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Photo by David Hall

## Scoring milestone

Neenah High School girls basketball senior Allie Ziebell is cheered on by sign-wielding fans as she topped the 2,000-point career mark Friday in her team's victory over Wausau West at the new gymnasium Friday night. Find the sports prep roundup on Page 15.

## Police adjust to highway patrolling

### Highway response leans toward municipalities

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Local police departments are feeling the effects of a countywide change requiring municipalities to be the primary law enforcement agency responding to sections of highways that run through their jurisdiction.

The transfer of service affected portions of Interstate 41, State 441, U.S. 45 and U.S. 10. For more than 30 years the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office had primary jurisdiction over highways in the county, including on and off ramps.



**Benoit**

Neenah community policing coordinator Joe Benoit explained that while local police departments also had jurisdiction over those portions of highways that came through their municipality, they were not the primary agency dispatched to calls that came in for those locations.

"So if there was a crash, let's say on Highway 41 near Winneconne (Avenue), even though that's within the city limits of Neenah, Neenah would not

SEE **Highway patrol** ON PAGE 11

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## Expanded food pantry carries on important mission

### Vinnie's ready to better serve its community

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Residents of Neenah and Menasha have another reason to give thanks this month as Vinnie's Pantry celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting last week.

Dozens of supporters and volunteers attended the event, signifying completion of an expansion that moves the food pantry from the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store's retail space to a 27,000-square-foot space next door at 1421 S. Commercial St.

The pantry was operated by St. Mary and St. John parishes out of a church closet in Menasha for about 15 years. In February 2021, the location expanded into a

full food pantry utilizing a portion of the thrift store's retail space.

Director of operations Jeremy Pingel said what started with about 50 families quickly grew to support more than 2,000 families, supplying an average of 50,000 pounds of food per month to residents of northern Winnebago County.

"Just think about that," he said. "This is Neenah and Menasha. I mean, this is not a big place and 2,000 people use us to make sure that they are fed."

The new location is designed like a grocery store, with shelves of bread, canned and dry goods, an area for fresh produce, refrigerators and coolers providing an expanded selection of meat and other perishable foods.

SEE **Vinnie's Pantry** ON PAGE 10



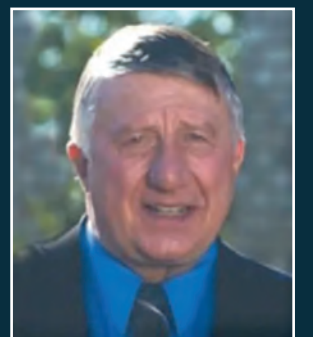
Neenah News

Vinnie's Pantry had its grand opening last week with visitors getting a look at the larger space.

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### Corrections

It is the policy of Neenah News to correct all errors of fact. For correction information call 920-385-4512.

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# Schools score high on report cards

The Neenah Joint School District earned an “exceeds expectations” designation on the latest state report card released by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, where five schools significantly exceeded expectations and five others exceeded expectations in 2022-23.

Alliance, Clayton, Lakeview, Roosevelt and Tullar elementary schools earned the “significantly exceeds” designation. Clayton, Coolidge, Spring Road and Wilson

elementary schools, Horace Mann Middle School and Neenah High School all earned the “exceeds expectations” designation. Shattuck Middle School and Taft Elementary met expectations, while Hoover Elementary failed to meet expectations.

It marked the second straight year the district has reached the exceeds expectations category and fifth time in the seven-year history of the report cards.

Report cards provide a score between

0 and 100, which is calculated by averaging the following priority areas: student achievement in reading and math, student growth, target group outcomes, and on-track readiness. The district earned an overall score of 72.9, improving upon last year’s score of 71.8.

Lakeview Elementary had Neenah’s highest score at 92.7, while Clayton Elementary had the greatest single-year increase of any Neenah school, with an overall increase of 4.7 points to 84.7.

# Local shopping helps support community

Supporting local businesses is not just about making purchases; it’s an investment in your community.

Let’s make a difference together! When you choose to shop locally, including this weekend on Small Business Saturday, you’re doing more than just

making a purchase. You’re investing in your community, supporting local dreams and helping your neighbors thrive.

Local businesses are the heart and soul of our community. They bring uniqueness, character and a personalized touch to our lives. Whether it’s your favorite neighborhood cafe, the local bookstore or the family-owned store just down the street, every purchase you make there is a vote for a vibrant and thriving community.

So, let’s keep our community strong and vibrant. Next time you need a coffee, a gift, or something special, choose to shop locally. Your support doesn’t just make a difference; it IS the difference.

We recently asked Future Neenah’s Facebook followers, “Tell us why shop-



ping small and shopping local in Neenah is so important to you.” We love the responses we received, here are just a few:

Shopping small and local makes finding unique gifts for family and friends a fun experience. Shopping local means making connections with shop owners in our beautiful city. We are lucky to have such a variety of stores right here in Neenah! – Jamie N.

Shopping small means you’re giving kids education, families food on the table and clothes on their back. So much more than just “shopping” you’re changing lives. – Diana H.

I’ve lived in Neenah my whole life and

have seen downtown go through many changes, and I have to say that it’s like it used to be in the 1960s and ’70s. It’s fun and so enjoyable to shop downtown Neenah where you feel you are among friends. I love shopping downtown! – Linda K.

According to the Wisconsin Downtown Action Council...

- 90% of businesses in Wisconsin downtowns are locally owned.
- \$76 is the average spent per shopper on Small Business Saturday. Imagine if that happened every day or every week.
- Sixty-seven cents of every \$1 spent in a local business is reinvested into the community.

Future Neenah executive director Brent Bowman sums it up, “As you begin your holiday shopping, we encourage you to shop locally. Shopping locally is about developing awareness around what you buy. It means becoming mindful about what you buy and where you buy it from. So, the next time you hear the phrase ‘shop local’ think of it as another way of saying ‘shop consciously.’ It’s a mentality and a lifestyle worth embracing for the betterment of our well-being and community.”

# Neenah High School theater garners top honors

Neenah News

Neenah High School’s one-act play won top honors at the Wisconsin Interscholastic State Theatre Festival last weekend in Green Bay.

“This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing,” written by Finegan Kruckemeyer, won the Critic’s Choice Award, the highest honor at the festival.

The cast also won an outstanding ensemble award, the crew won an outstanding technical theater award, and Kaitlyn Bergmann won an outstanding directing award with the assistance of student director Aly Lamb.

Four students won individual acting awards for their roles in the show: Annilee Molchaney, Rebecca Konkle, Marie Dums and Aliza Perry.

At the state technical theater challenge, Neenah took second place overall. Claire Nichols took first in the individual props category and Avery Cowell took first in the individual knot-tying category. Abby Searl, Rowan Hansen, Samuel Davies and Cowell placed first in the cable relay team event. Aaron Hoffmann led the technical challenge team.



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This rendering shows a proposed restaurant near ThedaCare Regional Medical Center.

# Restaurant proposed for hospital neighborhood

Neenah News

A new restaurant has been proposed adjacent to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center at 240 1st St.

