grand opening, hours will be from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Thursday; 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. Fridays and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. weekends.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Halloween party

The annual Halloween party for school-age children in 1956 was hosted by the Neenah Police Department and held in the high school gym. Five grand prizes were donated by local merchants, including two bicycles and three portable transistor radios.

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Calendar of events

Friday, Oct. 27

Pumpkin carving and painting, 1:30 p.m., The Brigade, 109 W. Columbian Ave.

Costume Skate, 5 p.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

Saturday, Oct. 28

150 Years of Fashion Fundraiser, 6 p.m., Alta Bank building, 101 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Author Meet & Greet with Gordon D. Lind, noon, Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Trick or treating in Neenah and Fox Crossing, 4-7 p.m.

Movie Talks: "The Sixth Sense," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Wednesday, Nov. 1

NHS Boys Basketball Fish Fry Fund-

raiser, 5:30 p.m., Best Western Bridgewood Hotel

Thursday, Nov. 2

Holiday for the Horses, 5:30 p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood, 1000 Cameron Way

Friday, Nov. 3

First Friday Concert Series, pianists Linda Sparks and Nell Buchman, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Nov. 4

Helping Hands Art and Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Neenah Middle School gymnasium

Book Cake Tour, 11 a.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

Wednesday, Nov. 8

Fox Valley Women's Connection Program, 1 p.m., Calvary Bible Church, 1450 Oakridge Road

Thursday, Nov. 9

Downtown Shop & Stroll, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day observance, 10:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Speed Puzzling Tournament, 5 p.m., Neenah Public Library



Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation

Success on the trail

The Trick or-Treat Trail was busy with costumed characters finding treats last week at Fritsch Park for the annual event presented by the Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation Department.

'Two-Way Street' book offers business expertise

Neenah News

"Two-Way Street" by local author and insurance consultant Eric Soda has been released this month on Amazon Books for anyone who wants to improve in sales, client satisfaction and running a business.

Soda started in the insurance business while in high school in his hometown of Princeton, Wis. During those years Soda's father told him about insurance and had a family friend who worked at American Family Insurance.



Soda

He ended up job shadowing during his remaining time in school. It springboarded from there.

"I worked with him, then I got licensed and I kept working with him and then from there I came to Neenah and started my own," he said.

While building his insurance agency, he was also fighting fires and pulling people out of car wrecks as a paid on-call firefighter.

Soda said those years shaped him as a business professional and person. He mentions that being a firefighter made him a laid-back person in life and in his professional career.

"It doesn't pay to get wound up or going in one direction on things that don't matter. What matters (is) family, dealing with people, talking to people," he said.

By age 32, with no college degree, Soda grew his insurance agency to be one of the largest in the country, setting a record for most life insurance policies sold in a year for American Family Insurance. What Soda values most about his agency is the connection and relationships that have formed over the years.

"The relationships with people, you're helping people, but you have that connection. A lot of them come to us as clients, but become friends," he said.

Soda presents to business owners around the country on ways to improve their sales, service and overall operations. He is also the author of the blog "Spilled Coffee."

He lives in Neenah with his wife and two children.

Soda's insurance agency offices are at 1220 S. Commercial St. in Neenah, and 459 N. Washburn St. in Oshkosh.

Lyons Books in downtown Neenah is hosting a book signing by Soda from 4 to 6 p.m. Nov. 9, where it will be available in hardcover and paperback. It is also available on Amazon Books.

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Public library calendar

Nov. 1

9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)

10 a.m.: Musical Movers Storytime (all ages)

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

Nov. 2

10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)

5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night

6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

Nov. 3

9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Boot Camp

10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga

2 p.m.: First Friday Concert Series: Linda Sparks and Nell Buchman

Nov. 4

8 a.m.: Autumnal Yoga

Nov. 5

Noon: National Novel Writing Month: A three-hour NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) event

1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)

Nov. 6

2 p.m.: Adult Afternoon Program: Hollywood vs. History: Ancient Rome

Nov. 7

10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months)

10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care

3:30 p.m.: Tween Create Space-Balloon Powered Cars (9 and up)

Nov. 8

9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)

10 a.m.: Musical Movers Storytime (all ages)

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

Nov. 9

10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)

5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night

6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam: Nov. 10

10:30 a.m.: Footloose Fridays

Nov. 13

10:30 a.m.: Toddler Drive-In Movie

1 p.m.: Monday Matinee: "Gold" (PG-13, 1 hour, 40 minutes)

7 p.m.: Short Story Night at Lion's Tail Brewing

Nov. 14

10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (12-24 months)

10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care

Noon to 2 p.m.: BadgerCare Plus & Health Insurance Renewals

1:30 p.m.: Tech Talk Tuesday: Books on

the Go! A Guide to the Digital Library

3:30 p.m.: Tween Create Space - Duct Tape Wallets

4:30 p.m.: Legal Assistance Clinic

5 p.m.: BadgerCare Plus and Health Insurance Renewals

7 p.m.: The Next Chapter

Nov. 15

9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)

10 a.m.: Musical Movers Storytime (all ages)

4 p.m.: Library Board meeting

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

Nov. 16

10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)

5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night

6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

7 p.m.: History Program-Oneida Storyteller Debra Morningstar

Nov. 17

9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Balance & Strength

10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga

Nov. 18

8 a.m.: Autumnal Yoga

Nov. 19

1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)

Nov. 20

1:30 p.m.: Memory Cafe: Shari Sarazin, harpist

6:30 p.m.: Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "Books Can Be Deceiving" by Jenn McKinlay

Nov. 21

3:30 p.m.: Tween Create Space - DIY compass

Nov. 23

Closed for Thanksgiving

Nov. 26

2 p.m.: Sunday Concert Series: Christo's Novelty Combo

Nov. 27

10 a.m.: MMBK: "All the Children are Home"

6:30 p.m.: Caring for Holiday Houseplants

Nov. 28

6:30 p.m.: Movie Talks: "Love, Actually"

7 p.m.: The New Art of Coffee

Nov. 29

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

Nov. 30

5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night

6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam



Photo by Kathie Boyette

Dinner recognition

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 33 prepares a meal each year to honor and celebrate sacrifices made by the Legion Honor Guard, who offer their time for funerals and special events for those who have served. Auxiliary Unit 33 celebrated the Honor Guard earlier this month with a spaghetti dinner and home-made apple pie to take home to share with families. Unit president Kathie Boyette and member Gerri Webb baked the 18 pies with locally donated Macintosh apples.

