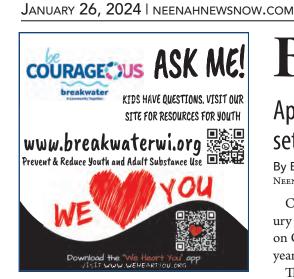
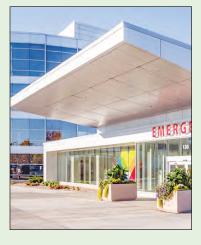
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ThedaCare celebrates
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Bridgewood preps for housing

Apartment construction set to begin this spring

By Bethanie Gengler Neenan News

Construction of the Bridgewood Luxury Apartments at the former golf course on Cameron Way will begin this spring, a year later than expected.

The 46-acre site will include a \$22 million development with a 60-unit apartment complex along Harrison Street and

an additional 208 units in 26 eight-unit buildings, with completion expected in late 2028.

The Bridgewood Golf Course was listed for sale after closing in 2019. Developer Thomas Vandeyacht of Versatile Management said after purchasing the property in 2022 the permitting process took longer than expected and only allowed several months to start the site work.

Prep work began by bringing the pond up to grade, which required excavating down to firm ground and utilizing structural fill.

"Unfortunately, when the golf course was constructed, ground was pushed around and shaped to create the greens, fairways, and waterways the owners desired," he said. "When we were excavating ponds, we also had to remove non-structural fill material that was buried along the way."

The process began in 2022 and continued through the entire 2023 construction

SEE **Bridgewood** ON PAGE 11



Photo by David Hall

Savoy dance party

Neenah High School's Jazz Ensembles brought the Big Band sounds to the Neenah High School atrium as it was transformed into Harlem's Savoy Ballroom for a Stompin' at the Savoy event Saturday evening.

City officials talk about assessments, property taxes

Neenah News

City of Neenah residents and business owners recently received their real estate and personal property tax bills. Full payment or the first installment of the installment option is due by Jan. 31.

Finance director Vicky Rasmussen and property appraiser Kathy Engelbreth sat down with Neenah News to share what residents need to know about assessments and property taxes.

Why did the city of Neenah conduct a revaluation of properties in 2023?

An assessment is the value an assessor places on a property. Revaluation is when a

new value is placed on a property based on fair market values. A tax bill is calculated by

taking the assessed value multiplied by the tax rate.

State law requires assessments to be within 10% of full value to be in compliance and once out of compliance, the municipality has five years to revalue properties to fair market value.



er- Rasmussen

Neenah's assessment to fair market value ratio was 86.8%, requiring revaluation in

2023 to better reflect actual market values. Previously, the most recent revaluation



Engelbreth a

was conducted in 2019. After the 2023 revaluation, the assessment to fair market value ratio is 100.1%

How much did property values increase?

Residential property values increased on average by 36.6%, with the median home val-

ue at \$278,000; up from \$256,000 in 2022 and significantly more than the average

\$120,000 in 2012

Commercial property values are up by 20.6% while manufacturing property values increased by 16.5%. The total combined assessed value for all classes of property in the city increased 31.2% from 2022.

Why did property values increase so much?

Property values have increased due to the lack of housing stock, along with higher costs of building materials and labor. Values statewide have skyrocketed, with a report from the University of Wisconsin-Exten-

SEE **Tax process** on Page 11

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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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Primary election forums set in county

Voters are welcome to attend primary election forums hosted by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Winnebago County to hear and question local candidates seeking to advance from the Feb. 20 primary to the April 2 spring election.

The first forum is set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Oshkosh City Hall with candidates vying for Winnebago County Circuit Court judge Branch 1, where current Judge Teresa Basiliere is not seeking re-election. Candidates LaKeisha Haase, Michael Rust and Eric Heywood have been invited.

Candidates for mayor of Menasha will

answer questions beginning at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Elisha D. Smith Public Library in Menasha. Four people vying to succeed Mayor Don Merkes, who is not seeking re-election, are Kyle Coenen, Austin Hammond, Rebecca Nichols and Stan Sevenich.

A third forum at 6 p.m. Feb. 8 at Neenah City Hall will feature candidates for Neenah alderman District I and Neenah Board of Education. District I candidates are Mark Ellis, Brian Roeh and Kristen Sandvick. Incumbent John Skyrms is not seeking re-election.

The forum will continue at 7 with can-

didates for school board, which includes incumbents Brian Epley and Kristian Sahr with challengers Alex Corrigan, Susan Garcia Franz, Tom Hanby, Chari Long, Jeb Pfeifle, and Roxanne Schwandt-Knutson.

All forum participants will respond to questions submitted by audience members. The primary election will determine which candidates appear on the spring ballot.

The Neenah forum is also hosted by Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education. All forums will be recorded and available for viewing at lwwwinnebago.org. LWV's website Vote411.org will list responses to questions posed to these candidates.

Local woman honored for saving man's life

By Bethanie Gengler Neenah News

A Neenah woman is being called a hero after saving a man's life in September.

Annaliza Ternes was acknowledged at last week's Common Council meeting where the Neenah Police Department presented her with a Citizen Life Saving Award.

Assistant Police Chief Jeff Bernice said citizens are typically not nominated for the award, which honors police department employees' heroic measures, but the situation was an exceptional incident deserving recognition.

What started as a normal day of golf for Thomas Otis on Sept. 7 changed dramatically when he stopped at the Aldi location on South Green Bay Road to purchase grapes.

Ternes, a registered nurse and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instructor, was in line to check out behind Otis when she noticed him going into distress. As she began to talk to him, he collapsed.

Ternes immediately checked for a pulse and when she didn't locate one called 911 and began performing CPR. She continued lifesaving measures until emergency medical services arrived.

Medical professionals determined that Otis experienced a major cardiac incident due to a significant blockage.

"Annaliza's immediate lifesaving measures during the critical first moments of the incident basically saved Thomas's life," Bernice said.

Mayor Jane Lang thanked Ternes for

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Neenah Police Department photo

Police Chief Aaron Olson presents Annaliza Ternes with the Citizen Life Saving Award at a Common Council meeting last week.

coming to Otis' aide.

"You are what epitomizes our community and being brave enough to help a fellow citizen," she said. "And Thomas, we're really glad you're here."

"You and me both," Otis replied.

Police presented Ternes with a certificate, commemorative coin and gift bag of department goodies.

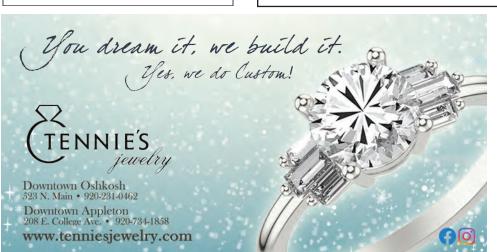
"This is a true example of a professional and an amazing member of the City of Neenah," Bernice said.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Log-hauling team

Horse-drawn sleds haul large logs east down Wisconsin Avenue near the corner of Commercial Street. Anspach Department Store can be seen in the background.





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ThedaCare shares its modernized local space with public

Emergency services, other areas upgraded

By Dan Roherty Neenah News

Health care and community leaders last week celebrated what they described as an exceptional achievement in both funding and completing a major renovation at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah that advances its critical care mission.

ThedaCare marked completion of a \$100 million modernization at its Neen-



Andrabi

ah medical center with an open house that highlighted an updated Emergency Department, Comprehensive Stroke Center, Main Street outpatient space, Theda Clark Peters Birthing Center and helipad expansion among other enhance-

ments.

The Inspired Past; Healthier Future modernization project started in January 2022 after a two-month fundraising effort assured the project would become a reality, supported in part by donors through the ThedaCare Foundation-Neenah, which raised more than \$15 million of philanthropic support and released \$25 million from existing assets.