611 Properties, owned by David Miller of Appleton, has submitted a site plan application to construct a new restaurant with an outdoor patio at the former OptiVision site. The surrounding land uses include medical and dental offices and 400 businesses within a one-mile radius of downtown Neenah.

The property is 0.67 acres in size and includes a 5,700-square-foot building that is being demolished due to the inability to use it as a restaurant.

The building has already been removed and the site substantially cleared. The location is kitty-corner from Roosevelt School on Doty Island which has also been demolished.

The new building will be one story and about 1,300 square feet smaller but on the same southeast portion of the property.

A 900-square-foot outdoor patio surrounded by a 3-foot fence would be constructed and operate as a beer garden. According to a sign in front of the parcel, two spaces will be available for retail, office, restaurant or medical uses and the location has the optional inclusion of a drive thru.

A property listing notes the roundabout in front sees an estimated 11,600 vehicles per day. The site is considered

appealing due to its proximity to ThedaCare, which has about 1,330 employees. Early this year the common council discussed the need for a convenience store or other food options on the island central to Neenah and Menasha with a particular need for those visiting patients at the hospital.

Miller told Neenah News that 611 Properties is not releasing information on the plans for the site at this time as negotiations with the tenant who would like to open a restaurant are still underway.

At the city's Plan Commission meeting last week Miller said that the renderings are being finalized and he hopes to be open by May 5 which is the Mexican holiday Cinco de Mayo due to it being a Mexican restaurant.

# Groups unite on Toys for Tots effort

Neenah News

Winnegamie Home Builders will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots Program again this year in conjunction with U.S. Marines Corp, Oshkosh Salvation Army and Oshkosh Corp.

The mission of the program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during the holiday season and distribute them as gifts to less fortunate children in the community.

Go to [oshkosh-wi.toysfortots.org](http://oshkosh-wi.toysfortots.org) for a list of toy drop-off locations in the Neenah and Oshkosh area. Collection boxes will be picked up Dec. 8 by volunteers from Oshkosh Corp. and WHBA.

The toys will be distributed to the families that are registered through the Oshkosh Salvation Army. Below are all the

drop off sites.

A bourbon gift shop in Neenah is one of the many businesses giving back for the holidays in support of Toys for Tots. Grainworks Old & New will be collecting toys for its toy drive through Dec. 10, which they will contribute to the Toys for Tots effort.

There is a fun catch to what the guys at Grainworks are doing. Every \$10 spent on new and unwrapped toys that customers bring to the shop will earn a ticket to enter in the store's bourbon drawing. According to the shop's Facebook page, they have a selection of donated bourbon whiskey bottles for winning tickets to select from.

Tickets will be drawn Dec. 10 and customers do not need to be present to win.

# Writing contest offered for regional authors

The Fox Cities National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Reads Writing Contest invites residents to participate in a community writing contest to celebrate the Fox Cities Book Festival's 2024 Reads title.

The story needs to answer the question,

"What do family and home mean to you?" Entries should be five pages or fewer in length, double-spaced and in 12-point font.

Entries are welcome from all ages and from multiple languages. Entries are due by Jan. 15. Go to [foxcitiesbookfestival.org](http://foxcitiesbookfestival.org).

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# Averi able to rest easier with new safety bed

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

An 8-year-old girl is now sleeping safely thanks to a generous outpouring of support from the community.

Local businesses, friends and family members came together and in less than a month raised more than \$9,000 to purchase a special bed for Averi Conner, a Spring Road Elementary third-grader with a host of medical challenges.

Averi lives in Fox Crossing with parents Ashley and Fred, and 12-year-old sister Mackenzie. Like many kids her age, she enjoys reading books, playing pranks on her family and cheering on her sister during hockey games.

What sets Averi apart from her classmates is that each night when she goes to sleep she begins having uncontrollable seizures, as many as 50 per night. With Averi at a much higher risk for sudden unexpected death with epilepsy, Ashley began sleeping with her on the couch about two years ago to monitor her and help her through the seizures.

Neenah News first reported last month that the Conner family was fundraising to purchase a special bed for Averi after insurance denied coverage of it.

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

The Cubby Bed has mesh and fabric doors, padded protection, special sheets, a camera, microphone, speaker, environmental sensors, circadian light and a safety alert system. It would provide a secure environment for Averi, allowing Ashley to



Submitted photo

Averi Conner (right) tries out her new Cubby Bed with mother Ashley and sister Mackenzie after a fundraiser helped the family raise enough money for the 8-year-old's needs.

return to sleeping in her own bed and giving the family peace of mind.

Fundraising efforts began in mid-October and included a GoFundMe campaign, a credit union donations account and two raffles during recent Green Bay Packers games at The Dome sports bar, owned by former mayor Dean Kaufert and wife Renee.

Stacy Beduhn of Sweet Creations by Stacy home bakery in Greenville assisted the family by donating 10% of cookie decorating kit sales to the fund and provided cookies as raffle donations.

When the maker of the Cubby Bed learned of the family's fundraising efforts,

the company donated a mattress and gave the family a discount on the bed.

The Conner family surpassed the fundraising goal and placed an order for a Cubby Bed, which arrived last week. Some of the funds were used to purchase new sheets and a comforter to turn the bed into a Shopkins bed, as Averi loves the Shopkins collection of miniature toys.

"Get her something to dress it up a little bit, make it more exciting for her, because it's kind of scary going from sleeping with mom all the time on the couch to now she's going to be in a big bed on her own," Ashley said. "We just want to make it an easier, smoother transition for her."

Ashley said that after only a few days of using the Cubby Bed it has already been life changing for the family. Averi is sleeping safely through the night and the seizures she experiences are recorded so the Conner family can send them to her doctor.

"We haven't even had it a full week and she's excited to come home from school every day and go to her bed to take a nap," Ashley said. "She doesn't want to be on that couch anymore; she likes her bed."

While the extra funds generated from the fundraising campaign would help support Averi's ongoing medical needs, the Conners are instead donating the surplus to another child in need of a Cubby Bed.

"Because we know how it feels to be a parent and you're supposed to provide for your kid, you're supposed to advocate for them, you're supposed to protect them and we've done all of that, but some man sitting somewhere at the insurance place who has never met my kid got to decide that she doesn't need it," Ashley said. "And I just think that's unfair and I know how it hurts and how it feels as a parent, and we want to do what we can to help other families not feel like that."

Ashley became emotional as she described her gratitude not only for those who donated to help the family purchase a Cubby Bed, but also for the people who reached out with friendship and support.

"They helped us and because this community is so great Averi is now going to be able to sleep safe and it's a great feeling," she said. "It's hard to describe how thankful we are."

As for Averi, she raised her arms above her head and exclaimed, "Thank you, I love it!"



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# Armed man in custody after break-in incident

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A 40-year-old Neenah man is facing charges for allegedly attempting to break into an apartment on 4th Street earlier this month while intoxicated and armed with a rifle, handgun and knife.

