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County overdose deaths still on rise

Winnebago numbers to top 40 for this year

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

More people than ever are dying from drug overdoses in Winnebago County, with 2023 surpassing the greatest number of drug deaths in more than 20 years since that data began being recorded.

People are predominantly dying in their own residence, and dying alone without access to Narcan, a drug that reverses opioid overdoses, according to the county's Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team.

With about two months left in the

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Morgue project delayed / Page 12

year, the total number of overdose deaths stands at 42 people, with an additional seven cases pending toxicology results. Previously, Winnebago County's greatest number of overdose fatalities were in 2021 with 41 deaths, making this year the county's deadliest amid a nationwide drug epidemic.

Suicide rates in Winnebago County are also on track to beat last year's total, with 22 deaths logged as of Nov. 6 compared with 23 in the entirety of 2022.

Medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer told the county's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee last week that if a person commits suicide via substance or overdose, it is included with the overdose statistics.

"Sadly, most of the suicides we have are gunshot suicides but we do have a couple intentional overdoses within our numbers," she said.

Emergency rooms in the county reported 277 non-fatal overdoses from January through September, averaging about 31 per month or one every day. That doesn't include cases where emergency services responded but the patient wasn't trans-

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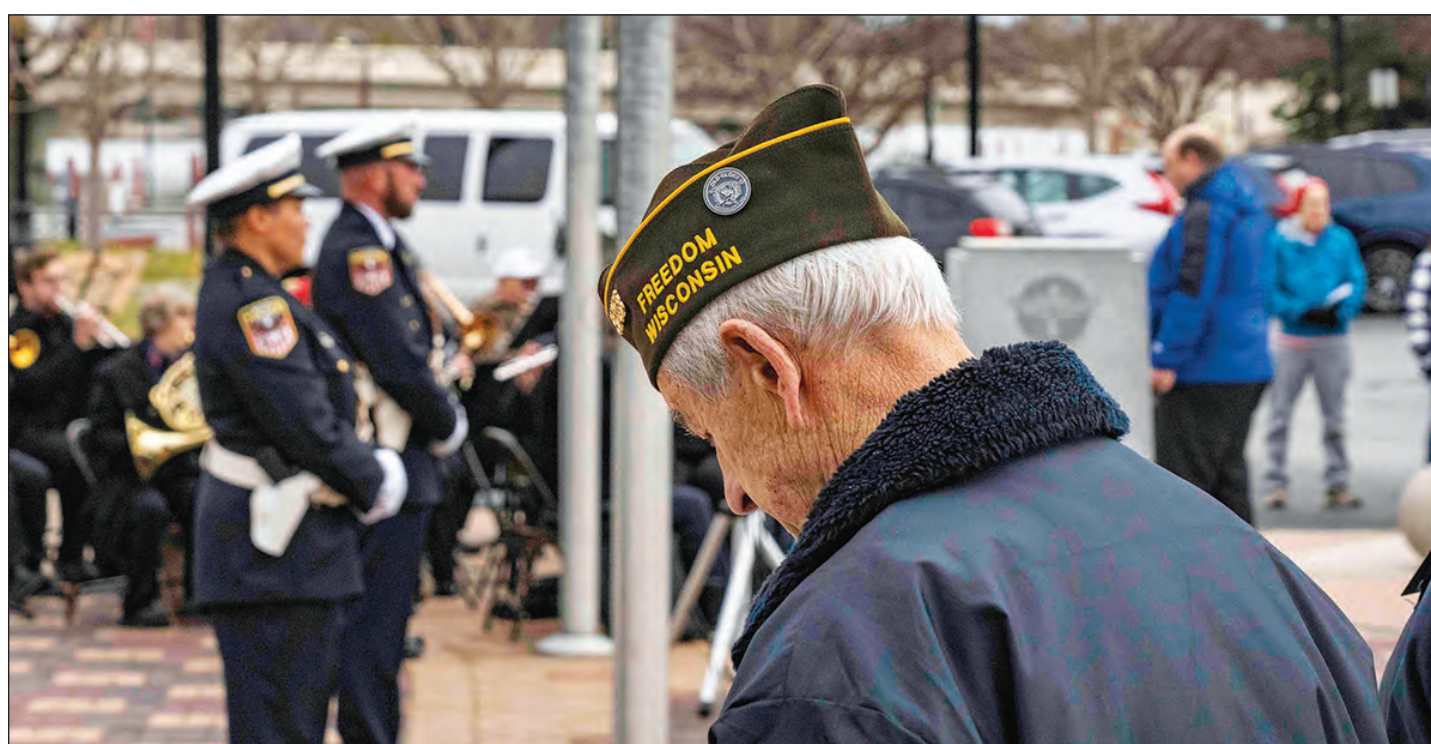


Photo by David Hall

Veterans honors

Heads are bowed during the sounding of Taps at Veterans Day ceremonies held Saturday at Shattuck Park in Neenah.

Neenah Schools superintendent announces retirement

Pfeiffer's tenure ends at close of school year

Neenah News

Neenah Joint School District Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer, who led the local public schools through significant changes over the past 15 years, has announced her retirement effective June 30.

Hired in 2009, Pfeiffer was the district's first female superintendent and in 2021 was named Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year. Her tenure will span more than 25 years in the district, having also served as an Neenah High School associate principal from 1998-2003.

The Board of Education will receive Pfeiffer's resignation letter at its Tuesday meeting and begin the process of hiring a search firm to conduct a national search for the new superintendent.

"Dr. Pfeiffer led our district with integrity, compassion and pride," Board president Brian Epley said. "She faced many difficult challenges with grace and intelligence while choosing the right path, even when it wasn't the easy path."



Pfeiffer

"Through her effective leadership, the Neenah Joint School District has been improved physically, financially, and culturally. She set the district on a solid course for continued success. The Board of Education thanks Dr. Pfeiffer for her dedicated service and wishes her well in her future endeavors."

Pfeiffer issued a statement with the retirement announcement.

"The day-to-day interactions with our students, staff and families have been a highlight of mine throughout my years in Neenah," she said. "Those moments are treasured and will be dearly missed, but I love this community and plan to continue attending many of the events

and activities that make Neenah such a special place. I have been honored and so grateful to call this district home for two decades."

Neenah has had high student achievement during her tenure, exceeding expectations on Wisconsin school report cards five of the past seven years and maintaining one of the highest composite ACT scores in the Fox Valley. Pfeiffer also led an initiative for all students to complete college or technical school credits while in high school.

The district recently completed more than \$180 million in improvements with

SEE **Pfeiffer retiring** ON PAGE 11



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Drivers reminded of safety focus after fatalities

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, which has reported four fatalities on its roads in the last four weeks, is reminding drivers to focus and put technology down.

"People have complacency as they drive the same route every day for how long a time," Lt. Darin Rice of the Sheriff's Office said. "Drivers need to focus and acknowledge the dangers of their vehicles and other vehicles driving at these highway speeds."

There is also an increasing number of distracted drivers on the roads, which adds to the danger.

"It's simple - putting technology down helps a driver focus," Rice said. "Distracted driving reduces response time of drivers and increases the chance of being in an accident."