"As a physician, but more importantly as a community member, I can't ever remember any project that I've ever been involved with where everybody came together so quickly to embrace this and get this done so fast in a matter of months in order to raise money," Dr. Ray Georgen, ThedaCare System trauma medical director and a surgeon in Neenah for 34 years, said at a press conference before the open house.

The health care organization's home base in Neenah started in 1909 as Theda Clark Hospital before eventually expanding into northeast and central Wisconsin with 119 current locations.

"We are inspired by the enhancements and expanded care options that will be offered through this investment in our legacy hospital," said Dr. Imran A. Andrabi, president of Froedtert ThedaCare Health. "The updates will advance coordinated care throughout the ThedaCare service area, including critical access hospitals, giving patients greater access to innovative and specialized care."

Andrabi, who took leadership of the ThedaCare system seven years ago, praised the community's immediate support for the campus modernization – led by Bergstrom Corp. executive chairman John Bergstrom – that came together amid pandemic challenges with Miron Construction, HGA and Hplex Solutions leading the design and construction work.





Neenah News

The community was offered tours of the new updates at ThedaCare Medical Center-Neenah last Thursday with an open house.

"This is such a generous community." Andrabi said. "Imagine having raised those kinds of dollars in 67 days."

He also gave special praise to Lynn Detterman, senior vice president of The-daCare South Region, for her nonstop focus on keeping the project on time and on budget.

"This is not a job," he said. "We do this because this is what we are here to do."

Bergstrom summarized the community's appreciation for the effort put forward to improve and save people's lives.

"I just want to make clear how import-

ant it is for all of us who love this community – to have someone hurt at work, have them have a chance to get here in a helicopter quickly and doctors and staff waiting with this wonderful equipment and have them have a chance to go back to their families and to work – it's pretty hard to put into words what you've done for us here," he said.

The general public and community shareholders were able to tour some of the updated areas, talk with ThedaCare team members and learn more about the expanded services.

Georgen said the state's first Level 2 trauma center has now doubled its space – as did the ER with now 20 exam rooms – and can better accommodate those with mental health issues.

The added helipad for ThedaStar Air Medical, which has been in service since the late 1980s, is adjacent to the ER for quicker patient transfer in contrast to the original pad on the other side of the hospital.

"Now it's just a matter of feet where that helicopter will come in and land," Georgen said. "We can start lifesaving measures much faster."

Among the other improvements:

- Operating room suites redesigned for robotics with four new robotic ORs while hosting a national training center.
- Enhanced space in its Comprehensive Stroke Center, with specific abilities to care for the most complex stroke cases.
- Updated Theda Clark Peters Family Birth Center, new obstetrical emergency department and hospitalist program.
- A new Graduate Medical Education (GME) program to prepare physicians with advanced training opportunities for doctors post-medical school.
- A new environment for the Women's Center, which includes mammography, diagnostics and imaging, and bone density testing.
- Retail pharmacy on the first floor of the hospital and centrally located diagnostic outpatient services.
- New dining area on main floor for visitors and team members championed by Bergstrom's wife, Dianne, who was a registered nurse for 30 years at Theda Clark and ThedaCare hospitals.



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Commercial St. site demolition, pedestrian signals approved

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is moving forward on demolishing three buildings at 1345 S. Commercial St. to make way for redevelopment while also installing accessible pedestrian signal systems at five intersections after Common Council approval last

The city acquired the property in November. A car wash to the north is closed, while an active car wash is situated on an adjacent property to the south.

Community development director Chris Haese said the location is the city's third property acquisition in the South Commercial Street corridor. He said the city discussed the location with two adjacent property owners who expressed interest in acquiring the property for an alternative use.

"They all have some interest in doing something different; so we have a relatively sizable piece of property that's probably a little more attractive than the other two we currently have, so we continue to market those," he said.



Three buildings on South Commercial Street, including the two shown next to an inactive car wash, on a parcel acquired by the city late last year will be demolished and cleared for redevelopment.

The property includes three buildings, two that were habitable and a garage on the south side. With Reed Street scheduled for reconstruction in 2025, Haese said he anticipates increased interest in redeveloping the property.

Asbestos investigation and mitigation is now complete and the city is moving forward on clearing and demolishing the site. The council voted to award the contract to Go Green Recycling for \$23,800 funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Last year, the city used CDBG funds for

accessible pedestrian signal (APS) push button systems at the intersections of Bell and Commercial streets; and Bell/Marathon Avenue.

Traffic engineer James Merten wrote in a memo to the council that the APS systems allow pedestrians with disabilities, particularly those with vision impairments, to better interact with signalized intersections for safer use of crosswalks.

"These push buttons provide audible tones and messages communicating the status of the signal operation, provide the ability for a disabled person to interact using cellphone, provide usage and device information, provide long-press walk time variation operation, and can be upgraded to also include motion sensor/touchless operation," he said.

Merten requested CDBG funds to install the APS systems at Wisconsin Ave./ Church St.; Wisconsin/Commercial; Wisconsin/Oak St.; and Commercial/ Forest Ave.

The locations were chosen due to high pedestrian activity, proximity to services, proximity to transit routes, ability to improve signal operations and existing signal hardware capabilities. The anticipated cost is \$8,000 per intersection.

In addition, staff also requested approval to use the remaining funds from the Southpark Industrial Center project budget to purchase an APS system for the Bell Street/Industrial Drive intersection at a cost of \$6,500.

The total cost for the five APS systems is \$38,500. The council voted 8-1 in favor of purchasing and installing the APS systems, with District 2 Alderman Tami Erickson voting against.

Feeding America, Bucks star tip off campaign

With the state facing an increase in food insecurity among children, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is kicking off its 21st Annual PB&J Challenge, a two-month fundraising and awareness campaign.

According to recent statistics, one in eight children in eastern Wisconsin do not know where their next meal is coming from. The PB&J Challenge through Feb. 29 encourages supporters to make monetary donations or organize a peanut butter and jelly food drive at their school or workplace to help Feeding America stock the shelves at area food pantries, meal programs and shelters.

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin also announced a continued partnership with Milwaukee Bucks forward Bobby Portis Jr., who will serve as the campaign's ambassador for the second year. Growing up in a single-parent household, Portis understands family food struggles.

"It's all about giving back and spreading

your blessings with others," Portis said. "I come from humble beginnings and we never did it on our own - we always had help along the way. Being able to have this platform and spread my blessings with others has always been a calling of mine."

The campaign is presented by Hydrite, with additional support from Cousins Subs, Plum Media, Potawatomi Casino Hotel, Pick 'n Save, Drake & Associates, Old National Bank, and the Bobby Portis Foundation.



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The New Year marks an exciting milestone for the health and well-being of the people of Wisconsin.

Froedtert Health and ThedaCare announced our plans last spring to come together as one organization, taking the best of two leading Wisconsin-based health systems to create something new and reinvent the future of health care in our state. We now take an important step forward in that journey by officially launching our combined health system.

As a combined organization, we are poised to help the people of Wisconsin live their unique, best lives. In partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin, we will cover every aspect of care delivery, providing better and more seamless access to integrated, high-quality care, and serve as a proactive partner in health to help keep people well. From our shared commitment to clinical excellence to our strengths in community health and academic medicine, we can build a brighter future for Wisconsin.

As a Wisconsin-based and led health system, we know our communities and their unique health needs, and we have the right resources, expertise and understanding of our local communities to have a positive, lasting impact. We have come together to ensure we can meet the needs of our communities today, while developing new, creative solutions to improve the health of generations to come.

With our new health system launched, we will begin the thoughtful, deliberate process to shape how our new organization looks and feels, all intended to make things even better for the people we serve. As we create something new, you can continue seeing your trusted providers and accessing health care services as you always have.

We are honored to serve you and care for our communities in Wisconsin, and we look forward to sharing updates on our progress and the inspiring benefits Wisconsinites will experience through our combination.