According to the criminal complaint, police were dispatched to a residence in the 300 block of 4th Street just before 3 a.m. Nov. 11 for a report of a suspicious person in an attached exterior room of an apartment, which had been locked.

The reporting party told police dispatch that he was armed with a pistol and the suspect also indicated that he was armed. Dispatch advised that they could hear the male suspect banging and yelling in the background.

Upon arrival, an officer encountered Bradley Samida and placed him into custody. Documents say that as they were walking to the squad car Samida told an officer to watch where he stepped because there were low spots and those were caused by buried bodies. Samida said he was told to identify himself as a federal agent and stated that he busted down a door on the west side of the building.

Officers recovered a knife with a 7-inch blade from a sheath on Samida's left hip, a pistol in a holster attached to his right torso on a plate carrier vest and an automatic rifle on his right side. Both the pistol and rifle had fully loaded magazines although neither had rounds chambered. Samida also had a backpack with two more handgun magazines and three more rifle magazines.

Apartment occupants told police they were sleeping when they were awoken by a loud banging from the side of their apartment. The male occupant armed himself with his handgun and immediately called 911.

While he was on the phone with 911, Samida continuously yelled about the property being ransacked and referred to the male occupant by the name "Leonardo," which is not his name. It was determined that Samida broke the bottom portion of a wooden exterior door to gain access to the enclosed porch of the residence.

When asked why he chose to go to that residence, Samida told authorities he wanted to "ruffle feathers," explaining that

he wanted to get law enforcement attention because he was upset with Neenah police for not helping him out or investigating his theories. An officer noted that during prior professional contacts with Samida his concerns are related to bodies being encased in the bronze art statues in downtown Neenah.

Samida stated, "What I did was not lawful," and acknowledged that he was consuming alcohol while carrying his firearms. A preliminary breath test revealed a blood alcohol concentration of 0.14. Wisconsin prohibits individuals from carry-

ing or operating a firearm while under the influence of an intoxicant.

He is facing charges of burglary while armed with a dangerous weapon, terrorist threats and second-degree recklessly endangering safety. He remains incarcerated at the Winnebago County Jail on a \$50,000 cash bond with conditions including no contact with parties in the 300 block of 4th Street, surrender all firearms to the sheriff's office, not possess any dangerous weapons, not possess any firearms either real or facsimile, and absolute sobriety.



Neenah Historical Society photo

## Early marketplace

Jandrey's served the Neenah community for more than a century. Established in 1866 as the William Kellett Dry Goods Store, the department store was renamed Jandrey's in 1916. This staple of downtown Neenah closed its doors in 1983 but the squeaky floors remain in the Marketplace.

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# Police medallion hunt draws out community sleuths

## Participants learn city history while on searches

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Police Department's weekly treasure hunt is wrapping up, with only five chances left to find one of the commemorative medallions and the final hunt taking place Christmas Day.

As part of this year's sesquicentennial anniversary celebration, police have hidden a bronze medallion in parks and public property within the city each week for treasure hunters to find. The first clue is posted on the police departments' Facebook page on Mondays. If the medallion is not located, additional clues continue until it's found.

Community policing coordinator Joe Benoit said a seven-person committee comes up with the various hiding spots and clues. Assistant police chief Jeff Bernice said Benoit is the MVP of the team and has gone the extra mile to ensure the success of the hunt, taking care of internal administrative tasks, preparing social media posts and recording the locations and length of time each hunt takes.

Police have recently begun posting a clue on Sundays that dedicated treasure hunters try to solve to determine what time the actual clue will be posted the next day. Many of the clues involve mathematics, local history, themes and ciphers designed so that people from all different backgrounds can participate.

"I've heard from a lot of people that the amount of local history they've learned about the founders of Neenah, the original settlers here, historical locations, there's just



Neenah Police Department photos

Becky Donaldson (center left) and daughter Jordan Donaldson found the medallion in a multistage hunt in early October that went from the female Indian chief statue downtown to Shattuck Park to Kimberly Point Park.

so much that there is to take in on local history," Benoit said. "I hope that the community benefited from that as much as I have."

Benoit said the treasure hunt has gathered quite a following, with some residents indicating they've taken off work every Monday to participate.

"We've heard from several that they run into other treasure hunters on a regular basis," he said.

The medallions are 8.3 ounces, 3 inches in diameter, made of antique brass and are a true minted coin. Those who find one get to keep it, are awarded a certificate with the medallion's number, and are asked to scan a QR code and submit a picture of their group.

So far this year, 47 medallions have been

hidden and located. The time it takes for treasure hunters to locate one has ranged from 12 minutes in Washington Park during a hunt in August, to 51 hours and 30 minutes for a find in Memorial Park in April.

Some of the more unique hiding places include a medallion submerged at the bottom of the Fox River near the Whiting Boathouse. The finder had to pull it up with a paracord. Another was hidden in the water beneath rock steps in Arrowhead Park, taking 46 hours and 15 minutes to be located.

One of the recent winners has been participating each week since the second Monday of the year and finally secured a medallion last week. Another winner was a mother-and-son team who have been sending police detailed reports on their treasure hunting and finally located one of the medallions recently.

Benoit said the team was ecstatic to finally find one and he was impressed by the level of involvement from people that officers may otherwise never meet.



This was the hiding spot at Carpenter Preserve for Week 46 of the medallion hunt in mid-November.

"Because as police officers, we don't always get opportunities to meet the good law-abiding citizens, unless they have a bad day or something happens and they have to call the police," he said. "This is a great way to try and change that and turn that around."

Bernice said feedback from those who participated has been overwhelmingly positive.

"I think one of the biggest accomplishments is that they're getting out of the house to do something together that's both fun, competitive and there's an end result," he said.

The final treasure hunt will take place Christmas Day, which falls on a Monday. Benoit hinted that the location may involve local history, the holiday and wrapping up the end of the year.

"After the kids rip through the presents in the morning, you know, rather than sitting around and playing Monopoly, maybe they'll all go out and try to find the treasure," he said. "It would be a good wholesome family activity."

Although no firm plans have been established, Benoit said next year he hopes to continue developing similar fun activities because he believes it helps build community trust.

"To build up the positive relationships and camaraderie," he said, "the return we found within the community and those positive relationships has been outstanding."

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# Service station thefts bring charges against pair

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A 44-year-old man and 46-year-old woman are facing charges for burglarizing an unlocked gas station on south Commercial Street in February.

Jason Sculley and Kimberly Price allegedly stole 109 lottery tickets valued at \$849 from the Neenah convenience store, some of which Sculley's girlfriend later attempted to cash in Berlin.

According to the criminal complaint, police were dispatched to the gas station Feb. 23 around 5 a.m. The store manager reported that due to a snowstorm the store closed at 7 p.m. the previous evening and when she arrived the next morning she found the door unlocked and the drawer for the lottery station open.

Officers reviewed surveillance footage from the previous night that showed the clerk putting her key in the lock and leaving. The clerk did not pull on the door after locking it. A male in a dark-colored SUV arrived a short time later, entered the store and used the ATM next to the door.