Rice explained that drivers learn about proper spacing and anticipating problematic situations but over time may not pay as much attention to these driving basics.

"Not being able to give proper space to another driver could have devastating consequences," he said.

At this time of year there are also more deer and farm equipment on the roads.

"This is the time of year when there are more deer out, that's a part of it," Rice said. "Then there's the farmers going to fields and moving large equipment on the road."

Rice said these are all factors to consider when getting behind the wheel. He said there is also a need to ensure vehicles are working properly. This includes headlights, turn signals, brake lights and seat belts.

"Make sure your seat belts are working and make sure you're using them," Rice

said.

The first fatal crash in the last four weeks occurred Oct. 17 with a single car rollover in the Town of Utica on County M north of Banville Road. Two female occupants were recovered from the vehicle.

Then on Oct. 26 a three-vehicle crash resulted in the death of one driver dying in a burning vehicle on State 21 near Sand Pit Road in Omro.

The third crash was also on 21 at East Scott Street, a two-vehicle crash that killed one driver at the scene. The most recent fatality was Nov. 3 in Omro on 9th Street near State 116. The two-vehicle crash killed one of the drivers.

Two of the fatalities occurred on State 21 between Omro and Oshkosh, where the state Department of Transportation plans to add three roundabouts and designated left-turn lanes starting in 2027.

Chamber education award nominees sought

Nominations for the Fox Cities Chamber's Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards are being accepted now through Jan. 10.

The program recognizes the outstanding contributions of full-time, Pre-K through 16 educators in the Fox Cities region.

The awards are given to 10 outstanding educators who have made a positive impact on their communities. From these recipients, an Educator of the Year will be chosen and announced the night of the event March 21.

For more information, go to foxcities-chamber.com or email Aimee Herrick at aherrick@foxcc.net.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Delivery service

Gustav Kalfahs operated a delivery wagon in early Neenah. His store was located at 110 W. Wisconsin Ave. and he was elected the mayor of Neenah in 1900.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING SPECIAL TOWN ELECTOR MEETING TOWN OF VINLAND, WINNEBAGO COUNTY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023 @ 7pm

Notice is hereby given that the above meetings will be held consecutively in the Vinland Town Hall located at 6085 County Rd T Oshkosh, WI beginning at 7:00pm. The 2024 Budget Summary is available on the website at townofvinlandwi.gov or at the Town Office, Monday-Thursday between 9am and 4pm

Karen Brazee
Town of Vinland Clerk/Treasurer

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School district budget plan trims spending, tax rate

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District's 2023-24 budget will decrease by about \$43 million next year.

An estimated \$145.5 million will go to expenditures, according to chief financial officer Jonathan Joch, who gave a presentation on the budget in late October.

The mill rate, or the tax rate that property values are assessed at in "mills" per \$1,000 of equalized property value, will decrease by about 9% to \$6.20. That means a property owner with a property value of \$200,000 would pay \$1,260 in property taxes for the school district. In comparison, Oshkosh's mill rate for 2023-24 is \$9.08 and Menasha's rate is \$10.52.

The decreased rate in Neenah is attributable to an about 14% increase in property values, an increase in state aid, and the final year of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) funds going into the budget.

The amount the district is required to levy to fund private school vouchers in-

creased by about 30% from last year's total to \$3.5 million. Private school vouchers will make up 57 cents of the tax rate, or the equivalent of \$114 on \$200,000 of property.

The tax levy for 2023-24 will increase by about 3.7% to \$37.7 million, which includes levies for general operations, debt service and community services. Neenah will see a \$3.2 million increase in equalized aid from the state totaling nearly \$49 million next year.

The school district will collect \$27.9 million in general property taxes and \$8.8 million to support the debt service payments for the new high school and improvements to other district facilities.

\$350,000 will support a community crime prevention program, Neenah High School natatorium and auditorium, health and wellness education, community use of facilities, and a district communication program.

The budget includes a 4% salary increase to all staff, which Joch said is critical in retaining the best possible people to serve students.

Feeding America delivers turkeys to food banks

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is collaborating with food pantry and food program partners to distribute thousands of pounds of turkeys in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The hunger-relief organization will distribute more than 11,000 turkeys to those struggling with hunger across 35 counties to local food pantries, meal programs and shelters to provide a holiday meal centerpiece.

Funding was made possible, in part, by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the American Rescue Plan Act. A similar distribution of hams will take place in mid-December.

"We work so closely with our network partners during the year, ensuring the community has access to healthy food," said Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin president Patti Habeck. "To be able to distribute Thanksgiving turkeys, keeping the tradition of a holiday meal alive, is extremely important to our organization

and helps fuel our goal of ending hunger in Wisconsin."

Last year, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin distributed more than 34 million pounds of food to nearly 400 food programs across 72 Wisconsin counties, serving 500,000. Visit FeedingAmerica-WI.org to donate, volunteer or host a food drive.



City of Neenah photo

Fire chief honored

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue Chief Kevin Kloehn (front left) was recognized last month by the Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association as Fire Chief of the Year. The award honors an outstanding fire chief, career or volunteer who has demonstrated superior achievement in fire prevention efforts. Kloehn continues to support public education activities, including annual fire prevention education for younger students and dorm safety for seniors going off to college.

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Keeping young people safe initiative gets green foot up

By Jenny Grunwald
NEENAH NEWS

Home Base is a service within the Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley that serves youth up to age 21 and families facing challenges such as running away, homelessness and housing insecurities throughout Winnebago, Outagamie and Calumet counties. The services Home Base provides are free, voluntary and confidential.

With November being National Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention month, Home Base is running its annual Youth on the Move campaign that encourages local businesses to get involved by putting green footprints on their windows to show youth that they are a safe space for these kids to go.

Safe spaces can look different on each block of a community in the Fox Valley. They can be from an organization, a school building or regular businesses such as a bakery or coffee shop.

“The purpose of our campaign is to show young people that they’re not out there alone, that there are those that support them, and that there are safe spaces for them to go for help,” said Home Base director Katie Van Groll.

Runaway and homeless youth are real people in every community throughout the U.S. despite the “it doesn’t happen here” mentality. Although it often goes unnoticed, the problem is right in front of us in the form of children we see every day, including our children’s classmates. Some are accompanied, which often means they are likely homeless with their family, while others are by themselves.

Most communities, including the Fox Valley, face the issue of LGBTQ+ youth being at higher risk of homelessness and



Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library has green footprints on its windows to show youth that they are a safe space to go if needed.

having a higher representation in that community. Van Groll stresses the stigma that comes along with homelessness and running away.

“When we’re talking about young people, when we’re talking about kids, their situation is not their fault. They are working with a level of chaos that they have zero control over,” she said. “They understand and recognize that they aren’t seen, they aren’t heard, and that they could be labeled for their experience, so it’s harder for them to come forward and voice what it is that they need.”

Home Base also strives to help struggling families through a care package program designed to offset things like financial insecurities that will possibly pre-

vent episodes of homelessness. The care packages consist of cleaning supplies, hygiene products, a little bit of clothing, food items and some baby items. In addition, Home Base can put other resources in the care package that could assist these families with housing and case management.