With gratitude,

Cathy Jacobson CEO

Froedtert ThedaCare Health, Inc.

Jud Snyder Chair, Board of Directors Froedtert ThedaCare Health, Inc. Imran Andrabi, MD, FAAFM President Froedtert ThedaCare Health, Inc.

James Kotek Vice Chair, Board of Directors Froedtert ThedaCare Health, Inc.







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American dream comes true for Luxury Spa owner

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

A Russian native hopes her spa in Neenah will become an immigrant success story with community support for the new busi-

When Natalya Chernov immigrated to the United States more than three decades ago, she had no idea she would find the American dream in Wisconsin.

"I came from Russia, and in Russia at that time - like back in the 1980s when we had the USSR - nobody had this business," she said. "Nobody did facials."

Chernov opened Luxury Spa in a suite at 1075 S. Lake St. this past fall. The licensed aesthetician offers facials, chemical peels, waxing, body contouring wraps and other services.

What brought Chernov to Neenah is quite the story.

Born and raised in Russia, Chernov married into a Christian family when she was 18. Historically, the Soviet Union persecuted forms of Christianity.

The newlyweds joined thousands of Russian emigrants in leaving the country in 1990, first moving to Austria, then Italy, and finally landing in Illinois.

In the U.S., the couple settled in a community of immigrants, with stores carrying Russian groceries and neighbors who spoke the native language. The couple had three children and Chernov spoke Russian to them.

'You know, nobody wants to forget your own language," she said.

After divorcing her husband, Chernov and her daughter moved to Wisconsin in 2017 to start over. Her two adult sons still live in Illinois.

She started a new job working at JC Pen-

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Russian national Natalya Chernov opened a new business last year offering facials and other services out of a suite on South Lake Street.

ney and began picking up English. She also started considering what she wanted to do in life and how to accomplish her goals.

"One day I feel like, you know what, I don't want to stay here until my retirement," she said.

Growing up, Chernov learned about skin care by watching television and reading magazines.

"And then I remember my high school dream," she said. "So I found beauty school in Appleton."

For Chernov, the path wasn't an easy one. While teaching herself how to speak and write English, she attended school full time, worked full time and raised her 13-year-old daughter as a single mother.

"I (would) basically leave at like seven in the morning and come back at 11 p.m.," she

She was learning the language at the same time as learning the terminology used

by aestheticians. After the first two weeks of school, Chernov nearly gave up.

"I told them that I'm going to quit because it's like, oh my God, 100 new words every day," she said.

With her daughter's support, she perse-

"I wasn't home for like nine months that I was in school," she said. "She helped me a lot. She was cleaning and cooking and doing laundry."

At age 47 Chernov graduated and became a licensed aesthetician. She was hired at Sunflower Spa in Appleton where she built a clientele of regulars who appreciated the extra effort she puts into her services.

Last spring Sunflower Spa closed and a new owner took over. Chernov once again found herself at a crossroads. She missed her clients and considered that maybe she could strike out on her own.

While looking at places for rent, she fell

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in love with the space in Neenah adjacent to Starbucks with its central location providing easy access to clients traveling from Oshkosh, New London and Appleton. A few months later, she opened Luxury Spa.

Some of Chernov's former clients from Sunflower Spa followed her to the new business, but she noted others may not know how to find her.

"If they're going to find out that I'm here, I know they will come," she said.

That's because Chernov goes above and beyond for her clients.

"I always try to do something special, something extra on people, because I know how hard you have to work to get this money," she said.

She offers a free consultation used to educate on skin care.

She also offers a retail line of skin care products that target various issues.

During some Luxury Spa appointments, a product is applied and remains on for a period of time.

"I don't want people to just lay there for like 15 minutes," she said. "I like to massage their feet ... massage their scalp. I take care of you; like for the whole 90 minutes my hands are on you."

Since opening, Luxury Spa has acquired more than 50 five-star reviews on Google. The business regularly offers promotions, including an upcoming Valentine's Day special.

Chernov noted business has been slow but she's hopeful the community will support her dream.

"I love my clients and they love me," she

For more information, visit luxuryspawi. square.site or find the business on Facebook and Instagram.



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Local musician brought harmony to fans

Neenah News

Popular local reggae vocalist and musician Kai "Pita" Kotobalavu, whose achievements include leading Unity the Band for more than 20 years while founding and headlining the annual Midwest Sunsplash Music Festival for 10 years, lost his battle with colon cancer last weekend.

His longtime partner, Kay Halbrook, announced his passing on Facebook. He was 55.

"Nothing could be worse than the last couple weeks, watching my love Pita Kotobalavu pass on from cancer," she wrote. "He has been the star of my heart and the ying to my yang since 2010."

Born in Fiji, Kotobalavu moved to Wisconsin in 2002. There he found a music community welcoming of his style of reggae and rock. He was a versatile instrumentalist, telling the media last year that he plays everything, including guitar, drums and keyboard.

Together with guitarist Curtis Ayres, bassist Timothy Perkins, keyboardist Greg Pagel and drummer Kelvin Ayres, Kotobalavu formed Unity the Band. He

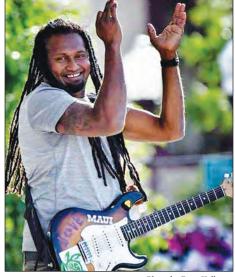


Photo by Dave Kallawa

Pita Kotobalavu was a musical mainstay in the Fox Valley and Wisconsin over the past two decades while leading Unity the Band.

played about 200 shows annually for more than two decades.

Kotobalavu and Halbrook are credited with starting the Sunsplash Music Festival in Menasha, which boasts "a little of everything" including pop, rock, country, blues, reggae, R&B, soul and punk. Proceeds from the annual festival go to the nonprofit YouthGo organization.

About two years ago Kotobalavu was diagnosed with colon cancer. He continued playing shows while undergoing chemotherapy until his health issues became too great. The band played its final show Dec. 31.

On the Midwest Sunsplash page, Halbrook wrote that Kotobalavu asked that details on his death be private.

"I was proud to be his partner and we had great adventures and accomplished great things together with our children," she wrote.

As news of his passing spread on social media, dozens of supporters posted tributes.

"Pita spread such light in this world," Jan Guehlstorf said.

Paul Doering wrote that "he was a great musician, but more importantly, he was a great man."

The family is raising funds for Kotobalavu's favorite causes. Donations can be made by Venmo to @unitytheband. A celebration of life will be held April 21 at Fifth Ward Brewing Co. in Oshkosh.

Fifth-offense OWI charges dismissed by judge

Neenah News

A Winnebago County Circuit Court judge dismissed a Neenah man's fifth-offense operating while intoxicated (OWI) charge late last year due to lack of reasonable suspicion for a traffic stop.

Joseph Yonke, 42, was arrested April 15 for OWI and operating with a prohibited alcohol content, both a fifth offense with an alcohol fine enhancer. Yonke has past OWI convictions in Winnebago County from 2002, 2005, 2014 and 2017. A preliminary breath test indicated his blood alcohol concentration was 0.16, twice the legal limit.

According to the criminal complaint, Neenah Police Sgt. Samuel Santiago was monitoring traffic within the area of West Winneconne Avenue and Jackson Street around 2 a.m. when he witnessed a vehicle driven by Yonke that suddenly braked, made a U-turn and crossed a double solid median to travel west.

A few minutes later the vehicle came back past Santiago again and he initiated a traffic stop. Santiago testified that he called in the vehicle's registration and determined the plates were registered to a different vehicle owned by Yonke before initiating the stop.

Yonke's attorney, Scott Ceman, argued there was nothing unlawful about a vehicle doing a U-turn and Santiago did not have reasonable suspicion for the traffic stop. Ceman presented body cam footage to the judge indicating Santiago first pulled over the vehicle, then called in the registration information.