Water lawsuit

FROM PAGE 1

Clayton chairman Russ Geise told Neenah News in June that the town was focused on the city refusing to release a standard document used for planning utilities.

“Why do they want to keep it secret?” he questioned.

Attorney David Rashid said the city recently provided Clayton’s lawyers with a heavily redacted version of the report. He noted the redactions were deemed confidential by a state agency. After providing the records, Rashid said the town was apparently satisfied and agreed to dismiss the lawsuit.

Geise said Clayton isn’t pursuing the open records lawsuit further because the town doesn’t believe it would provide any more information.

“We believe that the redacted report shows what we expected – that Neenah is planning to eventually expand out into Clayton and encompass the property south of Westridge Golf Course,” he said.

Clayton has experienced challenges with border agreements and sued the Village of Fox Crossing in 2017 over a 72-acre annexation. In 2018, Fox Crossing sued Clayton over a wastewater collection settlement with the Department of Natural Resources. Clay-

Mentors honored at Big Brothers, Sisters gala

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin, which has served 350 young people in the past year, recently recognized its Big Brother of the Year, Big Sister of the Year, High School Big and Hall of Fame recipients at its Dream Big Gala.

Honorees are nominated by their program specialists or program coordinators and chosen by the Dream Big Gala Planning Committee.

Katherine Ebensperger, who has been

ton began incorporation efforts that year to avoid annexation by Fox Crossing but those efforts failed in 2021.

Clayton, which does not have its own municipal water system, entered into an agreement in 2018 for Appleton to supply water to the town at an estimated cost of \$26 million. After spending \$144,000 to install a sewer and water line, the project was abandoned when Clayton began negotiating with Fox Crossing for the village to supply water.

In 2021, Fox Crossing applied to construct a booster station and water transmission main to expand its water service area into Clayton at an estimated total cost of \$2.6 million. As part of the deal, Clayton paid Fox Crossing \$11.5 million and Fox Crossing agreed not to annex any part of Clayton for 10 years.

Geise said cities and villages often consider towns a holding spot for land until they want it.

“I don’t happen to agree with that philosophy because I like to keep my town intact and we fought Fox Crossing and we ended up with a border agreement that works and we have sewer and water now,” he said. “But it’s limited to our capacity of how far we can go with it to about Westridge Golf Course/Larsen Road.”

Geise said he’s hopeful Clayton can work out a border agreement with Neenah.

matched with her Little for six years, was named Big Sister of the Year. David Schupbach, who has been matched with his Little for four years, was recognized as Big Brother of the Year.

The newly created High School Big of the Year award went to Menasha High School student Alaina Ketchum, who received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Hall of Fame recipient Mary Gerlach was one of the first Big Sisters with the organization.

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Art and craft fair

FROM PAGE 1

\$25 and a letter ending the program.

“They basically said, ‘Sorry, we’ve canceled the program. We can no longer do this,’” Aaholm recalled.

With a school the size of NHS, educators were rightfully concerned. While some teachers are known for picking up the slack – storing emergency items in their desks or cabinets – there was definitely a need for some extra cash “on the side.” So Aaholm talked to administrative assistant Lisa Dohr, and the two came up with the idea of holding a craft fair.

They worked together to organize it and that first year produced 43 vendors. Most of them were teachers who did “crafty things” on the side. Held in the school cafeteria, they charged \$1 at the door, garnering \$1,200.

“We beat our goal by \$200,” Aaholm said.

Bolstered by the initial success, Aaholm dove in, researching “how to and how not to run a craft fair.” Publicity, vendor acquisition, accessibility and fee setting all went into the mix. The ideas flowed and expertise was honed.

Then in 2012, a visit to Aaholm’s parents in Sheboygan brought about a real game-changer.

“I was reading the Sheboygan Press and there was a front-page article about the Red Wing Way projects at South High School,” she said.

Aaholm subsequently went to her alma mater, Sheboygan North, and talked to people there about a closet project they had started for students in need of personal care, food and clothing items.

“What they found is the same thing that is true at any school,” Aaholm explained. “There are certain students that need sup-



Submitted photo

Shelley Aaholm is shown with former Neenah High students Tabitha Zwicky and Emily Nickolai, both volunteers for Helping Hands.

port and certain teachers that become known to have stuff in their classrooms ... peanut butter and bread in case kids came in hungry, or tampons, deodorant, items like that. And teachers quietly supplied them.”

Aaholm brought the idea back to administration, voicing a deep interest in getting the ball rolling. The idea hung out there, key people came and went, and Aaholm felt sort of stuck. Then NHS hired Chris Christensen as a new guidance counselor, who stopped Aaholm in the hall saying, “Hey...I heard you want to do this closet project. I’ll help you. Let’s do it together.”

The two got to work, putting ideas together and planning their closet. Aaholm shared her vision with Christensen.

“I want kids to come in here and feel welcomed. I also want the space to be off the beaten path so other kids won’t be able to say, ‘Oh, he’s going into the Orbit Closet.’” They came up with the idea of plain string bags that students could fill up and carry

out in a non-obvious way.

“They could load that bag up and carry it around and nobody would identify them,” she said. “We still have bags like that.”

Christensen helped Aaholm prepare a grant presentation that garnered an \$850 check from the Educational Foundation of Neenah. They had their seed money.