Van Groll noted that when it comes to case management services, Home Base only serves the youth directly and does not offer family case management. They work one on one with youths who are either homeless, on the run or on the verge of being so.

Although the green footprints and businesses involvement has only been a thing since 2020, Van Groll said the feedback toward the success of Youth on the Move

has been overwhelmingly positive. Last year, Home Base was nominated for an award for its social media presence relating to the campaign.

While businesses are currently the core participants in the Youth on the Move campaign, residents are welcome to turn their porch light green or put up some sort of green lights in their windows or somewhere around their home to make it visible to these kids that the home is a safe space. Businesses that may want to get involved in next year’s campaign can reach out to Home Base at any time.

“If some places (are) wanting to be a footprint location next year, reaching out now is certainly acceptable. We actually start connecting with places and start to ask for participants as early as spring or summer, so somebody that might want to be a footprint location next year, reaching out now is acceptable,” Van Groll said.

Even after November, community members can continue to label themselves as safe spaces by connecting people to the Home Base hotline, with case managers at Home Base, and being aware of the right resources for kids to use. Donations to local agencies provide goods to children and families, while businesses have and can offer a free cup of coffee, or any small gesture, that can be meaningful to these kids.

“The main goal is really one step closer to not having any youth in our community without a safe place to go whose needs are met,” Van Groll said.

For more information on services provided by Home Base or to learn about Youth on the Move, visit the bgclubfoxvalley.org/homebase or the Boys & Girls Club of the Fox Valley’s Facebook page.

Community Band in concert at high school

The Neenah Community Band will be in concert at 3 p.m. Dec. 10 in the Neenah High School auditorium. The free music program will include different artists as

well as Christmas tunes.

The band is under the direction of Matthew Thiel and made up of 60 to 70 volunteer musicians.



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Photo by David Hall

Shopping session

Future Neenah's Downtown Shop & Stroll event drew visitors last Thursday for an entertaining evening of preholiday shopping at more than a dozen businesses. Light refreshments were offered at participating stores and buffalo plaid shopping totes were provided to participants.

Crossing guard recovering from injury

Neenah News

A volunteer crossing guard was injured Nov. 8 while helping children cross the street after school dismissal in Neenah.

Community policing coordinator Joe Benoit said the crossing guard was at Tullar Road and Apple Blossom Drive when she slipped and fell due to the wet and slippery conditions.

A social media post in a Neenah group indicates several bystanders witnessed the fall and ran to the crossing guard's aid. One man directed traffic and helped children cross the road until the ambulance arrived.

"A huge thank-you to everyone who helped with her, you have all restored my faith in humanity and what a blessing it is to live in this amazing community," the social media post said in part.

The crossing guard remained in the hospital late last week and due to medical confidentiality police were unable to provide additional details. Several police department employees visited her in the hospital the day after the incident.

"We are here to support her and thank her for her service to the community," Benoit said.

Laws protect first responders on highways

The Wisconsin State Patrol's November Law of the Month reminds drivers of the laws they must follow to create a safety zone for emergency crews on the highway.

Wisconsin's Move Over law requires drivers to move out of the lane closest to emergency and roadside service vehicles that are stopped along a highway with their warning lights activated. If you can't move over, you must slow down.

Drivers also cannot use a handheld phone while passing through a highway maintenance or construction area, in a utility work area, or emergency or roadside response area. Fines double for certain violations in an emergency response area, which is defined as 500 feet surrounding an emergency vehicle.

Last year, 326 on duty workers were hurt and five were killed in crashes across Wisconsin. Those incidents often occur when crews are responding to a crash or other highway incident.

A crash scene can turn dangerous quickly for law enforcement, EMS, or fire crews, because of the risk of secondary crashes. There have been more than 4,000 secondary crashes in Wisconsin since 2018. Those involved in a crash and first responders are in greater danger in inclement weather and when other drivers are following too closely or not paying attention to traffic.

Crash Responder Safety Week, Nov. 13-17, is a nationwide effort to call attention to the risks first responders face on duty.

Model Railroad Club sets annual open house

The Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club, also called the Milwaukee and Northern Railway Historical Society, will open for visitors during its annual open house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 2 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 3 at 323 W. Forest Ave.


Situated in a historic railroad depot, the nearly 60-year-old club has worked to model a rail line that extends from Milwaukee to Green Bay and a branch that comes from Hilbert Junction, through Sherwood and Menasha, and ends outside the club building.



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How packaging can affect your enjoyment of beer

Before we dive into today's topic, make sure you catch the information at the end of this column about Lion's Tail Brewing's eighth anniversary celebration happening tomorrow (Saturday). They're tapping special pins during the day. What's a pin? We'll cover that below!

"My bucket's got a hole in it. I can't buy no beer." One of the saddest song lyrics in the history of music was written by Hank Williams Sr.

Thankfully, today's beer drinkers don't have to worry about carrying an open bucket (with possible holes) to transport the beer we love. In fact, there are numerous ways to move beer, all of which have an impact on our enjoyment.

Few foods or beverages we can think of are more influenced by how they're stored and transported than beer. From a mug of pale ale poured from a cold growler to a pint of stout pulled from a cask at cellar temperatures, a completely different drinking experience can result from how that beer is packaged and handled.

While most of us have never opened a clay container sealed with beeswax (to prevent spoilage in ancient times), many of us have likely enjoyed beer from a wooden cask, usually oak, a process that originated in Europe beginning in the 3rd century.

Think of that. A beer storage method of that has lasted for centuries. Quite an impressive invention.

Before refrigeration, keeping beer fresh from brewery to consumer was a challenge. It was the main reason why local breweries were so important in large population centers. Then, refrigerated rail cars allowed for the distribution of cold beer over long distances, which changed the industry and people's expectations.

Aluminum and stainless-steel kegs, introduced in the mid-20th century, are still used today, mostly because of their strength and ability to preserve beer over long periods. Use of single-serve aluminum cans quickly followed in the 1950s; again, an innovation still enjoyed by modern beer drinkers.

Variations of a metal keg are common, including the firkin (about 10 gallons) and the smaller pin (about 5½ gallons), both typically holding cask ale, a naturally carbonated beer served without additional nitrogen or carbon dioxide pressure.

Pins are perfect for holding small-batch, experimental beers that will likely be consumed the same day they're tapped. Corny (Cornelius) kegs are made of stainless steel and hold about as much liquid as a pin. Because they're easy to fill,



**Wife +
Husband
= Beer**

Jami and Eric
Severstad

clean and maintain, they're popular with homebrewers.

Remember "beer balls," the spherical keg popular in the '80s? They held a bit less than a pin but were made of non-recyclable plastic, often an amber shade and slightly translucent. A huge hit with college-age drinkers, the beer ball didn't last too long, with the price of plastic raising retail costs too high for the target market to absorb.

A Squarrel is used as an alternative to classic barrel aging; its stainless-steel frame holds replaceable wooden staves, which help in controlling the intensity of the wood flavors imparted to the beverage. The beer receives a ton of flavor eight to nine times faster than traditional barrels, and Squarrels can be stacked to save space.