"They have failed to meet their burden by the direct testimony of their witness when he said he wasn't sure when he ran (the license plate), and we know from the video it was definitely ran after the seizure," Ceman told the judge.

Judge Bryan Keberlein dismissed the felony charges against Yonke without prejudice, meaning he could be retried. The order to dismiss notes that the state has determined there isn't sufficient evidence to convince a jury beyond a reasonable doubt of Yonke's guilt.

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Trial set in murder of Milwaukee woman

Neenah News

A Neenah man accused of killing a Milwaukee transgender woman last February and starting her apartment on fire has been found competent to proceed with a jury trial.

Cordell Howze, 33, pleaded not guilty due to mental disease or defect to

charges of first-degree reckless homicide and possession of a firearm by a felon. A doctor's report found no basis to support the plea and a judge set a jury trial for early June.



Howze

Howze was arrested last January for

fleeing and eluding in connection with a Winnebago County pursuit and released Feb. 24.

Two days later firefighters found Cashay Henderson, 31, dead in a burning Milwaukee apartment building with two gunshot wounds.

Howze was captured in traffic cam footage in a vehicle with Henderson near her apartment around the time she was killed.

According to the criminal complaint, the day after Henderson was found dead Howze showed up at the Neenah home of a male acquaintance and showed him a cellphone video of a dead female with blood on her head and stated, "I caught a body of a disgusting (expletive) tran," which the friend knew to mean he killed a transgender person.

Howze later told another acquaintance that he "popped" a "transvestite." He also gave his mother a Gucci purse and a Rolex watch, both belonging to Henderson. At Howze's grandmother's house, authorities found several letters addressed to Henderson.

"Defendant went to the victim's house, killed her, attempted to burn the house in an attempt to cover it up, and stole the victim's purse, watch and mail," the complaint states.

On Feb. 28, Neenah police initiated a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle at around 11:15 p.m. and Howze fled into Menasha where officers used a precision immobilization technique (PIT maneuver) and taser to place him into custody. He was charged with felony fleeing and eluding for the incident.

Henderson's death marked the third Black trans woman killed in Milwaukee in a nine-month period, sparking public outcry and a petition demanding that Howze be charged with a hate crime. He faces a maximum sentence of more than 70 years in prison if convicted.



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First Alert®

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January 26, 2024

Calendar of events

Saturday, Jan. 27

Friends of Library Magazine Sale, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Movie Talks: "Insomnia," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Feb. 3

Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Sunday, Feb. 4

Our Saviors Lutheran Church meat raffle, 1 p.m., The Dome, 1338 S. Commercial St.

Thursday, Feb. 8

Local candidates forums, 6 a.m., Neenah City Hall

Friday, Feb. 9

Uncorked & Uncapped, 7 p.m., Best Western Bridgewood Premier Resort After-Hours Campout, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Feb. 10

Warm Your Heart, 11 a.m., downtown Neenah

Dying 2 Live, 2 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

Monday, Feb. 12

Monday Matinees, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, Feb. 15

Neenah Historical program: "Ladysmith: The Husbands and Homes of Isabel Johnson," 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, Feb. 16

King's Conquest, 6:30 p.m., Faith Global Methodist, 1025 Tullar Road

Saturday, Feb. 17

Coffee & Coaching with Gemma Donalson, 9 a.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Winnebago Audubon field trip, 9 a.m., Kimberly Point and Wilderness Park, Neenah

Doemel closing ZaRonis, turns to re-election

Neenah News

Winnebago County Executive Jon Doemel announced this week he will be closing ZaRonis Pizza, his family restaurant in Oshkosh, next month and put his energy toward his re-election campaign.

Doemel made the announcement in a social media post where he described the beginnings of the restaurant in 2004 and the move to the current location on Jack-

son Street.

"It has been an absolute pleasure serving this community. This is one of the hardest decisions we have ever had to make," Doemel said. The last day ZaRonis will be open is Feb. 11.

Doemel won the county executive seat in 2021. He said he will now be focused on public service, including announcing his re-election campaign for 2025.

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Winnebago ice report

By Jim Nobbe

PAYNE'S POINT HOOK AND SPEAR FISHING CLUB

I went out from our clubhouse Sunday to about a mile, where I came across a very large north-south crack. It runs north off Blackbird Island. I had heard there was an open hole east of Blackbird



on Friday. I didn't see it and the ice I was on was averaging 10.5 inches. It most likely froze over and only has a few inches of ice on it.

I went south toward the east side of Garlic Island looking for another open hole that was spotted Friday. I didn't find it either. I suspect it froze up and has very little ice on it. I then headed east toward Stockbridge. When I got to about 2.5 miles off of the east shore I cut north toward Calumet County Park. I crossed a small east-west crack just north of where the Brickyard Fishing Club would normally have its tree line. I encountered a large amount of shove ice 2 to 3 miles off the east shore.

I traveled west toward the Neenah Creek and found multiple small holes and one more larger hole that I marked with



Photo from Jim Nobl

One of the open holes on Lake Winnebago is shown from Sunday.

a hole marker as well on the south side of it. It was 5.2 miles off the clubhouse – 1.8 to 2.3 miles off Faro Springs Road and point toward the Neenah River. On the new ice I found an average of 10.5 inches on the "old ice" in the bays near shore I found 11.5 to 12 inches. Everywhere I went was east travel with an ATV. I will check conditions again later this week. Remember, the ice is never 100% safe.

Business news roundup

Americana Pipedream Apparel, which started as a project on Instagram by co-owner Logan McGrath in 2021, has opened an office and warehouse location in Fox Crossing at 2495 Northern Road in the former Harp Gallery location. McGrath and co-owner Aiden Olson offer original apparel, books, knives, vintage clothing and military surplus goods while marketing through social media content. The company, found at americanapipedream.com, ships its products nationally and internationally through the U.S. Postal Service, UPS and DHL.

The **Voith** company has appointed **Jeff Berg**, vice president operations for Voith Paper Fabric & Roll Systems North America, as chair of the Northeast Wisconsin Manufacturing Alliance board of directors. Berg was elected to a one-year term, where he will be the voice of manufacturers to the community and serve as a source of industry information for the media and public Voith is a supplier to the paper industry and has locations in Neenah, Appleton, De Pere and Green Bay.

Plexus Corp. announced last week it

will not meet its fiscal first-quarter revenue guidance of \$990 million to \$1.03 billion as it experienced market-driven inventory corrections and incrementally weaker demand from the health care/life sciences and industrial market sectors. Plexus said it expects to announce fiscal first-quarter revenue of \$980 to \$985 million and an earnings per share of of \$1.02 to \$1.06. The company's board of directors approved a new \$50 million share repurchase program of its common stock.

Pierce Manufacturing Inc., an Oshkosh Corp. business, announced that Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department has expanded its Pierce fleet with the addition of four custom Enforcer pumpers and an Ascendant 107' Heavy-Duty Tiller Aerial Ladder. This purchase, coordinated by Pierce dealer Atlantic Emergency Solutions, will support extensive operations, which encompasses 45 Fire/EMS stations in an area of nearly 500 square miles. The new Enforcer pumpers and Ascendant aerial ladder are tailored to navigate the county's diverse landscape and tight roadways.



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Tax process

FROM PAGE 1

sion noting that between 2012 and 2023, the median home sale price in the state jumped by more than 150%.

There are more people looking for homes to purchase than there are homes available, with the number of available home listings down about 33% over the past year. Fewer homes on the market create bidding wars and drive home prices higher. Homes seeing the biggest increase in assessed value are starter homes and condo residential units.

Does an increase in assessed value cause property taxes to increase?

A change in a property's assessed value does not necessarily mean property taxes will increase. The amount of taxes collected by the various taxing jurisdictions does not change due to an increase in assessed value; rather it ensures an equitable distribution of the tax burden.