“We needed to start somewhere,” Aaholm said. “We found an out-of-the-way closet in the Conant building. We emptied it out, painted it and repurposed some rickety shelves.”

The duo used the grant money and added some funds from the Helping Hands Craft Fair. They stocked the space with as many personal, food and clothing items as they could buy. And they named it the Orbit Closet.

“There are so many kids in need who go unnoticed,” Aaholm said. “They are just the kind of kids who need the Orbit Closet. That closet became heavily utilized by many students. Some used it on a regular basis and some maybe for a couple of weeks when they or their families were just kind of in a bind.”

Orbit started with a Christmas giving program and a few years later expanded it to include complete meals at Thanksgiving. The team tapped guidance counselors and social workers to identify the needs. They contacted the families, tallied the totals and ordered complete Thanksgiving meals through Festival Foods, delivered to their homes.

Family assistance was made available throughout the holiday season in the form of goods and supplies, immediate cash, checks or gift cards depending upon the circumstances and individual needs. All of these are ongoing Orbit programs still funded by the Helping Hands Craft Fair.

By any standards, the team of Aaholm and Christensen built an impressive program. They also built a deep and abiding friendship.

“We were best friends,” Aaholm said. “We built a really good thing. She was an incredible counselor, just so good with kids.” Aaholm pauses, then adds, “She died last year. I still get upset, I get teary. She had cancer and it was very, very fast. It was hard for me to go into that closet without her for a long time.”

That Conant building closet was left behind in the move to a new Neenah High School. This space is much smaller.

“We’re not sure why, still trying to figure that out,” Aaholm said. “But we’re adjusting. We determined that we don’t have to stock so many heavy coats and clothing since kids can utilize Goodwill and other spaces that are available to them.”

About six years ago, Orbit created a \$1,000 scholarship based upon financial need. It can be college, tech school, cosmetology – any form of continuing education. Aaholm’s goal was for the fund to be self-sustaining by the time she retired.

“We hit that goal two years ago,” Aaholm exclaimed. “Now we’re working on a Chris Christensen Scholarship and we’re about \$14,000 from self-sustaining on that one. So if nobody wants to take on the craft fair after I retire, the scholarships will continue on.”

But Aaholm has reason for hope because she’s once again found a partner.

“We have a former student named Emily Nickolai who now teaches severely disabled students. She has been volunteering for Helping Hands since she was a freshman student,” she said. “She’s my right hand and just a powerhouse.”

“Emily knows what to do without being told, sees things that need to be fixed or done differently and just does it! We work incredibly well as a team. She doesn’t live here but comes back, meets with me in the summer to go over things – she’s absolutely amazing.”

Aaholm now refers to Helping Hands Craft Fair as “a well-oiled machine.” This will be the 15th iteration, having missed 2020 due to the pandemic. Vendors pay an \$85 fee for a 12-by-12-foot space with a few opting for electricity for an additional \$10.

The fair includes a successful used book sale and a raffle. It will also feature music from Touch of Class during the day, and the Southeast Asian Club (“C Club”) will be selling egg rolls. Art Boss will be on the scene offering kids craft projects for the day.

Admittance is \$2 and strollers are allowed. “We could make more money if we narrowed the aisles but we want this to be accessible for everyone,” Aaholm explained. “People with kids, folks with walkers, lots of people have hip and knee replacements ... and it’s a lot of walking in that fieldhouse. We want everyone to come in and feel comfortable.”

“We also want to make sure all the vendors are seen. They’re here to sell their crafts and our goal is for every person in attendance to see every booth, or at least have the opportunity to do so.”

“And our vendors say they love that. The people who come to help, the vendors and the people who attend are so excited to be here. It’s just a great day.”

Two bucks a head seems a pittance but last year’s Helping Hands Craft Fair had nearly 130 vendors, upward of 3,000 attendees and raised more than \$19,000 for Orbit, directly helping children in the district.

“We’re doing just fine charging \$2 and everyone is happy with that,” Aaholm said. “My only regret is that we didn’t keep track of attendance during the early years. We didn’t think it was going to be a thing.”

The Helping Hands Art and Craft Fair takes place at Neenah Middle School’s Ron Einerson Fieldhouse from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 4.

Neenah News

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teers for 2.5 hours in the late afternoon or evening to administer standardized English language tests – helping students feel comfortable, provide directions, ensure they are taking the test correctly, facilitate and score the speaking test. All testing and directions are in English. Contact Paola at paola@foxvalleylit.org or call 920-991-9840.

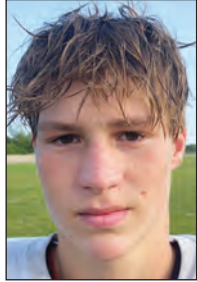
Rockets ready to tackle Cardinals in Level 2 tilt

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah High School football team expected to be making a cross-state trip for a WIAA Level 2 playoff game this week.

The Rockets got to cancel that trip for the right reason – to play at home.

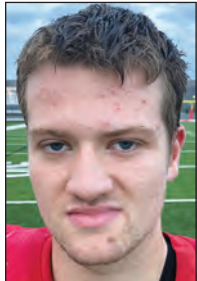
When eighth-seeded Chippewa Falls knocked off top-seeded Hudson in the



Keller

opening round of the postseason last Friday it meant the Rockets – who blew out DC Everest 54-28 in their playoff opener – would get another game on their home turf at Rocket Stadium.

“It’s always nice playing here and to have one more game is unbelievable,” said senior tight end Luke Keller.



Tambulion

Neenah head coach Steve Jung was also pleased to get to play in the familiar confines but it also means he and his staff don’t have to worry about the hows and whens of

planning a trip to Hudson.

“Logistically it’s a lot nicer to be at home. Just trying to figure out when you’re leaving and meals and all of that would have been difficult,” Jung said. “We weren’t expecting (the home game) but now that we have it, it is really nice.”