Let's move on from storage and touch on single-serving containers. One reusable container has been popular with craft breweries for a long while: growlers. These glass, ceramic, or stainless-steel jugs — usually a half gallon — are great for taking home a brewery's draft beer that isn't packaged in a can or bottle. Beer should be consumed within a day or two of purchase.

A crowler is a single-use, 32-ounce aluminum can that's filled and sealed at the brewery. The name "crowler" is a combination of "can" and "growler." Get it? When refrigerated, the unopened beer lasts for up to three weeks, depending on the style of beer.

About a decade ago, aluminum cans experienced a rebirth, replacing glass bottles as the preferred packaging option for craft beer. Why? A liner helps maintain the integrity of the beer, and they do a better job at fighting beer's three main enemies: light, oxygen and temperature.

UV light interacts negatively with beer to create a chemical reaction that produces a skunky flavor. Warm temperatures speed up the oxidation process and can make the beer taste stale or flat. Exposure to oxygen — a poorly sealed bottle cap for instance — can lead to the oxidation of beer, resulting in cardboard-like flavors. That's why you sometimes see bottles dipped in wax.

Most of these enemies aren't a concern for beer served on tap, whether that's at



Breweries have a variety of storage/shipping options, each affecting the quality of the beer within.



Gathering around a keg has been a social tradition for centuries, well before this 1910 photo (according to the internet, so it must be true).

A Squarrel (at right) is a sustainable option to traditional wooden barrels, allowing beer to develop wood-aged characteristics quickly.

the brewery or at a tavern or restaurant (as long as the keg is treated properly during shipping). Next time you have a cold one — we recommend tonight — take a moment and appreciate the advancements in beer storage devices. While this column isn't an exhaustive list, we think Hank Sr. would be pleased.

Next month, your friendly neighborhood Wife+Husband=Beer column will drink deep on the topic of beer glassware. Does your drinking vessel really make a difference? It's just beer, right?

Neenah's own Lion's Tail Brewing is celebrating its eighth anniversary Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. Two special pins will be tapped; one at 2 p.m. and the other at 5 p.m.

Each beer purchase from 1 to 9 p.m. earns one entry into hourly giveaways,



Photo courtesy of 3 Sheeps Brewing

including a \$100 gift card, Can Club memberships, beer and other merch. The Kickin Ash BBQ food truck will serve from 2 to 8 p.m. Wife+Husband will see you there!

What beer-related topic should we cover in W+H=B? Email us: wife.husband.beer@gmail.com.



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Business news roundup

Jen Parsons will serve as Samaritan's new associate executive director of business development and strategic partnerships, it was announced by executive director Rosangela Berbert. Parsons' new role will include facilitating growth of Samaritan's revenue streams, including securing new partners to purchase a license to use Samaritan's product Candid to develop a school-based mental wellness screening program. Parson served for eight years as Wellness Screen director, a position that will be filled by Wellness Screen manager Amy D'Addario.

Volatus Infrastructure & Energy Solutions has signed a memorandum of understanding with a global leader in advanced air mobility insurance, Skyrisks. VI&E Solutions will collaborate with Skyrisks to assess and measure key parameters for electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vertiport insurability. They will also evaluate the drivers of insurance costs and investigate how to manage risks during design, construction and operation phases.

struction and operation phases.

TheThedaCare president and chief executive **Dr. Imran Andrabi** has been recognized among Becker's Healthcare list of 60 Health System CEO Influencers. Andrabi was the only health care leader from Wisconsin recognized. Becker's is a health care media platforms that provides information and forums for health care leaders to learn, exchange ideas and further conversations about issues in American health care.

Froedtert Health has completed its full acquisition of **Network Health** after purchasing Ascension Wisconsin's share in the Wisconsin-based health insurer that provides commercial and Medicare health insurance plans. Each organization had a 50% interest in Network Health. The state-based insurer offers plans for employers, individuals and families in 23 counties, including Winnebago.

Ground Round changing to Batley's

Neenah News

Ground Round Grill & Bar at the Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Neenah is rebranding its facility after 20 years in business with the launch of Batley's Grill & Bar.

"This rebranding reflects our commitment to innovation, enhanced dining experiences and community engagement," Best Western general manager Ryan Batley said in a statement. "The change to an independent restaurant will allow for more menu and marketing flexibility."

The restaurant has updated its logo and website and launched a new Limited Time Offer Menu.

The independent brand is expected to allow for more customized menus and enhanced offerings.

Batley's Grill & Bar will continue to feature menu favorites while adding new dishes and drinks.

Ground Round gift certificates and gift cards will still be accepted along with its Loyalty Program.


"Batley's Grill & Bar is committed to actively engaging with the Fox Cities community. We will continue with our involvement and partnerships with local organizations, schools, and charitable groups," the statement added. "We appreciate your patience while additional efforts are made to update our current logos, marketing and messaging."

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Fox Cities Chamber announces its business awards

Neenah News

The Fox Cities Chamber recently named its 2023 Business Award recipients at its Connection networking event, presenting its annual honors to businesses and organizations that help make the region a vibrant, innovative and dynamic community.

Plexus Corp. received the Large Business of the Year Award for outstanding performance, including growth, commitment to quality, economic impact and community contributions. Plexus partners with customers to create complex products that impact the way people live, work and experience the world, including lifesaving medical devices, mission-critical aerospace and defense products, industrial automation systems and semiconductor capital equipment.

Small Business of the Year was the Wisconsin Herd, which started its sixth season as a G-League team of the Milwaukee Bucks. The Herd has grown through fans, partners and community but also internally through their staff and has steadily



Fox Cities Chamber photo

Xe54: A Wine & Cocktail Lounge owner Pamela Barnes holds the Chamber's Food & Beverage Award given to her business.

increased in giving back to the community. Last year it hit an all-time high of more

than \$90,000 given back to the community through donation requests, theme jersey auctions and fundraising.

The Community Attraction Award went to Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI), which has had major influence on attracting visitors and residents of the Fox Cities to engage in the community. ADI puts on dozens of events each year, most notably the Downtown Appleton Farmers Market and Thursday Night Concerts in Jones Park.

The Food & Beverage Award was given to Xe54: A Wine & Cocktail Lounge in Fox Crossing. At Xe54, the ocean blue walls, well-appointed art, and modern lighting create an atmosphere of urban chic that invitingly captures attention. Owner Pamela Barnes, a former event coordinator for a nonprofit, continues to give back and offer nonprofits opportunities to raise money and awareness.

The Collaboration Award went to The Monthlies Project, a community initiative providing menstrual health products to school-age students and bringing awareness to the issue of period poverty and educational inequity. Founding members represent the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region, Bellin Health, ThedaCare Family of Foundations, Coalesce Marketing, and Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.

The Boldt Co. was named Employee Friendly Workplace of the Year. Boldt incorporates different programs to benefit their employees' professional development and overall well-being, ensuring employee feedback is heard by developing action plans to deal with survey results.

The Champion of Young Professionals of the Year award went to Walbec Group, which demonstrates a commitment to supporting and developing young professionals within the organization, ensuring a strong talent pipeline and positive work environment.