Is the city of Neenah responsible for the increase in my tax bill?

Neenah is one of several entities that levy property taxes on residents and businesses. The city collects property taxes for all taxing jurisdictions, including the Neenah Joint School District (NJSD), Winnebago County and Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC).

The city's 2023 tax levy decreased by 1.24% to \$20,441,801; meaning the city will be working with less levy this year. At the same time, the portion of the levy going to NJSD increased by 3.47% to \$19,262,713; the county increased by 3.32% to \$11,496,417; and FVTC increased by 4.46% to \$2,294,202.

For the 2023 taxes collected, the city keeps 41.1%. The remainder: 31.2% to NJSD (38.7% to NJSD minus a 7.5% school credit received from the state), 23.1% to Winnebago County and 4.6% to FVTC, respectively.

As an example, a home valued at \$278,000 would have a net property tax payment of about \$4,445. While the city collects that entire amount, it only keeps about \$1,800 with the remainder going to the other enti-

How does the tax levy affect the assessed tax rate?

Partnership educates public on road salt use The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance has

been partnering with other national organizations to mark Winter Salt Awareness Week and spotlight the threats that road salt poses to rivers, lakes and drinking water.

This week features daily livestreams from ecologists, transportation experts and other speakers on the environmental toll of deicers, salts in drinking water, actions that municipalities are taking and

Four taxing entities establish their own levies to fund their budgets; Neenah then collects on their behalf. After a tax levy is determined, the amount is divided into the city's assessed value, which determines the overall tax rate. The city's overall 2023 assessed tax rate was \$15.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value, versus \$20.99 in 2022, a decrease of nearly 24%.

Why does my tax bill show a temporary tax increase for 20 years?

A referendum was approved by voters in 2020, which resulted in a new high school in Fox Crossing. This will impact property taxes until 2040. The tax bill includes an informational box which shows the portion of property taxes paid that are specifically for the referendum.

A person with a home valued at \$278,000 can expect about \$368 of their 2023 tax payment to fund the referendum. While the city collects and disburses that money, it is not responsible for the increase. The city and school district are two different entities and do not have any input in each other's

Can I appeal my assessed value?

When receiving a notice of assessment change there will be dates listed for open book and Board of Review. Open book is the period of time a property owner can discuss their assessed value with city assessors. If a property owner is not satisfied with the results of this meeting they have the option to contest the assessed value at the Board of

This year, about 400 people contacted city staff during open book, amounting to about 4% of the 9,838 properties assessed. Four properties were brought forth to the Board of Review to challenge their assessments.

Changes in store next tax year

Last week the city voted to spend up to \$72,875 to purchase and install a new tax system. The Ascent Land Records Software Suite (ALRSS) was created by Transcendent Technologies of Neenah and is used by Winnebago County, the city of Menasha and other local governments.

The ALRSS will replace the city's current tax system, which was written in-house more than 30 years ago and lacks many of the capabilities available today. It will offer additional features for residents, including past payment history.

how residents can get involved. Online registration is at wisaltwise.com.

Municipalities are reducing salt use through improved mechanical removal, calibration and precision application of deicers. By focusing on first removing as much snow as possible and then right-sizing salt applications, residents and businesses can cut down how much is spent on salt while protecting freshwater lakes and rivers.

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Bridgewood

FROM PAGE 1

season. While initial plans called for the first eight-unit building and office finished in December, no construction has been completed.

"The economic chaos associated with rapid inflation, increasing interest rates and a tight labor market has caused rents and expenses to increase at rates we have not seen in the previous 20 years," Vandeyacht said. "The uncertainty of such an unstable economic environment required us to slow down."

He added that the trajectory of interest rates and inflation raised concerns on financing the project.

"Stability seems to have arrived, and with a watchful eye we are ready to make up for lost time," he said.

The overall project is expected to add about \$20 million to the city's tax base. The city is assisting with the development by paying Vandeyacht \$3.16 million over 15 years.

The city budgeted \$600,000 for a new bridge to be constructed across Neenah Creek at the primary entry point into the development from Jewelers Park Drive and Harrison Street. Public works director Gerry Kaiser said bridge construction is on hold until spring. At that time the bridge approaches will be built, the concrete parapets stained and sections of damaged trail replaced, with a completion date of May 24.

A public trail will bisect the golf course along its southern boundary connecting the Jewelers Park Drive Trail to the Harrison Street trail and creating a figure-8 loop. The city budgeted \$125,000 for trail construction in 2025.

Vandeyacht said having nearby trails, a new entrance and Batley's Grill & Bar in the Best Western adjacent to the development will add character to the apartments.

Despite the delays, Vandeyacht said he's confident in the project and believes it's the best site in the city with its proximity to high-quality commercial development and easy access to Interstate 41.

"We feel appreciated by the city of Neenah and embrace that warm welcome," he said.





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Page 12 I NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM January 26, 2024

Senior Standout is brought to you by: National Bank



Anderson plays key role for state-ranked Zephyrs

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

Four years ago, Sienna Anderson was stepping into a new school and onto a new basketball team where she would be a varsity starter from game one.

That's quite an entrance even if she wasn't sure about it at the time.

"It was scary. Especially coming to a new school, it was a lot," said Anderson, who attended middle school at Neenah. "But all of the seniors tried their best to make sure everyone was included and they made me feel like I was at home."

Since then, Anderson has certainly made herself comfortable at St. Mary Catholic.

The senior is one of the top defenders on the roster, while also shooting better than 40 percent from behind the 3-point line for the fourth-ranked Zephyrs.

Anderson ranks fourth on the team in scoring at 7.1 points per game, while leading the team in assists and steals - an area where she feels she contributes the most to the Zephyrs.

"I think my defense is what I bring the most," Anderson said. "I really try to work hard with my off-the-ball defense to help other people. Where I can get steals where that turns into offense for other people."

Offensively, Anderson is one of the top 3-point shooters on the team.

She leads the team with 32 3-pointers made this season and has drained 150 shots from behind the arc for her career, while shooting nearly 40 percent over the course of 3½ seasons.

"That's my specialty and it's great that I can contribute that to the team," Anderson said. "I've worked really hard and my teammates have pushed me a lot to be the best I can at that.."

Anderson has also stepped up in another facet, according to head coach Jeff

With last year's departure of Chloe Vogel, Anderson - one of three seniors on the roster - has taken on more of a leadership role with the squad.

"Sienna just stepped right up and became the leader and organizer for doing things and keeping everyone on the same page," Chew said. "She did a nice job over the summer and going into the season, and it has continued into the season."

Anderson also appreciates the faith Chew has shown in her, especially starting her as a freshman.



Sienna Anderson is a four-year starter for the St. Mary Catholic girls basketball team and plays a key role for the fourth-ranked Zephyrs.

"Coach Chew has really been amazing for me. He's shown a lot to me of what I can do," Anderson said. "My freshman year when I realized I am starting over seniors, juniors, that's kind of my it moment. That's when I realized that I am better than what I thought and people are realizing that, too. "

As one of the leaders, Anderson has helped the Zephyrs carry over the tremendous team chemistry from last season and that has helped the team continue the success.

A year ago, the Zephyrs went undefeated

in the Big East Conference in claiming the league title and advanced all the way to a WIAA Division 4 sectional final. However, it was fellow conference member Mishicot handing the Zephyrs their first loss of the year, preventing them from making a trip to state.

That loss has certainly stayed in the minds of this year's group.

"It gives us a lot of motivation," Anderson said. "We were all disappointed in the outcome. We thought we were going to make it farther. I think this year we are

Senior Standout

gunning to go all of the way. There is a little chip on our shoulder to make it farther."