Neenah (8-2), which led all of Division 1 in point total in Level 1, will be hoping to have the same kind of performance on



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Neenah running back Grant Dean rushed for 111 yards and three touchdowns in a WIAA Division 1 Level 1 playoff game against DC Everest last Friday.

its home field as last week when it rolled up more than 400 yards of offense, including 278 yards on the ground.

Grant Dean had 111 yards on just 15 carries and three touchdowns, while quarterback Ashton Van Beek finished with 85 yards on the ground and a pair of scores. The Rockets averaged 7.9 yards per carry for the game.

“We just have to do the same thing, just

come out physical. We have to go right at them,” said Keller, who led the team with 74 receiving yards on three catches. “It’s a blast just pancaking guys and seeing Ashton and Grant run to the end zone. Obviously, I would love to be the one in the end zone, but I love watching them run because people who know football are like they are getting a lot of blocks.”

The offense may get a boost this week,

too.

Jung said that junior quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven was practicing with the team this week and could return to the field against the Cardinals.

But whether it is Vanevenhoven or Van Beek taking the snaps, the offensive game-plan won’t change.

“They play hard. They bring it. They are a physical team. I feel like they play an FVA style of football so we better be ready,” Jung said. “We see physicality and scrappiness every week in our league, so we just have to execute and control the ball and keep their offense off the field.”

The overall style Chippewa Falls (5-5) brings to the field may have a familiar feel but the offense the Cardinals will showcase will be something new for the Rockets.

Jung said the Cardinals will run some of their offense from a spread formation, but will also run a majority of plays from a double-wing formation, which is something that Neenah will have to adjust to.

“We spent a lot of time this week against their double-wing offense,” Jung said. “Playing in the FVA, all of the teams are physical. I think that gives us a big edge when we play teams from other conferences.”

Neenah’s defense limited DC Everest to less than 50 yards rushing but are expecting a bigger challenge from the Cardinals.

“They run an offense we are not used to and they are a very physical team so we will have to up our own physicality and get used to their plays,” said senior defensive lineman Hudson Tambulion. “We play a

SEE **Neenah football** ON PAGE 19

Lawrence tennis player honored by Midwest Conference

Neenah News

Lawrence University women’s tennis standout Anna Vanden Acker, a St. Mary Catholic High School graduate, has been named to the All-Midwest Conference team by league coaches as one of 10 players chosen in singles.



Vanden Acker

The sophomore posted the team’s best singles record at 6-5, including a 3-3 mark in Midwest Conference play and a 4-4 record against Midwest Conference opponents.

Vanden Acker posted wins over a pair of players from Monmouth College, including in the quarterfinals of the Midwest Conference Championships. She also picked up league wins over Illinois College and Ripon College.

She reached the conference championship semifinals before falling to the eventual champion.

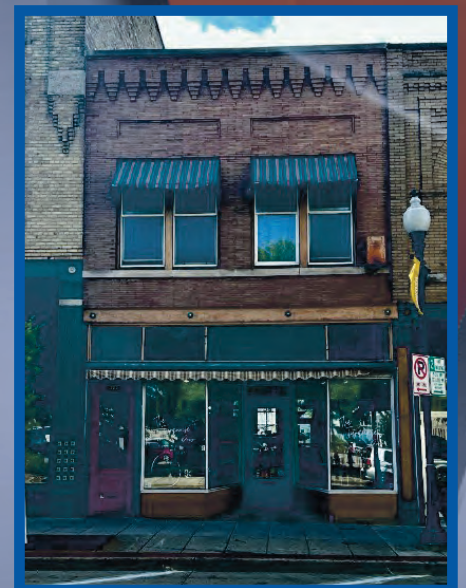
Vanden Acker was a two-time WIAA Championships qualifier and a four-time Wisconsin Combined Tennis Conference champion for the Zephyrs.

She posted a prep career record of 64-24 while helping the Zephyrs to four conference team championships.

Vanden Acker also competes in track and field at Lawrence University and was a two sport athlete at St. Mary Catholic as well.

She also won the prestigious WIAA Scholar Athlete Award at St. Mary Catholic.

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Submitted photos

Both Neenah High School cross country teams will be competing at the WIAA State Cross Country Meet on Saturday at Wisconsin Rapids. The girls team consists of (from left) Maddie Schoonover, Rachel Dietrich, Mazie Olkowski, Elsa Gruber, Eme Olkowski, Natalie Willes and Natalie Schultz. The boys team consists of (from left) Braedy Klawikowski, Harmon Posegate, Nolan Smith, Charles Fredrickson, Jaden Leal, Wyatt Armock and Zach Verhagen.

Rockets ready for return to state cross country meet

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Like the changing colors of the leaves, the Neenah cross country teams heading over to Wisconsin Rapids for the WIAA State Cross Country Meet have become an annual rite of fall.

For the third straight season, the Rockets will be sending both teams to compete against the best Division 1 teams in the state at The Ridges Golf Course on Saturday.

"It's kind of a tradition for us now," said Neenah senior CJ Frederickson. "All of our years in high school, we've gone to the state meet, so going back is pretty cool."

The Neenah boys will be making their 37th appearance at the state meet overall after having taken second to powerhouse Stevens Point at the sectional meet last weekend.

The Neenah girls bested a loaded field to win the sectional title as that program prepares for its 30th trip to the state meet.

"It's always a big accomplishment to make it to state," Neenah girls head coach Mike Heidke said. "I always have to impress upon the athletes that it still is a big deal and I think they understand that."

The Rockets placed all five scoring runners in the top 13, while its seven runners were all in the top 21 at the sectional meet last week as Neenah finished with 42 points. Fellow Fox Valley Association member Kaukauna was second with 62 points, followed by Stevens Point with 74 and Appleton North with 83.

The sectional victory combined with winning FVA conference meet has Neenah riding a wave of momentum into the state meet.