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Thursday, Nov. 23
 Thanksgiving Meal, 11 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 S. Park Ave., Neenah

Saturday, Nov 25
 Small Business Saturday,

Sunday, Nov. 26
 Sunday Concert Series: Christo's Novelty Combo, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Monday, Nov. 27
 Monday Morning Book Klatch: "The Children Are Home," 10 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, Nov. 28
 Movie Talks: "Love, Actually," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
 The New Art of Coffee with Ryan Castelaz, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Nov. 18
 Neenah Animal Shelter Pop-up Shop, 8 a.m., Marketplace downtown

Sunday, Nov. 19
 Fresh Christmas Greens Pop-up, 10 a.m., Red Door Mercantile
 Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "Books Can Be Deceiving," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Wednesday, Nov. 22
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Pfeiffer retiring

FROM PAGE 1

the passing of a \$114.9 million referendum in April 2020 that included the opening of a new high school and transition of the existing high school into a middle school for grades 5-8. Horace Mann Middle School was also transformed into an elementary school.

In 2015-16, the district added a 4-year-old kindergarten program and completed an initiative for every student to have their own personal technology device. Other achievements during her tenure included a focus on student mental health with the

addition of a mental health coordinator, the creation of an employee wellness program including the opening of the Health & Wellness Center, the development of leadership coaching for administrators and staff in all employee groups and establishment of a District Hall of Fame.

At a local level, Pfeiffer has served on the board of directors for the Boys and Girls Brigade, Neenah Public Library and United Way Fox Cities. She has also been an active member of the Neenah Rotary.

Pfeiffer was previously principal at Stevens Point Area Senior High School for two years and an assistant superintendent in the Green Bay Area School District for four years.

ThedaCare names Physician Group leader

Neenah News

ThedaCare officials have named Dr. Kori Krueger as a senior vice president and president of the ThedaCare Physician Group, where he will lead strategy and operations of the ThedaCare Provider Network in the pre-acute, acute and post-acute settings.

"I look forward to joining ThedaCare, an organization that is committed to providing comprehensive, local care for our communities," Krueger said in a statement. "My focus is on improved patient outcomes and enhancing the experience in a person's journey to maintain and optimize health."

Krueger will begin his role Dec. 30. He has served as chief quality officer for the Marshfield Clinic Health System in Marshfield for the past 11 years and has been a practicing physician there for more than two decades.

A native of Antigo, Krueger attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering. He then attended the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and completed his residency at Marshfield Clinic. He is board certified in internal medicine and pediatrics. Krueger completed his medical MBA at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis.

Overdose deaths

FROM PAGE 1

ported to the hospital, or cases where a friend or family member administered Narcan.

Last year, there were 37 overdose deaths, with the county reporting that about 68% of the victims were men, and the majority white and ages 25-54. Fentanyl was identified as the primary cause of death in about 65% of the cases. It was the first year that Winnebago County has had overdose deaths reported in teenagers.

The 2022 victims included 17 who died in the city of Oshkosh, seven in Neenah, three in Fox Crossing, four across several small towns and six in the portion of Menasha in Winnebago County. Overdose death rates in the cities of Oshkosh, Neenah and Menasha are greater than the county overdose rate.

Fatal overdoses in the county this year are about four times greater than the number of fatal car crashes during the same time period, according to the Department of Transportation. The increase in overdose deaths follows trends seen both statewide and nationally.

Brehmer said the county is seeing trend changes including a decrease in methamphetamine overdoses and an increase in cocaine overdoses, adding that the drugs are often mixed with fentanyl.

"That's another situation that's scary, as well," she said. "Narcan can help reverse the fentanyl (overdose) depending on what level it is and how many times it's administered, but there is nothing to reverse a cocaine overdose. The only thing they can do is treat the symptoms that you're

experiencing at that time."

Nitazenes, a group of synthetic opioids that Brehmer said are between nine to 43 times more potent than fentanyl and resistant to Narcan, have been identified in some of the county's fatal overdoses this year.

Another emerging challenge is synthetic benzodiazepines. Brehmer noted Canada has had issues with "benzo-dope," or benzodiazepines mixed with fentanyl, and she believes the drugs are making their way into Wisconsin.

"Whether it's the nitazenes or the benzos it's concerning because there's no way to reverse those overdoses," she said.

Xylazine, a large animal sedative that goes by the street name Tranq, was identified in one overdose death in the county in both 2021 and 2022. Although this year no overdose toxicology results in the county have included xylazine, Brehmer said emergency rooms are reporting patients coming in with what medical professionals believe are xylazine wounds.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), people who inject drug mixtures containing xylazine can de-

velop severe wounds that may lead to amputation. The DEA issued a public safety alert last year, calling xylazine the deadliest drug threat the country has ever faced, even deadlier than fentanyl.

The OFR team reports that one of the common themes in overdoses is incarceration in prison or jail shortly before death, noting that an increase in recovery services, peer support and transitional services would help lower that likelihood.

Last year, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office implemented a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program to offer naltrexone, brand name Vivitrol, an FDA-approved medication to treat substance use disorders to eligible jail inmates. The medication is a monthly injection that acts as a narcotic blocker.

Last week, the judiciary panel approved the use of \$52,500 from the National Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund for the sheriff's office to contract with Solutions Recovery to provide an on-site liaison to administer and oversee the MAT program in the jail.

Another countywide effort to mitigate

overdoses includes plans to add harm reduction vending machines to both Neenah and Oshkosh funded by an \$80,000 grant. The machines provide access to Narcan, fentanyl test strips, Deterra drug deactivation bags, crisis contact information, and educational, treatment and recovery materials.

The county has not accepted the grant funds or moved forward on installing the machines after Brehmer spoke in opposition of them during the public forum portion of the county board of supervisors meeting in August and the item was pulled from the agenda.

Brehmer told the board she's concerned that sterile drug use supplies that the Health Department provides to the public will end up in the vending machines. She said the county should be focusing on providing access to treatment resources.

County executive assistant Ethan Hollenberger said last month that the county executive and other county leaders have been meeting internally regarding the vending machines and are working to ensure a focus on treatment and recovery.

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Morgue addition project slowed by added scope

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Nearly a year and a half after the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved a \$1.5 million proposal to add a morgue with cold storage in conjunction with an expansion of the sheriff's department's evidence storage, no construction has been completed.

Winnebago County does not have its own cold storage for bodies. When a resident dies of a suspicious death an autopsy is conducted in Fond du Lac County, with Winnebago County required to store bodies until the autopsy. The county is often holding bodies for up to 12 days.

Medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer told the committee last year that at one point the county was storing nine bodies at various funeral homes. The county temporarily borrowed a cold storage trailer from another county that was riddled with problems, including a cooling system failure. The livery service that transports the bodies is now providing temporary storage of the deceased for the county.

The sheriff's department evidence storage expansion was approved in January 2021 and the construction of a morgue addition approved in June 2022. The morgue was expected to solve the county's issues with storing bodies and place the medical examiner's office at the same location. Groundbreaking was supposed to take place this past spring but no work has been completed.