The suspect walked down an aisle and took some merchandise and set the merchandise on the counter along with some

money. After seeing another male arrive, he grabbed the merchandise and cash and left the store, walking away with the other male.

About an hour later the male suspect returned to the gas station with a female suspect, who went behind the counter and began taking lottery tickets. The male looked around before joining the female and taking lottery tickets himself.

Shortly after leaving the gas station, police were contacted by a security investigator for Wisconsin Lottery who stated one of the stolen tickets was attempted to be cashed at Berlin Oil gas station in Berlin and the gas station provided surveillance.

Another stolen ticket was scanned at Kwik Trip in Berlin and Kwik Trip was able to provide a license plate of the suspect vehicle, which came back to Sculley.

Sculley's girlfriend was identified as the party attempting to cash the tickets. She initially told police she only tried to cash lottery tickets that she purchased herself, then stated she found them on the ground and in a garbage can.

A fellow jail inmate reported Sculley told him that he walked to the gas station to use the ATM and discovered no clerk

present so he began to text people while he was in the store to find people to come help him steal items. Sculley allegedly told the inmate that he left the store, picked up a female, purchased gloves and masks, and returned to the store.

Price stated Sculley picked her up that night and mentioned there was a gas station that hadn't locked its door. The pair stopped at CVS where Price was seen on surveillance purchasing masks before returning to the gas station and allegedly stealing the lottery tickets.

Price was charged with party to the crime of burglary as a repeater and made her initial appearance last week. She's due back in court in December.

Sculley was charged with party to the crime of burglary as a repeater and theft of movable property as a repeater. He's

due in court in January for a plea and sentencing hearing.

Neenah community policing coordinator Joe Benoit said the department takes a proactive approach to neighborhood policing and often checks local businesses' doors at night to ensure they're locked.

"It's a great service because the business owners see that we're out there providing that service that their tax dollars are paying for and any would-be criminals are also seeing us going around doing that, so it's a natural deterrent of crime also," he said.

Police encourage businesses and residents to check that their doors and windows are locked as part of the 9 p.m. routine, a nightly reminder that includes removing valuables from vehicles and ensuring vehicles are secured.

## Fentanyl sales lead to arrests of two

Neenah News

Police have arrested two Milwaukee people in connection with drug deals in Neenah and Oshkosh.

The arrests stem from a Lake Winnebago Metropolitan Enforcement Group investigation that included a confidential informant who bought fentanyl from the suspects.

According to the criminal complaint, an informant purchased three grams of fentanyl for \$390 during a prearranged drug transaction at the Kwik Trip in Neenah on Oct. 6 and six grams of fentanyl for \$700 at the Washburn Street Kwik Trip in Oshkosh on Nov. 2.

During the Oshkosh drug buy, the woman selling the drugs first met another in-

dividual at the gas station to procure the drugs before selling them to the informant.

Both the woman who sold the drugs and the man who supplied them were subsequently arrested during traffic stops and identified as Dominique Edwards, 38, and Aloysius Sartin, 23, both of Milwaukee.

A search of Sartin's vehicle uncovered commercial cannabis and a prescription bottle with seven Schedule IV prescription pills. He has been charged with manufacturing or delivering fentanyl as party to a crime and possessing an illegally obtained prescription.

Edwards has been charged with two counts of manufacturing or delivering fentanyl. Both parties are due back in court Thursday.

## Business news roundup

Gov. Tony Evers has reappointed Fox Cities Chamber president and chief executive **Becky Bartoszek** to the Council on Workforce Investment, the federally mandated entity under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that assists the governor in developing innovative and dynamic approaches to develop

Wisconsin's workforce. Members include a majority of business leaders, as well as state legislators and local elected officials, representatives from educational institutions, community-based organizations, and labor representatives from throughout the state. Her term expires in July 2025.

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# Nomination papers available Dec. 1

Neenah News

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County is reminding those interested in running for office that Dec. 1 is the first day for candidates to file their candidacy and begin circulating nomination papers.

Elections for local school boards, Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, and city, village and town boards are April 2, preceded by a Feb. 20 primary if needed. The LWV has created a one-stop shop with links to the necessary paperwork, forms and guidelines.

Candidates are advised to confirm the information with the filing officer listed in the materials.

Neenah voters will select their alderpersons for districts 1, 2 and 3 in seats

currently held by John Skyrms, Brian Borchardt and Todd Stevenson, respectively, for three-year terms.

They also will choose Board of Education members from three seats up for election currently held by Brian Epley, Kristian Sahr and David Williams.

Prospective candidates can find the LWV document How to Run for Office: Spring 2024 at [lwvwinnebago.org](http://lwvwinnebago.org), its Facebook page or by emailing [wclwvinfo@gmail.com](mailto:wclwvinfo@gmail.com).

Nomination papers must be turned in to the respective public office no later than 5 p.m. Jan. 2. Other forms and paperwork, including campaign finance documents, must be completed and submitted by the required due date outlined in the materials.

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# Calendar of events

**Saturday, Nov. 25**

Small Business Saturday, Neenah

**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

**Friday, Dec. 1**

Timeless Treasures Christmas Bazaar, 8 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 S. Park Ave.

A Very Neenah Christmas, 6 p.m., downtown Neenah

Celtic Christmas with MPK, 6:30 p.m., Faith Global Methodist Church, 1025 Tullar Road

**Saturday, Dec. 2**

Kids Holiday Event, 8 a.m., The Globe Coffee, 229 W. Wisconsin Ave.

The Grinch Family Breakfast, 9 a.m., Washington Park shelter

Holiday Open House and Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Santa Saturday, 9 a.m., Bergstrom Ford of Neenah, 525 S. Green Bay Road

Ugly Cupcake Party, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

**Sunday, Dec. 3**

Neenah-Menasha YMCA Music Recital, 1 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church

**Monday, Dec. 4**

Grunt Surgeon book signing with Dr. F. Mark Moore, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

A Journey Back in Time with Neenah Historical Society, 10 a.m., Neenah-Menasha YMCA

**Thursday, Dec. 7**

Neenah Boys Basketball Skate Night fundraiser, 5 p.m., The Plaza, 229 W. Wisconsin Ave.

**Friday, Dec. 8**

The Rocke Brothers, 6:30 p.m., CWORD Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

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

**Saturday, Dec. 9**

Ugly Sweater Shuffle, 8 a.m., Loop the Lake Trail

Christmas Giving Fundraiser, 5:30 p.m., Lucky Dog's

**Sunday, Dec. 10**

Neenah Community Band Concert, 3 p.m., Neenah High School

Neenah Soccer Club 50th anniversary party, 2 p.m., The Dome Sports Bar & Grill, 1338 S. Commercial St.

## Vinnie's Pantry

FROM PAGE 1

Handprints made with paint decorate the floor, placed there by children who helped set up the pantry. The location includes a separate room for hygiene items such as diapers, menstrual products and other toiletries.