"It's a big confidence boost because very few people win it so it means we are one of the best," said junior Mazie Olkowski. "Everyone has gotten better every race so I feel like we are going to do well."

Elsa Gruber in fifth place and Olkowski in sixth led Neenah at the sectional race, while the rest of the scoring runners had Natalie Schultz in 10th, Eme Olkowski in 12th and Maddie Schoonover in 13th. Natalie Willes in 15th place and Rachel Dietrich – the lone senior among the group – in 21st place rounded out the Rockets' runners.

Gruber, Mazie Olkowski and Willes – who was the Rockets top state finisher last season – were part of last year's team that finished 11th at state and having that experience should help the squad this time around.

"Last year we kind of just went to go but

State cross country

Saturday, Oct. 28

At The Ridges GC, Wisconsin Rapids

Boys Races

Noon: Division 3
12:35 p.m.: Division 2
1:10 p.m.: Division 1

Girls Races

1:45 p.m.: Division 3
2:25 p.m.: Division 2
3:05 p.m. Division 1

this year we definitely have a shot to do well," Gruber said. "It's definitely a hard course. It's one of the hardest courses we have this year, but honestly I enjoy it."

As strong as that experienced trio has run this season, it has been the influx of new faces – including two freshmen – that have helped the Rockets soar above where they were last year entering the state meet.

But having the veteran runners allows the younger group to get some insight on the state course.

"We got a lot of good freshmen and they have really gotten better and it's really pushed the rest of our team to be good," Mazie Olkowski said. "It's a really hilly course. You just can't get out too hard and you just have to push through."

Heidke has high hopes for the squad but knows that there are a lot of variables at a state competition.

But the Rockets are heading to Wisconsin Rapids with an idea of what they want to do in mind.

"We knew it would be a challenging environment at sectionals and it was nice to prove ourselves there against really good competition," Heidke said. "I don't think we will set a number goal for us (as far as

placing at state). I think we will just try to execute our race plan and see what happens after that. It will be a close race for those top few spots."

Neenah's boys team may not contend for a state title with a powerhouse team like Stevens Point – which totaled just 17 points in winning the sectional title – leading the field but the Rockets are certainly running well entering the meet.

The boys also captured the title at the conference meet and finished comfortably in second place at sectionals, although well behind the Panthers.

"A goal that we have had all season is to place better than we did last year and we placed 10th last season," Fredrickson said. "I think that's a good goal for this team to shoot for."

Fredrickson is one of four different runners from last year's state-qualifying team, while juniors Braedy Klawikowski and Nolan Smith and senior Wyatt Armock return.

"(The experience) helps a good bunch," Armock said. "The biggest thing with that course is that you can't go hard in the first mile because there are so many hills throughout the race. You have to be cautious."

Sophomore Zach Verhagen led the Rockets at the sectional meet by placing 11th, while Neenah pushed four straight runners across the line in a 12-second span, with Armock, Klawikoski, Fredrickson and senior Jaden Leal placing 14th-17th, respectively.

Nolan Smith was close behind in 19th place with junior Harmon Posegate taking 25th.

"This team takes pack running to a whole other level," commented Neenah boys head coach John Morgen. "They run for each other and each of them is better

SEE **Neenah CC** ON PAGE 19

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Zephyrs excited for chance to run at Wisconsin Rapids

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

St. Mary Catholic cross country coach Chad McCartney consistently had to juggle his boys lineup during the 2023 season.

Injuries, illnesses and a roster that included runners participating in other sports kept him from being able to fill out his lineup the exact way he wanted to.

Last Saturday, he got the chance and the Zephyrs went out and won a sectional title.

The St. Mary Catholic boys cross country team will be making the program's second trip to the WIAA State Cross Country Meet on Saturday after placing first at the Division 3 Wabeno/Laona sectional race last weekend.

"That was the first time all year we've had all of our top seven running at the same time," McCartney said. "We didn't have any other victories throughout the year so getting the victory at the biggest meet of the year really does give us some confidence."

McCartney said rearranging his lineup from meet to meet isn't a problem and he likes the fact that it allows other runners to get a shot at varsity race. That builds depth and experience within the squad.

"The nice part is that it gives other kids the opportunity to step into a bigger role," McCartney said. "That next man up role was the philosophy the entire year. Everybody had to be ready to go."

Yet, for the biggest meet, McCartney was pleased to have his best taking to the course and the group certainly delivered.

It started with seniors Ian Albino and Benjamin Schoeni leading the way for the Zephyrs.

Albino finished eighth overall, two spots and about 20 seconds ahead of Schoeni although the two did spend part of the race running together.

"Throughout the season we have been relatively close," Schoeni said. "It is helpful to be able to pace off of your teammates and help pull you through the race."

Nathan Seiske was the next Zephyr to finish, placing 12th, while AJ Groppel crossed the line in 18th place. Both runners are also members of the St. Mary Catholic soccer team.

Rounding out the Zephyr runners was Ethan Auer, who came in 24th place.

It was a strong performance for sure, but with a strong field at the meet, the Zephyrs had to wait until the results were official. Then, they not only found out they qualified for state but advanced as sectional champs.

"There was definitely a lot of excitement (when we qualified) but there was also the release of stress that built up getting to this point," Albino said. "When you hear that yes you are going, it's like we get to enjoy what the end of the journey is."

The Zephyrs finished seventh in their previous trip to the state meet during the COVID season of 2020.

St. Mary Catholic – which will also have Noah Valentine and Brandon DeBaal in its lineup for the state meet – could definitely see a rise in their finish this season as the team will look to duplicate its performance at sectionals.

"I think we will take the same strategy we used at sectionals where we focused on our own race the first half and didn't get caught up with what everyone else is doing. That really helped us," McCartney said. "The second half of the race, they were ready to go and they just started passing people."

Whatever the strategy and outcome

may be on Saturday, at the least the Zephyrs are ending their season where they hoped to be when the season started.