Facilities and property management director Mike Elder provided a status update on the project at a Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting Monday. Elder said the original plan was only for the sheriff's department's evidence storage to be expanded for 25 vehicles inside and outside, respectively. When the morgue was added, it changed the schedule.

"We ended up adding the morgue in April, which then increased the scope, which then increased the amount of money that we have to have, so we then had to go back through the whole process for getting funding for the morgue and the project," he said.

Elder said the additional funding for the morgue wasn't approved until June.

"We had an architect and engineers who signed up to design just a storage unit and a parking lot," he said. "Now we've added on a whole lot more work to it. They have to go out to find people to do the plumbing, the fire work, the HVAC – they have to come back to us with a price."

In August, Elder said design work for the morgue began and the location became a challenge. It was originally going to be constructed in a back area away from a parcel reserved for jail expansion.

"Once we added the scope to that it

didn't really fit in that location anymore," he said. "So we spent some time trying to see if we could salvage what we had done to date in the location that it was."

The location for the proposed morgue was moved forward adjacent to the Huber parking lot due to issues with the stormwater infrastructure and buried utilities.

"Now we're in a new location, we have to get a new survey, we have to do all the site work for it and we have to redesign the building," Elder said.

Then in April, Elder said the plan was changed so that the facility could accommodate a 53-foot semitrailer and the tow vehicle to move it into the storage area.

Sheriff John Matz said he thought from the beginning of the project it was clear that a trailer needed to fit in the area. Matz said when there is a fatal accident involving a semi, flatbed truck or boat, the sheriff's office is required to store those as evidence.

Matz said fatalities "have went up dramatically in the last year and there are

times it involved commercial motor vehicles."

Elder said there was no way to fit a 53-foot trailer through the front of the building under the existing construction plans and it required new access to the parking lot, which was also doubled in size.

A separate driveway off Jackson Street was considered but the entire stretch in front of the building is restricted access. Instead, Winnebago County Solid Waste's driveway off County Y will be used, with a driveway through the fence from that parking lot to the new lot.

The project is now out to bid, with proposals due Thursday.

"Once we get the bids we'll see where we sit with the funding which was approved for it and then if we are within budget we will go ahead and award the contract," Elder said. "Once we get the contractors we'll make sure they have everything taken care of and then we'll start breaking ground."

Grants available for outdoor classrooms, landscaping

The Fox Valley Area Chapter of the native landscaping group Wild Ones is accepting applications until Feb. 1 for grants of up to \$500 to support creation of outdoor classrooms or other projects that use native landscaping.

Schools, churches and other public and nonprofit groups may apply for the Natural Landscapes for Tomorrow grants ranging from \$100 to \$500 for projects within 15 miles of the Winnebago, Outagamie, Calumet or Fond du Lac County lines. Eligible projects include a native plant community such as prairie, woodland or wetland for educational use; an interpretive

trail using native plantings; or a rain garden used to teach about water quality improvement.

Eligible costs include native flowers, grasses, forbs, shrubs, rain gardens, trees and seed for native plants. Winning entries will be selected based on creativity, impact on the community, thoughtful planning and budgeting.

Application forms are at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/resources. Grant applications must be postmarked by Feb. 1 and selected recipients will be notified in early March. Contact wildonefoxvalley@gmail.com for more information

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Rockets, Zephyrs boast experienced rosters entering season

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah head coach Andy Braunel laughed a bit when asked about getting to coach standout Allie Ziebell for another season.

"I'm sure some of our opponents feel like she has had five or six years of eligibility," Braunel said.

The UConn commit and all-state player will be entering just her fourth season with the Rockets but certainly will be a focal point of what the Rockets will accomplish this season.

Girls Basketball PREVIEW

Ziebell, the all-time leading scorer in Neenah history, averaged 25.5 points per game last season, while also collecting 8.6 rebounds and 4.7 assists. She spent the summer playing with U.S. Women's Basketball U-19 team as the only high school player on the roster.

"She's done a great job of improving her all-around game and the leadership so far out of here for her teammates has been excellent," Braunel said. "Every kid puts a different level of burden on a coach on how to use them to the best of their abilities. The unique thing about Allie is the best of her abilities is on another level to just about everybody else. There are so many things she can do you have to continually try to figure out ways to allow her to be her and do what she does so well."

One area regarding Ziebell that Braunel hopes to improve on this season is simply not expecting the star player to do too much.

With a player of Ziebell's abilities it's an easy hole to fall into – and Braunel admits the Rockets have done that at rare times – but it's something he hopes the team can



Head coach Andy Braunel (center) will lead an experienced roster into the 2023-24 season as the Rockets look to defend their FVA crown and make a possible run at making the state tournament.

File photo

avoid this season.

"That is a concern. I think the last two years (in the sectional finals) we became way too Allie-centric," Braunel said. "That's something we try to work on and show players how to play off of her."

Neenah will have some options in addition to Ziebell as well.

The emergence of Rowan Klesmit gives the Rockets another scoring threat on the perimeter. The junior averaged seven points per game last season and shot better than 40 percent from the 3-point line.

Braunel also believes the Ellie Buss – the younger sister of second-team all-FVA selection last year Sammie Buss – will be

able to make the jump into the Rockets' rotation and be a contributor at the varsity level.

"I think this year with the strides of Rowan Klesmit has made we will be able to (take some reliance off of Ziebell). She has just hit another level," Braunel said. "With her and Ellie Buss and a group of seven other seniors coming back, we have a really solid group of top 10 kids. I really like our depth."

One of the seniors Braunel hopes to be a key contributor will likely start the season on the bench.

Amaya Jones, who was a key inside force to the Rockets last season averaging about

six points and seven rebounds, is still on her way back from a knee injury suffered late last season.

"She's made some phenomenal progress but she's not game-ready yet," Braunel said. When you are coming back from an injury of that magnitude, it is a week-in, week-out process to see where she is at. The big goal for us is to get her back healthy and so she finishes the year healthy."

The rest of the Rockets' roster will likely be senior dominated and Braunel believes he will have a lot of tools to work with from that group.

SEE **Girls basketball** ON PAGE 14

Quality Waste Disposal Inc. Girls Varsity Basketball Winter 2023-2024 Schedule



ST. MARY CATHOLIC

Nov. 16	Bonduel	7:15pm
Nov. 21	@Winneconne	7:00pm
Nov. 27	@Lourdes Academy	7:00pm
Dec. 5	Manitowoc Lutheran	7:15pm
Dec. 7	@Howards Grove	7:15pm
Dec. 12	Michicot	7:15pm
Dec. 16	@Cedarburg High School	3:30pm
Dec. 19	@Sheboygan Area Lutheran	6:40pm
Dec. 21	@Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	7:15pm
Jan. 4	Pacelli Catholic	7:15pm
Jan. 8	Fall River	7:15pm
Jan. 12	Reedsville	7:15pm
Jan. 15	@Hilbert	7:15pm
Jan. 18	@Manitowoc Lutheran	7:15pm
Jan. 23	Howards Grove	7:15pm
Jan. 26	@Michicot	7:15pm
Jan. 30	Kohler	7:15pm
Feb. 1	Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	7:15pm
Feb. 6	Seymour	7:15pm
Feb. 9	@Reedsville	7:15pm
Feb. 12	Hilbert	7:15pm
Feb. 15	TBD	7:15PM



NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL

Nov. 17	Wausau West	7:30pm
Nov. 21	@Marshfield	7:15pm
Nov. 28	Appleton North	7:30pm
Dec. 1	Kimberly	6:00pm
Dec. 5	@Arrowhead	7:00pm
Dec. 8	Fond du Lac	7:45pm
Dec. 12	Kaukauna	7:30pm
Dec. 15	@Appleton East	7:30pm
Dec. 22	Oshkosh North	7:30pm
Dec. 28	Monona Grove	1:00pm
Played at JustAGame, Wisconsin Dells		
Jan. 2	Hortonville	7:30pm
Jan. 5	@Appleton West	7:30pm
Jan. 9	Oshkosh West	7:30pm
Jan. 12	@Appleton North	7:30pm
Jan. 16	Beaver Dam	7:30pm
Jan. 19	@Kimberly	7:45pm
Jan. 23	@Fond du Lac	6:00pm
Jan. 26	@Kaukauna	7:30pm
Jan. 30	Appleton East	7:30pm
Feb. 1	@Oshkosh North	7:30pm
Feb. 6	Appleton West	7:30pm
Feb. 9	@Hortonville	7:30pm
Feb. 15	@Oshkosh West	7:30pm

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Schedules subject to change. Home games designated in bold.



Girls basketball

FROM PAGE 13

Abbie Fischer is a three-year varsity player who averaged a little more than three points per game, while Braunel sees Rachel Dietrich as one of the team's best on-ball defenders and Kayla White as a top-flight athlete who is the team's spark plug.

Post-player Lydia Delene along with versatile players Natalie Quella and Korianne Bartman give Braunel plenty of options.

That senior group not only brings back experience in basketball, but have had success in other sports as well. Braunel believes that will benefit the Rockets on the basketball court.

"Mental toughness, being tough in the clutch moments that's not something you just turn on and we have players who have been there," Braunel said. "We have a lot of depth and a lot of kids who can contribute."

That should put Neenah in a position to defend its FVA title from last year but Braunel knows it won't be an easy road to another title.

Hortonville will once again be a challenge in the conference, while he expects Kimberly and Oshkosh West will be im-

proved this season after solid years last year. Even beyond that group, Braunel believes there will be teams that are capable of challenging the top teams in the league.

"That's the beauty of the FVA. Teams that finish between fourth and eighth in our league would be second or third in most any other conference," Braunel said. "That's just the nightly grind you have when you are in this conference. You have to bring it each night in this conference and that's where having so many experienced kids helps because they know each night's a battle. You have to come in each night ready to go."

Repeating as conference champions is certainly one goal for the Rockets but there is an even bigger prize looming at the end of the schedule.

After two straight trips to the sectional finals ended in tough losses, the Rockets are hoping to take the next step and make it to the Resch. Braunel said that although that is the ultimate goal for the team, it's one that can't be achieved in November or December – but the team has plenty of hurdles to clear before March gets here.

"If you put that stuff too much in the forefront of your mind, you never get there," Braunel said. "We've got our goals but we know what we need to do day-in, day-out to give ourselves a chance to even

start thinking about March."

Experienced Zephyrs primed for big year

The Zephyrs' 2022-23 season ended in a heartbreaking loss to conference rival Mishicot in a sectional final contest.

It's a game that for some teams would stick in their craw for months before the chance to redeem themselves. Not St. Mary Catholic.

"We put it behind us. We can't do anything about it now," head coach Jeff Chew said. "But we do want to make that run again."

The Zephyrs should have the squad to once again play at a high level and have the potential to get back to a sectional final and maybe even a step further.

St. Mary Catholic returns four starters from the squad last year and even players who played in that sectional final contest and Chew believes the experience of the group will be one of its biggest strengths.

"We played a lot of sophomores last year throughout the season and especially in the tournament and I think just that experience coming back and understanding what we are looking for in how we play, and the defensive strength of this team should be very good," Chew said. "We're looking at the experience and knowledge of this team to be an asset."

The Zephyrs return a pair of double-digit scorers from last year's team in Emily Vogel and Audrey Norville, while Sienna Anderson and Nolie Anderson were also starters. Sienna Anderson led the team in 3-pointers, while Nolie Anderson was the team's leading rebounder.

In addition, Lauren Ripley, Elianna Brenn, Kate Nackers and Nevaeh Saringer return after being regulars in the Zephyrs' rotation last season and are expected to have bigger roles with the squad this season.

The success the team had on the court last year isn't the only experience the players have with winning.

Whether it was tennis, cross country, volleyball or track and field, more than a handful of players on the Zephyrs roster have state-level experience which is something that can certainly be an asset for the



File photo

Emily Vogel is the top returning scorer from last year for the Zephyrs and one of four starters who are back.

team.

"I think that's a real positive. I think winning breeds winning so whether it's in basketball or another sport it's a real positive for helping the girls understand what it takes to win and compete," Chew said. "Even though some of the skills aren't basketball skills I think just with that behind them and what it takes is a real positive. If you win, you know how to win and I think that's what important."

With the success of last year and the experience from that team, Chew knows that the Zephyrs will be the target of the rest of the teams in the Big East North Conference.

He said he expects the conference to be even tougher this season but even with the tougher slate, it doesn't change what St. Mary Catholic is setting out to do.

"Some of the teams had younger players last year and some of the other programs have new coaches, so we will see how that develops," Chew said. "But I think we're the favorite to win it which is what we shoot for every year. That added pressure being selected up there doesn't really affect us because that's what we are playing for."

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Oshkosh Herald

Wisconsin Herd head coach Beno Udrih (left) and general manager Arte Culver talk about the excitement surrounding the team and the new G-League season.

Herd players, coaches excited to start season

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

The Wisconsin Herd's new season began with a pair of road games against the Cleveland Charge over the weekend ahead of a four-game home stretch at the Oshkosh Arena.

Last week several players along with the Herd head coach and general manager spoke about the excitement surrounding the upcoming season with a few returning faces and a few new ones.

The G-League affiliate of the Milwaukee Bucks, which did not make the playoffs last year, named a new coach in former Buck Beno Udrih earlier this summer as well as promoting Arte Culver as general manager.

"Guys are excited to be here," Udrih said. Players were excited for the upcoming season, including Glenn Robinson III, son of former Milwaukee Bucks star Glenn "Big Dog" Robinson who played for the team between 1994 and 2002.

"Feels great to be back in the city and the state," Robinson said.

He remembered being at the gym with his

father and his teammates and recalled that head coach George Karl would have to kick him off the court to not interrupt practice.

"The Bucks have been a big part of my family and a big part of our history and tradition," he said. "So it feels good to be within the organization and here with the Herd."

Alex Antetokounmpo is returning to the Herd after 32 games with the team last year. He said he is focused on improving his game along with helping build the team, but most interested in winning games.

"Win - simple as that," Antetokounmpo said when asked what his goals are for the season.

Drew Timme is another addition to the Herd. He gained national notoriety as a member of the Gonzaga Bulldogs that made it to the Sweet Sixteen in the 2022 NCAA tournament. He went undrafted but played the NBA summer league with the Bucks.