Upon entering, visitors are greeted by staff at a large front desk for checking in. Pingel is especially proud of the new waiting area. He said one of the issues with the former pantry location was that visitors had to wait in the thrift store while the new location provides more privacy.

"As you tour the facility, notice the dignity we offer to those that need us," he said. "We weren't always able to offer that."

An expanded storage area includes a 40-foot walk-in cooler and freezer for overstock. The cooler was funded in part by Feeding America.

While the pantry was expected to receive \$115,000 from the city of Neenah to

help fund the walk-in freezer, Pingel said the pantry is no longer pursuing those funds due to concerns that some of the contract reporting requirements could cause the pantry to lose a regular source of food donations.

With the entire expansion coming in at just over \$1 million, the pantry applied for funds awarded to the county as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors was expected to vote Tuesday on whether to approve \$500,000 for the new pantry, contingent on it remaining committed to its mission to strengthen the lives of individuals, families and the community.

Pingel said there is still more work to complete on the new location but it is open.

"We have so much more to give, so much more to do, but this is where we are and this is what we're going to be," he said.

Vinnie's pantry is free to residents and open for limited hours Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. More information is available at [svdpneenah.org](http://svdpneenah.org).

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# Highway patrol

FROM PAGE 1

be dispatched to respond to that crash, the county sheriff's department was," he said.

Late last year Sheriff John Matz notified the Village of Fox Crossing and cities of Neenah, Menasha and Oshkosh that the sheriff's office was going to divest itself of primary law enforcement responsibilities for major highways, with a transitional period beginning April 1.

Matz told the county's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee early this year that other counties in Wisconsin require local municipalities to be the primary agency responding to highway calls in their area, citing Brown, Outagamie and Dane counties as examples.

The motivation behind turning over highway policing to municipalities is to allow the sheriff's office to focus on rural areas. The sheriff's office and state patrol will still be called to assist municipalities in responding to serious incidents on highways.

"We will still be very present on 441 and 41," Matz said. "It's not like we're abandoning anyone."

From April through the end of June, highway calls for service were shared by the sheriff's office and local police to acclimate municipalities to responding to high-speed traffic stops and crashes. All of the primary duties were turned over to local police as of July 1.

Benoit said the transfer of service required Neenah officers to undergo training on how to safely respond to incidents on highways.

"It's a different ball game when you're pulling vehicles over and working crash scenes as you have semis and other vehi-

cles whizzing by you at 70 miles an hour, only three feet from you, or sometimes only two feet from you, and you can feel that shake your whole body," he said.

Benoit said the increase in workload likely won't affect Neenah officers' responses to residents' calls for service, but what may suffer is community policing such as checking doors and buildings for security, monitoring parks and attending community events.

"You know, instead of doing those, they might be dealing with a crash on the highway for example," he said.

Neenah Police Department's jurisdiction of I-41 stretches from County O through County G. In the first six months since the transfer of service, Neenah police have responded to 452 incidents on highways, according to records examined by Neenah News. The incidents include traffic stops, assisting motorists, hazards, accidents, reckless driving, agency assists and animal calls.

Oshkosh Police Department's jurisdiction of I-41 begins south of Waukau Avenue and spans north through the Omro Road and State 21 roundabout, but excludes the Butte des Morts causeway. Oshkosh Police said in a statement earlier this year that it will develop strategies to relieve the potential impact of the increased workload such as a designated traffic unit, overtime opportunities and other tools.

Fox Crossing Police are feeling the biggest impact due to the village taking on a greater portion of highways than other municipalities in the county. Fox Cross-

ing's jurisdiction starts at I-41 and North Street on the south side through Prospect Avenue, and from Clayton Avenue west of Hwy 10 over to Oneida Street. It includes the Roland Kampo Memorial Bridge and both ends of the interchange where State 441 meets I-41 called the Polish Connection.

Fox Crossing reported its officers spent 355 hours on highways from April through September, investigating 79 accidents and completing 170 long forms generated by highway calls.

Police Chief Scott Blashka said Fox Crossing's highway calls are expected to significantly increase during winter.

"The amount of snow that we got on Halloween as a precursor as to what we might expect was a large number of calls on the highways due to accidents, so we're kind of bracing for what the rest of the winter is going to bring us as it will be our first winter as the primary responding units on that interchange," he said.

Blashka said he's put in a request for Fox Crossing's 2024 budget to increase the police department's capacity. While the budget is still in the preliminary stages, he believes he will be able to expand the patrol fleet by an officer next year.

"That's going to provide me with opportunities to redistribute our staffing levels and our supervisory levels to increase the number of patrol units that will directly be able to impact the increased calls on the highways, as well as any needs that we have at the new high school," he said.



Matz



Blashka



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## Fall sports all-conference roundup

### FOOTBALL

#### Rockets garner six first-team all-FVA spots

Neenah had five players fill a total of six spots on the all-Fox Valley Association first team.

Junior Grant Dean was the lone Rocket to earn two spots on the first team and was a unanimous choice at both running back and returner. Dean finished the season with 1,774 yards and 25 touchdowns on the ground – despite missing one game because of injury – while also finishing second on the team in receptions with 20. He was also the top punt and kickoff returner for the Rockets.

Senior tight end Luke Keller earned first-team honors for the second straight season after finishing the season with 12 catches for 248 yards and a touchdown. Senior center Nate Cleveland was one of six offensive linemen named to the first team, marking three straight seasons that Cleveland has earned all-FVA recognition.

Defensively for the Rockets, seniors Hudson Tamulion on the defensive line and Connor Briones at outside linebacker each garnered first-team honors. Tamulion finished the season with 43 tackles, six tackles-for-loss and two sacks, while Briones finished second on the team with 64 tackles, led the Rockets with 10 tackles-for-loss and had two sacks and an interception this season.

Earning second-team honors for the Rockets were Dean at defensive back, senior Tawan Rich on the defensive line, junior Luke Jung at safety and senior Liam Wasco at kicker.

The Rockets also had five players earn honorable mention honors, including four on defense. Junior lineman Blake Fish was the lone choice on offense, while senior defensive lineman Sam Scheer, junior inside linebacker Andrew Carlson, senior linebacker Aidan Carey and senior cornerback Will Radies were also recognized.

Kaukauna swept the top offensive honors with Finnley Doriot being named Offensive Player of the Year and Offensive Back of the Year, Parker Schuh being named Receiver of the Year and Mitch Versstegen being named Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Appleton North's Brock Arndt earned Defensive Player of the Year and Linebacker of the Year honors, while Kimberly's Sam McGivern was the Defensive Lineman of the Year and Kaukauna's Carson Van Dinter was the Defensive Back of the Year.

Kaukauna's Matt Binsfield was named Coach of the Year.

#### Schultz, Harness lead Zephyrs' selections

Two defensive stalwarts highlighted St. Mary Catholic selections on the all-Trailways Conference football team.

Senior John Schultz at linebacker and junior Daniel Harness at defensive end were each named to the first-team defense on the all-conference list. Schultz led the team with 157 tackles and also had three sacks and an interception. Harness finished with 73 tackles, 4.5 sacks and two interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown.