"It's been a lot of effort on everyone's side," Albino said. "There have been those difficult practices where you just want to keel over. Everyone has worked really hard for this."

St. Mary Catholic won't only be represented by its boys team, though.

Junior Lauren Ripley will also be making the trip to Wisconsin Rapids after finishing sixth at the sectional meet last weekend.

Ripley finished 15th at the state meet as a freshman, but injuries plagued her last season and she wasn't able to return. That makes this trip pretty special and she brings with her first-hand knowledge of the course.

"I'm excited. I was hoping I'd make it back this year," Ripley said. "There were a few hills on the course but the finish was pretty straight so I was sprinting there."

McCartney is anxious to see where a fully healthy Ripley can finish among the state's best.

"It will be exciting to see where she stacks up with the competition," Ripley said. "It will be tough competition but she will do well."

One of the things that may help Ripley is something that she can take from the sectional meet – running mates.

Ripley said one of the keys to her finish at sectionals was that she found a strong group to run up front with for the entire race. With many of those girls in the same starting area as she is for the state race, it will be easy to pick at least part of that group out again.

"I thought that sticking with the group I was running with (at sectionals) would really push me and it did at the finish. It paid off to stick with them and not give up," Ripley said. "The girls I finished with on Saturday are in my (starting) box so I'm hoping to run with them again and PR at state."

With Ripley leading the way, the Zephyrs had a good showing at the sectional meet but came up one place short of advancing as a team. St. Mary Catholic finished comfortably in third place with 100 points to come in behind Bonduel (52) and Lourdes Academy (61).

Addison Dinka, who qualified for the state meet last season, was the next St. Mary Catholic runner to finish in 15th place, while Maria Marti placed 27th, Haley Gustafson was 33rd and Norah Lee took 35th.

McCartney was pleased with the way the girls team ran but also complimented the competition for being just a tad better that day.

"We ran a very good race. Lourdes and Bonduel are both just phenomenal teams," McCartney said. "We ran very well. It was just they ran a little bit better than we did that day."



Submitted photo

Representing St. Mary Catholic at the WIAA State Cross Country Meet on Saturday will be (from left) Lauren Ripley, Brandon DeBaal, Noah Valentine, AJ Groppel, Ian Albino-Gonzalez, Ethan Auer, Nathan Seiske and Ben Schoeni.

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Neenah pulls out dramatic win in regional final

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

With Neenah and Milwaukee King deadlocked at 1 with less than a minute to play, it seemed that the WIAA Division 1 regional final was headed to overtime.

The sound of a whistle changed all of that.

The Generals were whistled for a foul in the box with less than 10 seconds to play and the Rockets' Keegan Vande Hei converted the penalty kick into a 2-1 victory, earning Neenah the regional title.



Vande Hei

"As soon as I saw the foul and saw we were getting a PK, I knew we were going to sectionals," Vande Hei said. "I haven't missed a PK all season and was 100% confident that I was going to deliver. As a senior, you wait for moments like that and I wanted to enjoy the moment before putting that kick home."

Some offensive pressure in the final minute led to one of the King defenders attempting a slide tackle from behind in the penalty area. That led to the foul being called on the Generals and resulted in Vande Hei's penalty kick.

Vande Hei briefly looked at Generals' goalkeeper Wes Pritzlaff before beating him low post for his second goal of the game as the Rockets were to claim the regional title.

"Not only is this a big moment for these kids, but this is a massive moment for this Neenah program as I feel we forgot who we



Photo by Dustin Riese

Neenah's Ethan Mertes (22) makes a pass around a Milwaukee King defender during last Saturday's WIAA Division 1 regional final.

were as a program the past few years," head coach Wil Krautkramer said. "We decided to simplify everything this season and did a phenomenal job building off of that and that is a big reason why we are here."

Neenah was slated to play at Homestead in a WIAA Sectional Semifinal on Thursday but results were not available by our deadline.

Neenah didn't waste any time getting things going as Rylan Mendoza fired a shot in the first minute only to have Pritzlaff deny him with a save. That was the beginning of a shooting barrage in the first 15 minutes as Pritzlaff continued to make plays to frustrate the Rockets.

Eventually, the pressure that the Rockets were putting on paid off.

Vande Hei poked in a rebound after a Pritzlaff save in the 19th minute as Neenah took the lead.

The Rockets had several opportunities to add on to their lead, but a Preston Schamens shot went just wide a few minutes later while Pritzlaff continued to make impressive stops to keep things close.

"I think we dominated the first half and most of the second half," Vande Hei said. "There was that stretch during the middle part of the second half where we got sloppy and that led to their goal on the other end. We had our opportunities that's for sure,

but credit their keeper for making the saves needed to keep things close. I just love the way all of us battled today as we found a way to get this win."

The Rockets continued to fire shots on frame in the second half. Ayden Weisbrod appeared to have the game's second goal in the 48th minute only to be denied by a great tip save. That gave the Rockets a much needed corner where Owen Wise was denied not once, but twice at close range as Neenah continued to lead 1-0.

"We outplayed them the first half, but were unable to build on that early goal," Krautkramer said. "That has been a theme for us in some games as we have been facing a ton of great goalies this season. Their goalie is as good as they come and may be the best keeper we faced this season. We knew what we were up against after they shutout Kimberly and they showed everyone today that they are not the seed they were given."

Clinging to the lead midway in the second half, it was the Generals who started to settle in and suddenly they were the ones dictating the tempo. All it took was a miss to result in the Generals goal as Manny Ferrer followed up an initial save from Julian Gallmeier and put it home to bring things back to even.

Neenah had a couple of opportunities in the final 12 minutes but couldn't convert until Vande Hei's dramatics in the final minute.

"It's exciting for me to see a bunch of these kids I had on JV get to this point," Krautkramer said. "This was a process that was two years in the making and we were able to achieve our goal this season."