Earning a trip to the Resch Center for the state tournament would be the culmination of four years of hard work and would certainly be a special way to cap her

"I think freshman year I saw the potential with who was coming in and the potential we had to keep on building," Anderson said. "We had an OK record my freshman year and every season we have built on that and we are continuing to do

One of the assets of the Zephyrs that make them such a tough-to-beat group is the chemistry that permeates throughout

The team has had six different players lead them in scoring in a game this season and even more than that who have reached double figures in a game. And that's the way they like it.

"Any game could be anyone's game and I think that's what is really special about the team," Anderson said. "Our team chemistry is one of our strengths. We know each other on and off the court and we work hard with each other and understand what everyone is good at."

Basketball is Anderson's only sport at St. Mary Catholic but she does have another activity away from the court she enjoys.

Anderson is an accomplished horseback rider who competes on the Northwoods Hunter Jumper circuit – a sport she has participated in since she was 5 years old.

"My parents put me in a lesson when I was little and it just stuck," Anderson said. "A little girl loves the ponies."

Although there is little crossover between horseback riding and basketball, Anderson has taken at least one meaningful aspect that she carries over to other parts of her life.

"Dedication. Every day we are practicing and even when we are not we are hanging out to build our team chemistry," Anderson said. "Putting in the work and coming every single day, even if it's not your day, just showing that you are there."

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St. Mary Catholic stymies Tigers

By Steve Clark

St. Mary Catholic didn't waste time taking control of Howards Grove on Tuesday night.

Despite playing their second game in as many days and third in the last five days, the Zephyrs cranked things up from the get-go to claim a 66-32 win over the Tigers in Big East North play, running the team's winning streak to five games.

St. Mary Catholic used its pressure defense to smother Howards Grove at the start, bolting to a 20-2 lead in the opening eight minutes and staying in control the entire game.

"We played better defense tonight than we have recently," St. Mary Catholic head coach Jeff Chew said. "We did a good job in our press and in our half-court game defensively. When we can play full court, we are a much better team."

Chew said he wasn't concerned about the rigorous schedule of late affecting his team against the Tigers.

"It wasn't even something we thought about at all," Chew said.

Nolie Anderson and Emily Vogel spearheaded the early charge with each collecting seven points in the opening run, most of which came on shots right at the rim.

Audrey Norville added six points in the outburst, scoring a putback basket with 10:01 left in the first half to cap the run.

That trio led the Zephyrs' charge the entire night, accounting for 50 of the team's 66 points. Anderson led the way with 19 points, followed by Vogel with 16 and Norville with 15.

Anderson became the fifth different leading scorer in the last five games for the Zephyrs.

"It's really nice that we have so many options that we can go to," Chew said. "Where if somebody is not having a good game, someone else can step up and score."

The Zephyrs continued to extend their lead throughout the first half and took a



Neenah News

Emily Vogel gets fouled while going up for a shot against Howards Grove on Tuesday night.

39-15 lead at intermission and were never threatened in the second half.

Howards Grove did score five straight points early in the second half to cut the margin to 23, but the Zephyrs responded by scoring the next 11 points to build a 54-20 advantage.

A Norville 3-pointer with 11:15 remaining pushed the advantage to 35 points, before a 3-pointer from Sienna Anderson followed by a basket from Norville gave the Zephyrs their biggest lead of the game at 62-26 with just more than eight minutes to play.

With a showdown at Mishicot looming on Friday, the St. Mary Catholic starters got to rest the remainder of the game.

"We did some good things tonight," Chew said. "We just have to work on what we do defensively and trying to keep people in check."

Prep roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Zephyrs stay on roll; Chew reaches milestone

St. Mary Catholic erupted for 48 points in the first half and rolled to a 76-50 win over Reedsville on Monday night.

Lauren Ripley hit four 3-pointers and finished with a season-high 20 points to lead the way for the Zephyrs, who had nine different players score in the game.

Emily Vogel added 12 points and Audrey Norville finished with 11 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

The Zephyrs used a big second half to claim a 63-43 win over Manitowoc Lutheran last week, outscoring the Lancers 44-25 after intermission.

Autumn Crowe scored 21 points to lead three players in double figures for St. Mary Catholic. Norville added 14 points and Nolie Anderson finished with 10 points.

In the win over the Lancers, St. Mary Catholic head coach Jeff Chew reached a career milestone notching the 500th win of his high school coaching career.

Chew has coached for 30 years with the last 24 coming at St. Mary Catholic, where he has won two state championships and 11 conference titles.

Strong first half sparks Neenah to victory

Neenah allowed Oshkosh West just 13 points in the first half and cruised to a 69-47 win in a Fox Valley Association matchup on Monday.

Allie Ziebell and Rowan Klesmit com-

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15



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Horneck earns shutout as Rockets blank Voyageurs

By Dustin Riese NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Led by a three-goal first period and a 15-save performance in goal by John Horneck, the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha hockey team posted its second-straight win on Monday night with a 6-0 shutout of De Pere on Senior Night.

"It was a really special night seeing all of our hard work pay off," Horneck, a senior, said of the win. "With this being the seniors last regular season home game, finding a way to pick up a victory made it that much sweeter."

The Rockets' offensive attack wasted no time getting going.

Although it may have taken the Rockets nearly seven minutes to score their first goal, it was just 90 seconds later they went up 2-0.

Leading scorer Ben Carey came away with the first goal — his 16th of the season — on an assist from Cartyr Simonson with Ryan Johnson doubling the lead just over a minute later.

Mark Sutton later capped the first-period barrage by scoring an unassisted goal on the Rockets' 10th shot for a 3-0 advantage.

"It was nice to score some goals the past two games," head coach Jeff Lindemann said. "The new year hasn't been too kind to us offensively as we have struggled to get much going offensively. With 12 goals in our last two games, maybe this is a step in the right direction for what is to come



Senior goaltender John Horneck finished with 15 saves to earn a shutout in a win over De Pere on Monday.

the rest of the way."

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha added to its lead in a more evenly played second period with Sutton picking up his second tally of the game.

Ty Laabs and Calvin Zinda were credited with the assist on that play as the Rockets held a 4-0 lead after two.

Horneck kept De Pere scoreless in the third period to help close out the win,

turning away the few shots he saw from the Voyageurs.

"Horneck did a phenomenal job for us in net tonight," Lindemann said. "Not only has our offense picked it up the past few games, but he has now posted back-toback shutouts."

Even with the Voyageurs outshooting the Rockets in the final period, it was Neenah that found a way to capitalize on those opportunities.

Laabs extended the lead to 5-0 with a goal just past the six-minute mark of the final period. Evan Hans assisted on the tally.

The Rockets closed out the scoring less than three minutes later as Carey and Simonson combined for the assists with Zinda lighting the lamp

"It was great to get this win tonight, but to post a shutout made it even better," Horneck said. "Posting a shutout on Senior Night is something that you always dream about so to have that dream come true tonight is truly special."

As expected, Senior Night can be emotional at times, but Lindemann wanted to remind everyone how special of a moment these games are.

"Senior Night is always a fun time for not only the players, but for the families and coaches," Lindemann said. "They know their high school careers are wrapping up and this is one of the many ways to honor them for the work they have done over the past four years."

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

bined for 29 points in the first half as the Rockets led 35-13 and finished with 24 and 17 points, respectively. Ellie Buss chipped in 14 points.

The Rockets had another strong defensive first half on Tuesday, holding Fond du Lac to just 14 points in taking a 12-point lead en route to handing the Cardinals a

Buss led the way with 20 points, followed by Ziebell with 19 and Klesmit with 13.

On Friday, Neenah couldn't hold off Kimberly in the second half as the Papermakers rallied for a 70-59 win. The Rockets led 34-30 at halftime.

Ziebell led the way for Neenah with 24 points, while Klesmit added 12. Rachel Dietrich also reached double figures with 12, finishing 4-of-4 from 3-point range.