Harness also earned second-team honors on offense at wide receiver, while

sophomore Isaiah Hennessy on the defensive line and senior Ashton Post at the defensive FLEX position also earned second-team honors.

Being named to the honorable mention list were senior quarterback Garrett Weninger and senior offensive lineman Isidro Munoz.

Conference champion Johnson Creek collected the majority of individual awards for the conference. Dylan Bredlow was named Offensive Player of the Year while Tanner Herman earned Defensive Player of the Year honors. Cole Schwartz was named Defensive Lineman of the Year, while Schwartz and Cambria-Friesland's Brayden Busse shared Offensive Lineman of the Year honors.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

#### Five Zephyrs recognized by Big East North

Three members of the state-qualifying St. Mary Catholic squad garnered first-team honors on the all-Big East Red Division team.

Seniors Lauren Fischer and Audrey Norville along with junior Eliana Brenn helped lead the Zephyrs to the conference title and made up half of the six-member first team. Fischer and Brenn were repeat first-team selections, while Norville was a second-team honoree.

Senior Rhiannon Reichenbacher earned her second straight second-team selection, while senior libero Olivia Noel was named to the honorable mention list.

Howards Grove senior Olivia Baierl was named Player of the Year for the Big East Conference.

#### Three Rockets garner all-conference honors

Neenah had a trio of players to garner spots on the all-Fox Valley Association squads.

Leading the way was senior right-side hitter/setter Claudia Merizon, who earned

a spot on the eight-member second team. Merizon was an honorable mention selection last season.

The Rockets also had a pair of honorable mention selections in senior middle blocker Makenna Baker and sophomore outside hitter Ella Lindgren.

Ella Demetrician of Appleton North was named Player of the Year, while the Lightning's Steve Scheuerell was named Coach of the Year.

### BOYS SOCCER

#### Rhodes shares top honors on all-FVA list

Neenah High School senior forward Blake Rhodes was named co-Player of the Year in the Fox Valley Association to lead the list of honorees for the Rockets.

Rhodes finished second on the Rockets in goals with 13 and points with 31, sharing Player of the Year honors with Oshkosh West senior Iban Heredia.

Rhodes was one of three Rockets to be named to the first team and one of two unanimous selections. Also chosen unanimously was senior defender AJ Price, who anchored the Rockets' stifling defense.

Rounding out the first-team selections for Neenah was senior forward Keegan Vande Hei, who led the Rockets with 14 goals, 11 assists and 39 points.

Senior midfielders Owen Wise and Alex Thayer were each named to the second team, while senior defender Calen Reddick and junior defender Rylan Mendoza were named to the honorable mention list.

Neenah's Wil Krautkramer was named Coach of the Year in the conference.

#### Barrientos named league's top offensive player

St. Mary Catholic junior Kieran Barrientos was named the Offensive Player of the Year in the Big East/EWC, leading a large contingent of honorees for the state

SEE **All-conference** ON PAGE 14



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# Retrofitting Rockets set sights on another successful season

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

To say the Neenah Rockets have had a successful run the past five years would be an understatement.

Two of the last three Fox Valley Association titles were won or shared by the Rockets, while Neenah has made four straight sectional appearances and earned trips to the Kohl Center the past two seasons, with the Rockets winning the title for the 2021-22 season.

One of the keys to the run of success is the talent that has walked onto the Rockets' court, players who not only stood tall

## Boys Basketball PREVIEW

on the prep stage but went on to play at the next level. Neenah head coach Lee Rabas

will once again have some impressive tools at his disposal.

"We definitely had things going to start the FVA season last year (we were 6-0 after beating Oshkosh North on Jan. 6)," Rabas said. "However, after that we were very inconsistent and struggled toward the finish line, but still managed to become the first class since 1978 to reach state in back-to-back years."

Rabas and the Rockets wouldn't mind making it three in a row.

"This season the goals are always the same.: Play the right way. Compete day in and day out. Be the best team that we can be each day," Rabas said. "We are process oriented and believe that if you compete and play good basketball, stuff takes care of itself."

The Rockets have a cast of players capable of making things happen this season

and it all starts with senior guard Brady Corso.

Corso was the team's second-leading scorer last year, averaging nearly 16 points per game. He shot 44 percent from 3-point range while knocking down a team-high 68 3-pointers and shot an impressive 79 percent from the free-throw line, helping to close out many wins from the charity stripe.

Corso also tied for the team lead in steals a year ago.

Corso is the most experienced player to return this season but senior Charlie Wunderlich and junior Luke Jung saw some varsity action.

The duo combined to average about 7.5 points per game off the bench. Wunderlich erupted for 16 points against Kaukauna while Jung, who is still recovering from a football injury, reached double figures twice last year, including a huge 19-point performance against Superior in a sectional semifinal.

Beyond that trio there will be a lot of new faces taking the court.

Rabas said seniors Justin Janssen, Ethan Hoelzel, Landon Konwinski and Nathan Schraven are expected to make a big impact this season as all will be part of the Rockets' regular rotation.

After winning back-to-back titles, the Rockets slipped back to fourth place a year ago and once again face a rugged slate in league play.

"Our league will once again be very competitive from top to bottom," Rabas said. "Kaukauna, Oshkosh North, Kimberly and Appleton North are very talented and the favorites, but I think Hortonville will be very good and in my opinion

people are dramatically underestimating Fond du Lac as there are no off nights in the FVA."

Whether it be the experience, the players or just the overall luck of the draw, the Rockets know they are in for a grind in 2023-24.

As long as this team puts in the work to get better each day, there is no reason to believe this team won't be one of the best come March.

"We are going to have to get better defensively, we will need to be better rebounding," Rabas said. "We will need to be tougher, and our guys will need to grow up fast as we only have three guys who have seen substantial varsity playing time. As long as we can improve on what needs to be improved and control what we can control, the rest will take care of itself."

## Zephyrs turn to new faces to carry hopes

The 2022-23 basketball season was quite a ride for the Saint Mary Catholic Zephyrs and one that was three years in the making. After building what was a state contending program, Paul Bradshaw and his club kicked the door down as they reached the state tournament before bowing out in the semifinals.

As tough as that loss was, the Zephyrs still had so many memorable moments that led to a 26-3 record and it was a journey no one will forget.

For the 2023-24 season, things look much different for the St. Mary Catholic boys team, but the goals remain the same as the standard of success has been building for the past several years.

"We had a great run last year and it was

the culmination of a strong run for the past three years," head coach Paul Bradshaw said. "Our primary goal is to continue to build off the success and the standard established by our team over the past three years. The focus of this year's team will be to take on the leadership, trust and teamwork standard that has been set by the players who have graduated before them. Our overall goals for the program remain the same: We want to win our conference, win our sectional and win a state championship for St. Mary Catholic High School."

The Zephyrs graduated four of its top five scorers from a year ago and more than 60 points per game.

Only Fisher Mackenzie, who averaged 12 points last season, is returning to the starting lineup and will be a leader for this year's group.