"Seeing the banner on the wall with all the guys that have been called up to the NBA is definitely cool to look up there and realize you can get there if you work hard enough," Timme said.

Rockets' relay narrowly misses podium finish at state meet

Neenah News

Neenah's 200-yard freestyle relay team came within a whisker of earning a podium finish at the WIAA Division 1 State Swim Meet held at Waukesha South High School last Saturday.

The foursome of Naomi Cortina, Emma Bottensek, Anna Mulroy and Rylie Bauman finished seventh in the event, posting a time of 1 minute, 37.81 seconds. The time, which was more than a second faster than their sectional time, was only 0.16 seconds behind sixth-place Madison Memorial for the final podium spot.

Waukesha West/Catholic Memorial won the event with a time of 1:34.22.

The seventh-place finish was the highest of the day in an event for the Rockets although Neenah had plenty of representation at the meet.

The Rockets placed 16th in both of their other two relays at the meet. The 200-yard

medley relay team consisted of Bottensek, Bauman, Alliyah Lima and Kacie Stamm, while the 400-yard freestyle relay team consisted of Bottensek, Mulroy, Bauman and Cortina.

Bottensek registered the highest individual finish for Neenah, placing 14th in the 100-yard backstroke, while Cortina was 23rd in the same event. Cortina was also 22nd in the 100-yard freestyle.

Bauman added a 19th-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle, where her time of 24.31 seconds was about three-tenths of a second away from being in the top 10.

Neenah finished in a tie for 19th place in the team standings, finishing with 31 points to tie with Stevens Point and Menomonee Falls/Hamilton.

Middleton won the Division 1 Team title with 212.5 points, followed by Verona with 202 points.

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What goes in a compost bin?

Anything organic can go in the compost bin.

Organic: Things that were once alive. For example, paper made from trees is organic because trees were alive.

Inorganic: Things that are made of things that are not from animals or plants, living or dead. For example, diamonds, table salt, and silver are inorganic.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand that matter can be organic or inorganic.

Use a green crayon to circle all the things that belong in the compost bin.



Don't forget to compost these things!

Do the math to see what else can go in the compost bin. The items that add up to even numbers can go in the compost bin. Odd-numbered items can be recycled.

6 + 6 = orange peels	8 + 2 = coffee filters and coffee grounds	10 + 8 = pizza	3 + 4 = yogurt cup
2 + 2 = carrot tops	9 + 6 = aluminum cans	4 + 2 = fries	6 + 4 = pizza
8 + 8 = food soiled napkin		3 + 17 = leaves	5 + 11 = salad scraps

Why is methane gas a problem?

Food scraps and other compostable waste create methane gas when they rot in a landfill.

Methane gas molecules are released from the landfill into the atmosphere. They absorb heat and make more heat by heating up molecules around them. This can cause the earth's temperatures to rise.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand the environmental benefits of recycling and composting waste.

Composting: An Action That Helps the Planet



1. Composting starts with food that is left uneaten, or "food scraps."
2. Put the food scraps into the compost or "green" bin to be sure it goes to a composting facility.
3. At the composting facility, your organic waste is mixed with things like woodchips, branches and shredded newspaper. This slowly rots and turns into healthy soil.

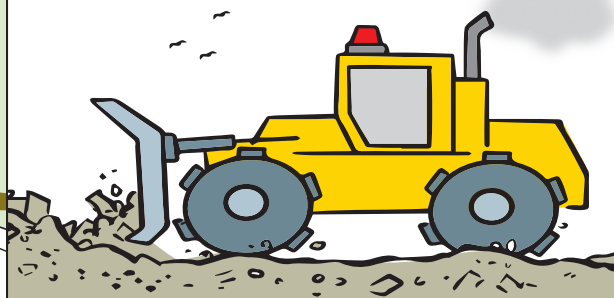
Composting Is Good for Us!

When healthy compost from composting facilities is mixed with soil, it makes plants grow better and improves the nutrition of our food. And it keeps food waste out of the landfill where it would have created methane gas.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand the health and environmental benefits of composting.

Kid Scoop Together Landfill Problems

A landfill is a place where garbage is taken and buried. Over time landfills start to fill up and then more land needs to be found. Recycling and composting reduce the waste sent to landfills. That way they are usable for a longer period of time.



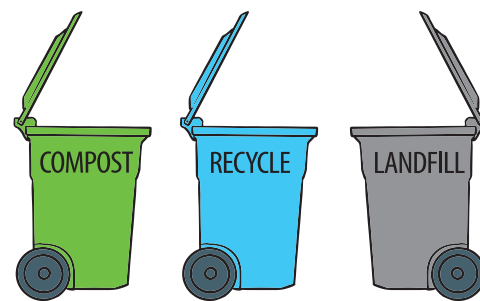
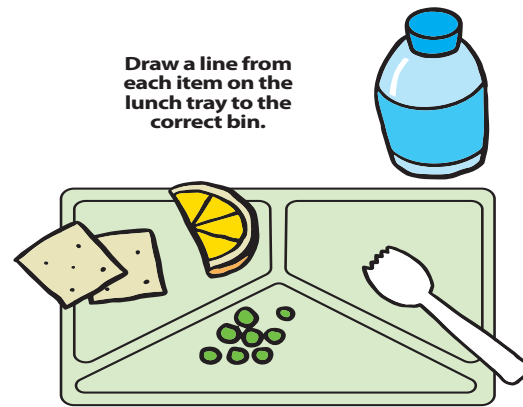
Send Less to the Landfill

What is the number one thing that people throw away that ends up in a landfill?

Circle every other letter below to find out.

F C O L O B D A

Draw a line from each item on the lunch tray to the correct bin.



Extra! Extra! Organic or Inorganic?

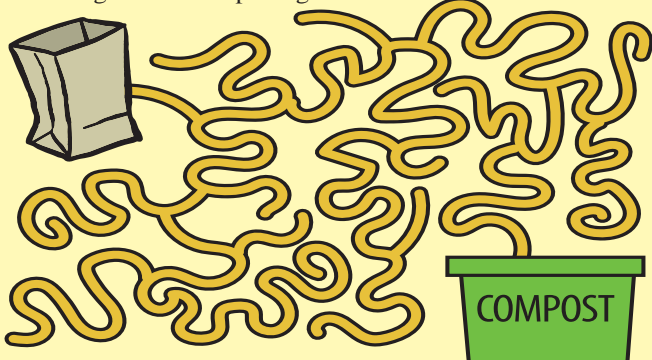
Look through the newspaper and circle organic things (things that can be composted) in green. Circle inorganic things that cannot be composted in purple.

Standards Link: Science: Matter can be organic or inorganic.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Avoid the Landfill

Putting less waste in the landfill helps our planet. Get this paper lunch bag into the composting bin.



Double Double Word Search

- ABSORB
- BIN
- COMPOST
- FOOD
- GAS
- GREEN
- GROW
- HEAT
- LANDFILL
- METHANE
- PAPER
- PLANTS
- SALT
- SOIL
- WASTE

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

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

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

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