BOYS BASKETBALL

St. Mary Catholic outlasts **Howards Grove**

Kieran Barrientoss scored 20 points and the Zephyrs held off Howards Grove, 62-59, to remain among the leaders in the Big East North.

St. Mary Catholic is in a three-way tie for second place in the conference with Howards Grove and Manitowoc Lutheran with 5-2 records. Reedsville leads the league with a 6-1 mark.

Mason Uhlenbrauck added 13 points and Luke Fairweather chipped in 10 points in the win. Fisher Mackenzie racked up a season-high 16 rebounds for the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic was coming off a 59-49 loss on the road to Manitowoc Lutheran last week, with Fairweather leading the way with 13 points and Uhlenbrauck and Barrientos each adding 10.

Corso sparks Rockets' win over Kimberly

Brady Corso finished with 22 points, nine rebounds and five assists to lead Neenah to a 60-57 win over Kimberly last Friday.

Charlie Wunderlich added 17 points for the Rockets, who outscored Kimberly 35-30 in the second half to earn their fourth straight win.

Neenah couldn't keep the momentum rolling on Tuesday night as the Rockets fell to Fond du Lac 69-61. Neenah outscored the Cardinals 39-33 in the second half but couldn't overcome the halftime

deficit.

Corso finished with 25 points and Wunderlich had 22, while the duo combined to go 7-of-15 from 3-point range.

SWIMMING

Rockets put on dominant display in easy victory

Neenah won every swimming event and posted three 1-2-3 finishers to claim an easy 129-50 win over Oshkosh North/ Lourdes Academy in a Fox Valley Association dual meet on Tuesday.

Drew Gaerthofner led off two of the sweeps of the top three places, winning both the 50-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle. Burke Wendell and Ryker Zarda finished second and third in the 50-yard freestyle, respectively, while Zarda took second and Austin Pierstorff was third in the 500-yard freestyle.

The other sweep for the Rockets came in the 100-yard backstroke where Tanner Trustem, Julian Kuehn and Marc Lefeber earned the top three spots, respectively.

Trustem also picked up a win in the 200-yard freestyle, while Braden Louden secured a pair of wins in the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke.

Joshua Youngwerth also collected a win in the 100-yard butterfly, while Kuehn and Gideon Benner were first and second, respectively in the 200-yard individual medley.

Neenah also finished first in all three relays, while adding a second place in the 200-yard medley relay.

BOYS WRESTLING

Neenah collects dramatic win over Wildcats

A strong start and dramatic finish keyed the Rockets 35-29 win over Oshkosh West in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last

With the match tied at 29 through 13 bouts, the Rockets' Eli Armatti posted a pin over Benediction Kakola of West in 3:47 at 120 pounds to secure the win for Neenah. Armatti held a slim one-point lead after the first period but seized control in the second before rolling Kakola to his back to end the match.

Neenah won five of the first six bouts, including pins from Jacob Herm (150) and Jaden Reay (157). Logan Tessier started the night with a victory by technical fall at 126 pounds, while Dane Granditzke (138) and Declan Koch (144) also posted wins as Neenah took a 23-4 lead.

West came back to take the lead 26-23 before Jaxon Ennis earned a pin at 106



Neenah's Eli Armatti works to finish off Oshkosh West's Benediction Kakola for the decisive points in last week's dual meet win over the Wildcats.

pounds as the Rockets regained the lead. The Rockets followed that up with a 52-

18 win over Kimberly on Tuesday night. The Rockets got pins from Ennis (106), Ar-

matti (120), Landen Sheppard (138), Koch (144), Herm (150) and Cleveland (285).

Garrett Nedens (113), Tessier (126), Reay (157), Kaden Roth (175) and Jeremy Wiggs-Schmalz (215) also won matches for Neenah.

Koch, Herm claim titles at Highlander Invite

Declan Koch and Jacob Herm each topped their weight classes as Neenah placed seventh at the Highlander Invitational at Homestead High School on Saturday.

Koch won the 138-pound bracket by going 4-0 with a pair of pins. He beat Oshkosh West's Edwyn Schroeder in the first tiebreaker period in the title match.

Herm also posted four wins in winning the 144-pound crown. Herm pinned his first three opponents before beating Germantown's Eli Rabideau 9-4 in the title match.

Jaxon Ennis was the next highest individual finisher for Neenah in sixth place at 106 pounds.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Richard, Armatti, Sorto lead Rockets

Amari Richard, Ava Armatti and Janet Sorto each earned consolation bracket championships at the Wisconsin Challenge Series event in Wausau on Saturday.

Richard went 4-1 with two pins and a technical fall to win the consolation A championship at 126 pounds.

Armatti pinned all three of her opponents in finishing 3-1 at 138 pounds to claim the consolation A title.

Sorto won the consolation B championship at 145 pounds as she finished 3-1 with one pin.

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Answer these questions after you've read this Kid Scoop page. Have a family member check to see if you answered them all correctly.

- 1. A study at Ohio State University found out that doing acts of kindness made people feel
 - a. lonely
 - b. hungry
 - c. silly d. better
- 2. When you do a kind act, it often causes other people to do acts
 - a. TRUE

of kindness, too.

- b. FALSE
- 3. A student at Ohio State University put these all around the campus:
 - a. flowers
 - b. apples
 - c. sticky notes with kind words
 - d. jokes
- 4. Opening a door for someone is an act of kindness.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
- 5. To feel happier and less worried, it helps to help others. You can:
 - a. smile at someone new
 - b. carry someone's groceries
 - c. give someone a cookie
 - d. walk a neighbor's dog
 - e. shovel a snowy sidewalk for a neighbor
 - f. give compliments
 - g. volunteer to help someone
 - h. open doors for others
 - i. let someone cut in front of you in line
 - j. all of the above!
- 6. Kindness is catching.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

Standards Link: Write descriptively.



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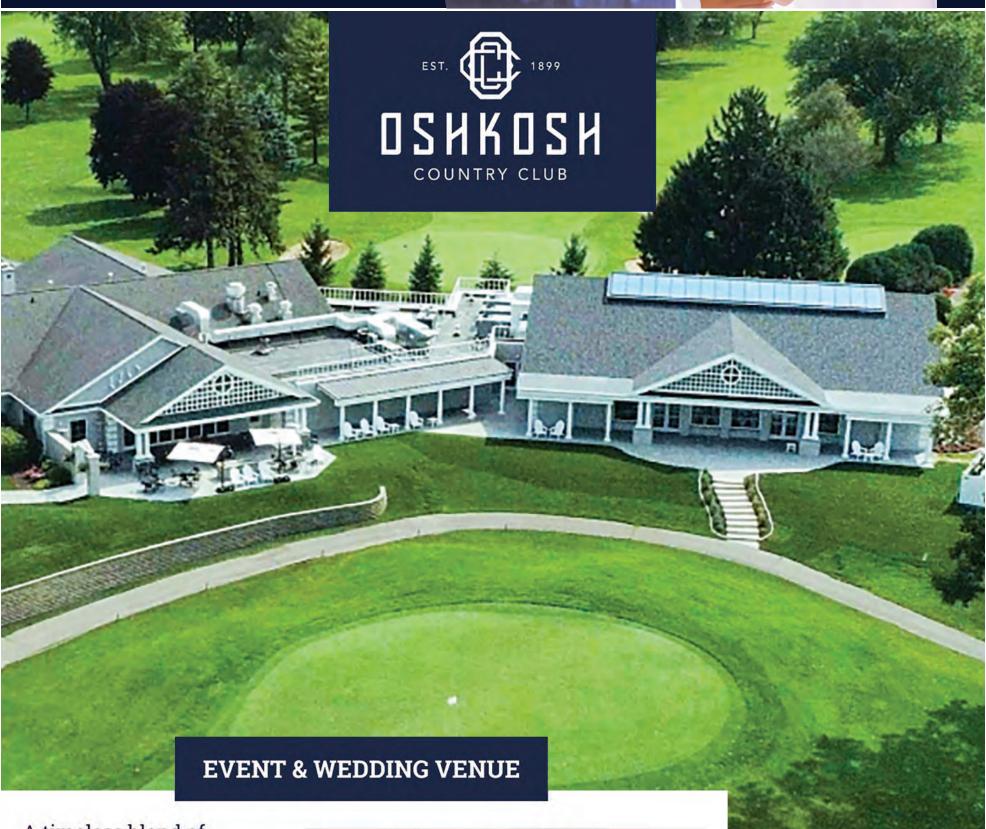