Mackenzie was also the team's leading rebounder and finished second on the team with 64 3-pointers and will be counted on to step up his all-around game.

Preston Fields played in all 27 games last year off the bench and will have a bigger role on the team.

"Both of those guys will take on larger leadership positions and I think you will see both of them step up with their scoring, passing and rebounding," Bradshaw said.

Senior Braeden Brenn, coming off a state-qualifying soccer season, also saw ample minutes off the bench last year and could be a factor for the Zephyrs this season.

Sophomore Mason Uhlenbrauck is expected to contribute key minutes this year,

SEE **Boys basketball** ON PAGE 15



# Boys Varsity Basketball

## Winter 2023-2024 Schedule



### ST. MARY CATHOLIC

Nov. 25 <b>The Prairie</b>	3:00pm	Jan. 16 @Hilbert	7:15pm
Nov. 28 @Bonduel	7:15pm	Jan. 19 @Manitowoc Lutheran	7:15pm
Nov. 30 <b>Winneconne</b>	7:15pm	Jan. 22 <b>Howards Grove</b>	7:15pm
Dec. 8 @Howards Grove	7:15pm	Jan. 25 @Michicot	7:15pm
Dec. 11 <b>Michicot</b>	7:15pm	Jan. 30 <b>Kohler</b>	5:50pm
Dec. 14 @Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	7:15pm	Feb. 2 <b>Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah</b>	7:15pm
Dec. 19 @Sheboygan Area Lutheran	8:00pm	Feb. 8 @Reedsville	7:15pm
Dec. 21 <b>Sturgeon Bay</b>	7:15pm	Feb. 13 <b>Hilbert</b>	7:15pm
Dec. 22 @Wittenberg-Birnamwood	7:00pm	Feb. 16 <b>Manitowoc Lutheran</b>	7:15pm
Jan. 6 @Wautoma	7:30pm	Feb. 22 @TBA	7:15PM
Jan. 9 <b>Menasha</b>	7:15pm		
Jan. 11 <b>Reedsville</b>	7:15pm		



### NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL

Nov. 28 @Stevens Point	7:15pm	Jan. 12 <b>Appleton North</b>	7:30pm
Dec. 1 <b>Kimberly</b>	7:45pm	Jan. 13 <b>Brookfield East</b>	6:00pm
Dec. 2 <b>Hudson</b>	5:00pm	Jan. 19 @Kimberly	6:00pm
Dec. 8 <b>Fond du Lac</b>	6:00pm	Jan. 23 @Fond du Lac	7:45pm
Dec. 12 @Kaukauna	7:30pm	Jan. 26 <b>Kaukauna</b>	7:30pm
Dec. 15 <b>Appleton East</b>	7:30pm	Jan. 30 @Appleton East	7:30pm
Dec. 16 @Marshfield	5:30pm	Feb. 2 <b>Oshkosh North</b>	7:30pm
Dec. 22 @Oshkosh North	7:30pm	Feb. 3 @Indian Trail & Academy	7:00pm
Dec. 29 @Wisconsin Lutheran	6:30pm	Feb. 9 <b>Hortonville</b>	7:30pm
Jan. 2 @Hortonville	7:30pm	Feb. 13 @Appleton West	7:30pm
Jan. 5 <b>Appleton West</b>	7:30pm	Feb. 16 <b>Oshkosh West</b>	7:30pm
Jan. 9 @Oshkosh West	7:30pm	Feb. 22 <b>Appleton North</b>	7:30pm

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Schedules subject to change. Bold indicates home games.





# All-conference

FROM PAGE 12

runner-up Zephyrs.

Barrientos finished the season with 41 goals and 17 assists in 23 games, racking up a total of 99 points for the year. He had eight hat tricks during the season, including a season-high five goals in a win over Howards Grove.

Barrientos, a second-team selection last season, was one of four first-team selections for the Zephyrs.

Senior AJ Groppe, who led the Zephyrs with 20 assists while also adding 12 goals, was a repeat first-team selection, while fellow seniors Will Lawniczak and Hunter Schreiber rounded out the first-team choices. Lawniczak helped anchor the Zephyrs' back line while also scoring six goals, while Schreiber allowed just 10 goals all season as the team's top netminder.

Senior Harry Higgins was the team's lone second-team selection, while seniors Grant Bergstrom, Theodore Higgins and Braeden Breen earned honorable mention spots.

Oostburg's Cade Dirkse was named the conference's Defensive Player of the Year.

## CROSS COUNTRY

### Rockets fill up all-FVA squads

All 14 varsity runners who competed at the Fox Valley Association meet from the Neenah boys and girls cross country teams earned all-conference recognition.

The girls had five runners on the first team led by junior Mazie Olkowski, who

was the runner-up in the girls race. Sophomores Elsa Gruber and Natalie Willes and freshmen Natalie Schultz and Maddie Schoonover were also among the top 10 finishers to earn first-team honors.

Sophomore Eme Olkowski earned second-team honors and senior Rachel Dietrich was the first runner on the honorable mention list.

Neenah head coach Mike Heidke was named Coach of the Year, while Kaukauna's Sydney Fauske earned Runner of the Year honors.

For the boys, the Rockets grabbed the final five spots on the first team with senior Wyatt Armock leading the way followed by sophomore Zach Verhagen and juniors Braedy Klawikowski, Harmon Posegate and Nolan Smith.

Senior Jaden Leal was the first runner on second team and was joined by fellow senior Charles Fredrickson.

The Rockets' John Morgen was named Coach of the Year, with Kimberly's Logan Salzman earning Runner of the Year honors.

### Ripley leads Zephyr honorees

State qualifier Lauren Ripley led five Zephyrs to pick up all-Big East Cross Country honors.

Ripley earned first-team all-conference and was one of two girls to earn recognition for the Zephyrs. Addison Dinka earned honorable mention honors.

For the boys, Ian Albino and Ben Schoeni led the way for St. Mary Catholic as both runners earned spots on the second team. Nathan Seiske rounded out the honorees on honorable mention.

## TENNIS

### Neenah has all flights garner FVA honors

All seven flights of the Rockets' state-qualifying tennis team earned all-conference recognition.

Earning first-team honors for the Rockets were freshman Rebekah Thomas at No. 3 singles and the No. 2 doubles team of senior Kinsey Perry and sophomore Meredith Werner.

Juniors Izzy Murray at No. 1 singles and Norah Spanbauer at No. 4 singles as well as freshman Cecelia Gentile at No. 2 singles earned second-team honors. Sophomores Ava Motto and Celia Alexander also earned second-team honors at No. 3 doubles.

Rounding out the squad was the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Annalise Zenzick and Paige Stielow, who earned honorable mention honors.

### State qualifiers lead Zephyr honorees

No. 1 singles player Adel Schneider and the No. 1 doubles team of Emily Vogel and Kassadi Calmes led the St. Mary Catholic selections on the all-Wisconsin Combined Tennis Conference teams.

Both flights, who each qualified for the individual state tournament, were first-team honorees in the conference.