Prep sports roundup

STATE TENNIS

Neenah makes history at Team State Tournament

The Neenah High School girls tennis team made some history at the WIAA Team State Tournament last Saturday

when the Rockets knocked off Whitefish Bay, 4-3, in a Division 1 quarterfinal.

The win marked the first time a No. 6 seed beat a No. 3 seed in a quarterfinal in the four years that all teams have been seeded. Only the top four teams were seeded for the 2017 and 2018 and each year a seeded team did lose, including

third-seeded Eau Claire Memorial losing to Madison Memorial 4-3 in 2018.

The win was also the Rockets' 21st victory in 20 trips to the Team State Tournament which is the fourth highest total among all schools, trailing only Homestead (32), University School (25) and Nicolet (24).

Neenah, which lost to Whitefish Bay during the regular season, won three close matches to pull out the victory over the Blue Dukes.

At No. 2 doubles, Kinsey Perry and Meredith Werner won a 7-5 first set over

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 19

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 18

Grace Wu and Anna Reimers, before taking the second set 6-2 for the win.

Ava Motto and Cecelia Alexander also had a close first set in their No. 3 doubles match against Charlotte Jelenchick and Luella Fearday but after winning a tie-breaker, easily closed out the 7-6, 6-2 win.

But the closest match of the day came at No. 2 singles where Neenah's Celia Gentile rebounded from losing the first set to beat Hannah Griggs 2-6, 6-4, 10-6.

Also winning for Neenah was No. 3 singles player Rebekah Thomas, who topped Carly Pence 6-4, 6-1.

The Rockets advanced to the semifinals where they faced second-seeded and eventual state champion Arrowhead and dropped a 6-1 decision.

Thomas collected the lone win for Neenah topping Mekenna Verhagen in three sets, 2-6, 7-5, 10-8, at No. 3 singles.

VOLLEYBALL

Zephyrs roll to WIAA regional crown

Top-seeded St. Mary Catholic breezed to a pair of wins to claim a WIAA Division 3 regional title.

The Zephyrs topped Amherst in the regional final, collecting a 25-15, 25-12, 25-18 win over Amherst on Saturday.

Lauren Fischer led St. Mary Catholic with 12 kills, while Kate Nackers had six and Ellie Altfillisch had five. Setting up the Zephyr hitters were Sammie Weiss with 13 assists and Stella Virlee with 11.

Eliana Brenn led a strong serving night for St. Mary Catholic with seven aces, while Olivia Noel and Audrey Norville paced the team with nine and seven digs, respectively.

The Zephyrs reached Saturday's match

with a 25-11, 25-19, 25-17 victory over Crivitz.

Fischer led the St. Mary Catholic hitters with 15 kills, followed by Brenn with eight kills and Rhiannon Reichenbacher with seven kills. Weiss and Virlee each finished with 17 assists.

Noel and Fischer led the Zephyr defense with 14 and 10 digs, respectively.

On Thursday, St. Mary Catholic played Bonduel. Results of that match were not available by presstime.

Neenah knocked out of tournament

The Rockets built a 2-1 lead in sets against Germantown in a WIAA Division 1 regional match last week but couldn't finish off the win.

Germantown handed the Rockets a 13-25, 26-24, 21-25, 25-22, 15-9 loss.

SOCCER

Zephyrs take down pair of regional foes

St. Mary Catholic captured a WIAA Division 4 regional title with a pair of wins last week by a combined 13-0 margin.

The Zephyrs beat Algoma 7-0 to open the tournament with Braeden Brenn, Grant Bergstrom and Kieran Barrientos each picking up two goals in the win.

Will Lawniczak had the other goal for the Zephyrs in the win.

It was a similar case on Saturday as St. Mary Catholic beat Howards Grove/Elkhart-Lake Glenbeulah 6-0.

Barrientos finished with five goals, including a hat trick in the second half alone, to lead the victory.

AJ Groppe added a goal and two assists, while Bergstrom and Harry Higgins each had one assist.

St. Mary Catholic played Kiel on Thursday. Results of that match were not available by presstime.

Neenah football

FROM PAGE 15

lot of really good teams (in the FVA) so we have a lot of experience playing good people."

Tambulion had four tackles and one of Neenah's two sacks against the Evergreens, while teamed with fellow defensive linemen Sam Scheer and Tawan Rich for 15 tackles last week.

That trio – and the rest of the Rockets' defensive line – expect to play a big role Friday.

"I definitely think we can set the tone for the defense," Tambulion said. "Right

out of the gate we can hit hard we can stop runs on first down and that will help us."

Kickoff for Friday's game has been moved to 6 p.m. with the winner advancing to face either Kimberly or Stevens Point in a Level 3 contest.

The Rockets, who have won three straight games, hope to be that team but know it will take a full 48-minute effort to rack up another playoff win.

"We had a couple of errors at the end of the game last week and some things we can improve on," Keller said. "We are getting better each week but I just feel like we haven't played a full, all-the-way-to-the-end game yet."

Neenah CC

FROM PAGE 16

for it."

The Rockets may just be hitting their stride at the right time having overcome a number of injuries this season.

Now healthy, the boys are running with a little chip on their shoulders as entering the sectional meet they were ranked 20th in the Division 1 coaches poll.

"I think a lot of us on the team have been looking at the coaches poll and we see where they put us," Leal said. "Of course, we want to be higher than those expecta-

tions and beat those so it was a good feeling to be able to compete and do well at sectionals."

Morgen was also nondescript when he looked at where the Rockets could end up placing on Saturday.

Although he wasn't sure where his team will finish, Morgen was sure about one thing he will see from his squad.

"There is a lot of uncertainty and anxiety that surrounds a state meet. But one thing I am certain of is they will put everything they have into this race; it is just who they are," Morgen commented. "I'm grateful I get to see them test themselves against the very best."

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THE SCARECROW'S HALLOWEEN PARTY



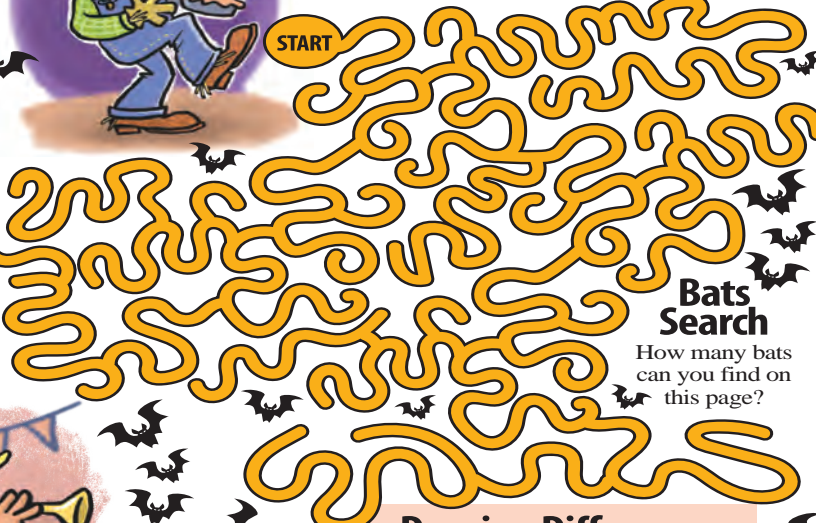
Sandy Scarecrow is throwing a big Halloween party down at Whiting Acres Farm, and YOU are invited to the celebration! BEWARE: There are lots of tricks and treats on this page!



Pie Pathway

Clem Cornwall brought so many pumpkin pies to the party that he's having trouble seeing what's in front of him. Help him find his way to the barn.

Standards Link: Solve problems by eliminating possibilities.



Bats Search

How many bats can you find on this page?

Dancing Differences

How many differences can you find between these two dancing scarecrows?



Standards Link: Observe similarities and differences.

Al Falfa's Orchard Orchestra

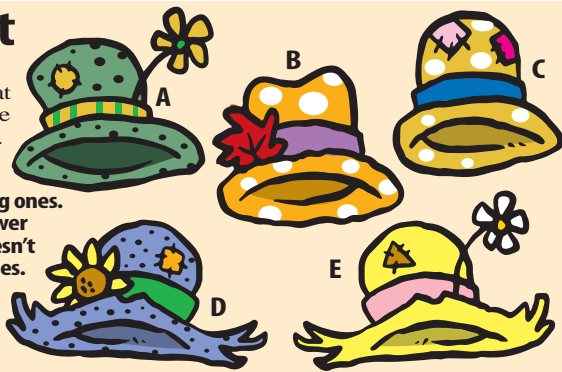
There are at least 10 things that start with the letter H in the above picture. How many can you find?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify initial sounds in common words.

Hayley Hayseed's Hat

Sandy Scarecrow's friend, Hayley Hayseed, left her hat at the party. Read the clues to find her hat.

Hayley's hat has polka dots, but not big ones. Hayley's hat has a flower on it. Hayley's hat doesn't have any round patches. Her hat's hatband doesn't have stripes.



Standards Link: Investigation: Use logic to solve problems.

Extra! Extra! Bats & Cats

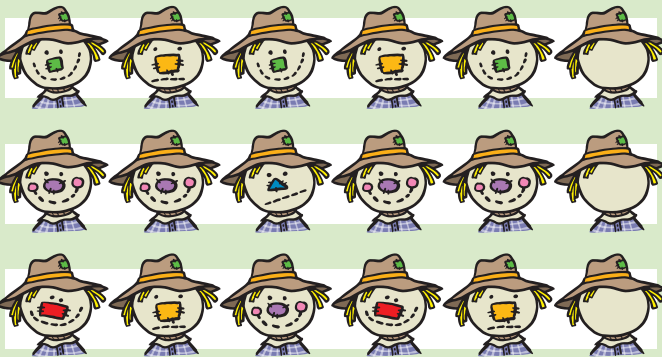
Draw three pumpkin shapes on a piece of paper. Look through the newspaper to make three groups of words that rhyme. For example: bats, cats, hats, or room, broom, tomb. Cut the words out and paste the groups in the three pumpkin shapes.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Scarecrow Smiles

In each row, draw the scarecrow face that continues the pattern.



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Identify patterns.

Double Double Word Search

- BARN
- BROOM
- CATS
- CHIPS
- CLUES
- DANCING
- FARM
- GHOST
- HATS
- HAY
- PARTY
- PUMPKIN
- TOMB
- TREAT
- TRICKS

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



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

Kid Scoop Together

Pumpkin Patch Punchlines

Use the code to reveal the punchlines.

A=18	I=12	R=6
B=17	L=11	S=5
C=16	M=10	T=4
E=15	N=9	U=3
F=14	O=8	W=2
H=13	Q=7	Y=1



What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?

5 7 3 18 5 13

Are black cats bad luck?



8 9 11 1

14 8 6 10 12 16 15



What fruit do scarecrows like best?

5 4 6 18 2

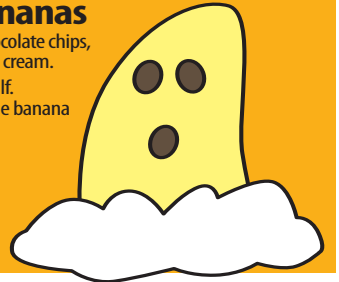
17 15 6 6 12 15 5

Standards Link: Understand context clues.

Make Ghost Bananas

Stuff you'll need: bananas, chocolate chips, mini chocolate chips, whipped cream.

1. Peel the banana, cut it in half.
2. Push chocolate chips into the banana to make eyes and a mouth.
3. Place a cloud of whipped cream on a plate.
4. Stand the banana in the ghostly cloud on the plate.



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