Singles players Audrey Wanless and Erin Blaney and the doubles team of Mackenzie Barmash-Turner and Nadia Alexander earned second-team honors, while Nolie Anderson and Kaylee Sommerfeld were honorable mention honorees.

## SWIMMING

### Rockets land four events on first team

Three individuals and one relay earned first team all-FVA honors for the Neenah High School swim team.

Senior Naomi Cortina in the 100-yard freestyle, senior Emma Bottensek in the 100-yard backstroke and junior Rylie Bauman in the 50-yard freestyle were the individuals to earn first-team honors. Bottensek, Cortina, senior Alliyah Lima and sophomore Anna Mulroy made up the

first-team 400-yard freestyle relay team.

Earning second-team honors for the Rockets were the 200-yard medley foursome of Bauman, Bottensek, Cortina and junior Kacie Stamm and the 200-yard freestyle relay team of Bauman, Lima, Mulroy and Stamm.

Bauman also earned second-team honors in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Honorable mention accolades went to Bottensek in the 200-yard individual medley, Cortina in the 100-yard backstroke, Mulroy in the 100-yard butterfly and freshman Breleigh Maurer in the 200-yard individual medley.

Appleton North senior Allison Greenway was named the Swimmer of the Year in the conference, while junior Ava Strassburg of Appleton East/Hortonville/Kaukauna was named Diver of the Year. Appleton North's Jamie Schnurer was named Coach of the Year.

## BOYS VOLLEYBALL

### Weaver leads trio of Rocket honorees

Junior outside hitter Miles Weaver led three Neenah players to receive all-FVA honors by landing a spot on the seven-player first team.

Weaver led the Rockets with 273 kills – more than 100 more than any teammate – and 51 aces, while ranking second on the team with 198 digs.

Neenah also had senior setter Jackson Dennis and junior outside hitter Julian Kuehn earned honorable mention honors.

Appleton North senior Connor Cantrell was named Player of the Year.

## GOLF

### Four Neenah golfers card FVA accolades

Senior Aubrey Oitzinger led four Neenah golfers to earn all-conference honors, landing a spot on the six-player first team.

Oitzinger finished the conference season with a team-high 77.5 points to earn the first-team spot.

Senior Natalie Quella earned second-team honors, while junior Annika Searles and senior Annabella Hodges landed on the honorable mention list.

Appleton East junior Jaelyn Feller earned Player of the Year honors.

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# Prep sports roundup

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Ziebell hits milestone in season opener

Allie Ziebell became the first 2,000-point scorer in Neenah history last week as the Rockets opened their 2023-24 season with a resounding 78-23 win over Wausau West.



Ziebell

It was the first game in the new high school's gym and Ziebell helped christen the floor by scoring 24 points to extend her school-record scoring total. The senior also had six steals and five assists in the win.

Rowan Klesmit added 14 points and Ellie Buss chipped in 11 for Neenah, which made 11 3-pointers in the game. Kayla

White and Abbie Fischer finished with eight and seven points, respectively for the Rockets.

Neenah jumped out to a 49-12 halftime lead and cruised the rest of the way to the victory.

Ten different players scored in the game for Neenah.

### Strong second half lifts Zephyrs past Bears

St. Mary Catholic pulled away in the second half to beat Bonduel, 62-53, in the Zephyrs' season-opener last week.

The game was tied at 27 at halftime but St. Mary Catholic outscored Bonduel 35-26 in the second half to pull out the win.

The Zephyrs were led by the duo of Audrey Norville and Emily Vogel, who finished with 24 and 23 points, respectively.

Nolie Anderson added nine points in the win for the Zephyrs.

# Boys basketball

FROM PAGE 13

while juniors Sean Ortscheid and Kieran Barrientos, as well as Manitowoc Lutheran transfer Noah Czarneski, are also expected to be part of the rotation.

Depth will be important given the quality of play in the Big East Conference and the type of competition the Zephyrs will face in nonconference play.

Bradshaw knows the tough tasks ahead for this group, but everyone inside the St. Mary Catholic program is ready to take those tasks head on and put together another great season.

"Our goal is for St. Mary Catholic to contend for the Big East North title each and every year," Bradshaw said. "In order to do that, we will need to play hard, play smart and play together. I believe we have the talent to win the conference and also to win our regional and sectional again this year, but we will have to play as a team in order to get the most out of our abilities. We have been building a program at St. Mary Catholic and we look at this season as an opportunity to prove that we are doing just that."

# Obituaries

## Charles M. Perry

Charles M. Perry, age 85, passed away on Sunday, November 12, 2023. He was born on August 7, 1938, in Kenmore, NY to the late Archibald and Georgiana (Geimer) Perry. Charles was united in marriage to Clara Farrell on February 17, 1968, in West Allis, WI. He was an Army veteran.

Charles worked at the Neenah Foundry. Charles was a devoted family man, cherishing every moment spent with his children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He found immense joy in attending his grandkids' baseball games and numerous



other events, cheering them on with unwavering support. Charles also enjoyed boating and golfing.

Charles is survived by his wife, Clara Perry; children: Susan Krupp, Brenda Koster, Mike (Melanie) Perry; grandchildren: Colin, Nikolay and Anna Krupp, Samantha, Hannah and Maggie Koster, Trinity, Mischa, Alexander and Andrew Perry. He was further preceded in death by his brother, George Perry.

A memorial mass will be held at 11:00 am on Monday, November 27, 2023, at Saint Cecilia Catholic Church, 603 Oak St, Wisconsin Dells. Burial will immediately follow at Calvary Cemetery



## Darlene Morrison

Darlene (Dolly) Morrison departed this world on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Park View Health Center with her daughters by her side. She was born on November 19<sup>th</sup> 1938. Graduated from Mishicot High School in 1956, and married Roger (Ron) Morrison on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1960. Dolly moved around after marrying, Hartford, Neenah, Two Rivers, and finally Oshkosh. She was a short order cook starting at R&M Café and then Collins Truck Stop and ending her work life as a dishwasher at La Sure's Café. She instilled her work ethic in her 3 daughters. She enjoyed reading, watching The Packers, and seeing the songbirds return in the spring.

Greeting her at the pearly gates will be her parents Caroline and Otto Kasten, her sisters and brothers-in-law Mildred and Wenzel (Jim) Doleys, Leanora and Victor Jerabek, her husband Ron and youngest

daughter Dianne Hassler. Left to mourn her loss are her daughters Deb (Scott) Lewis, Denise (Mark) Wahlberg, son-in-law Shannon Hassler, grandchildren Allyson Strachan, Brody Strachan and Brooklyn Hassler and her sister-in-law Dee Ann Bell. The family would like to extend their appreciation to the amazing staff on Lakeside at Park View Health Center for the excellent care provided to mom.

*A limb has fallen from the family tree. That says Grieve not for me. Remember the Best times, the laughter, the song, the good life I lived while I was strong.*

Mom's request was for no funeral or memorial service. We will abide with her wishes.

Till we meet again: Deb, Denise, and family.



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