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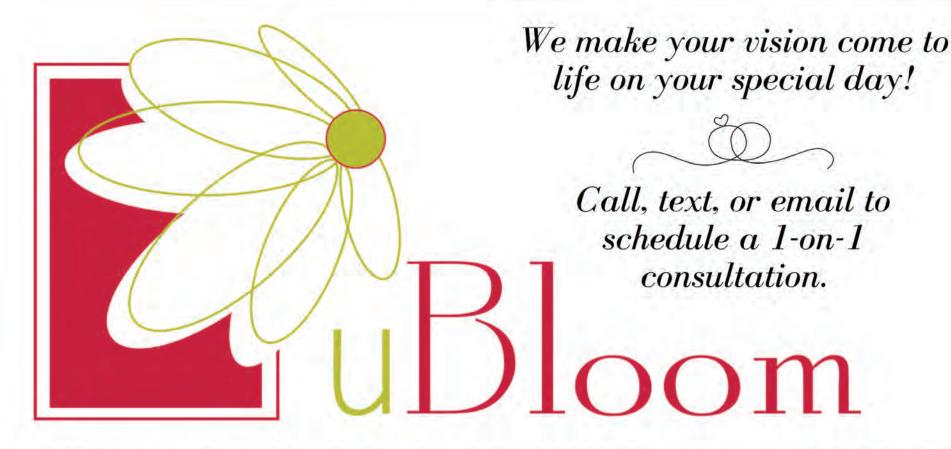
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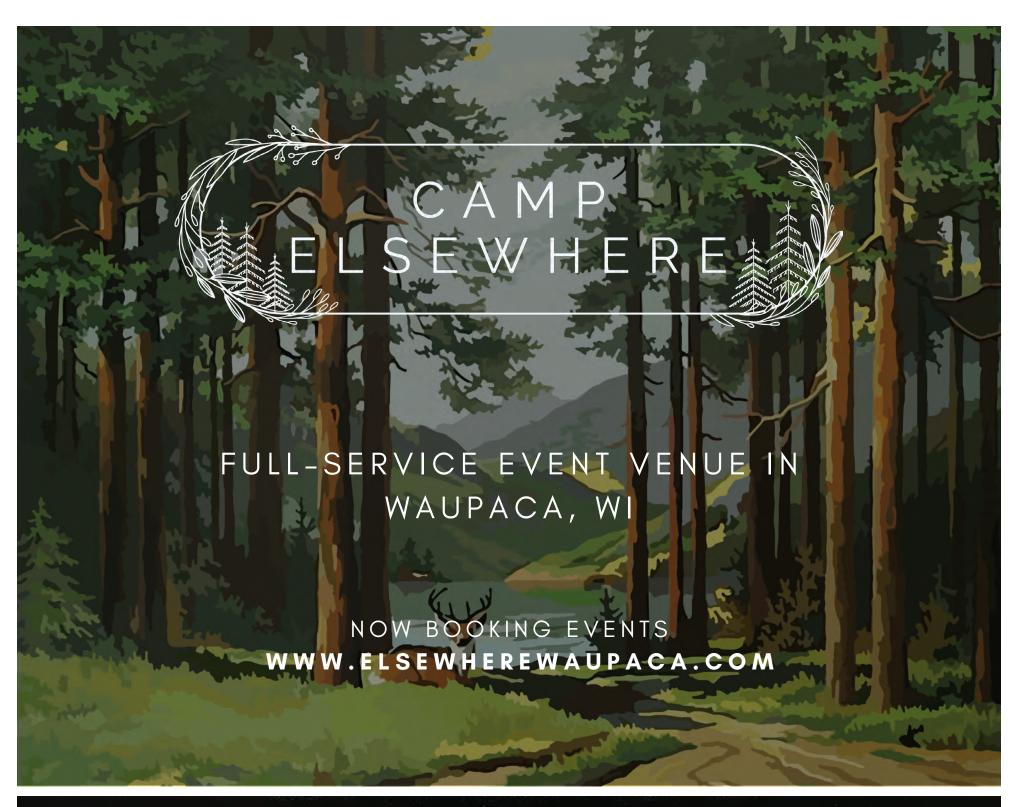


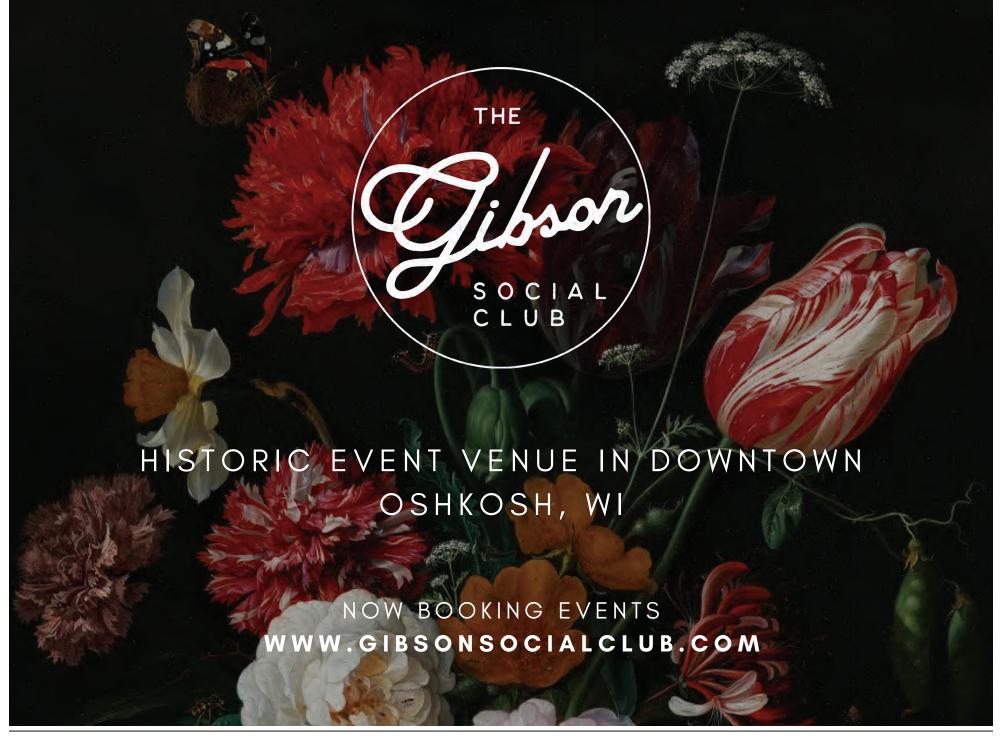


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*** OVEDDING trends

1. BIG CAKES, YES OR NO?

Cake is often one of the first things that comes to mind when you are thinking about a traditional wedding. And is quite an Instagram moment, one of the centerpieces of the night. There will always be room for those who embrace tradition and classic weddings and go for the "the bigger, the better" motto. But now, people, especially in big metropolitan areas, are moving away from this in a desire to express personal style. A cake is not just a cake, it is a statement, there are new cake designs, "out of the box", bold color palettes and edgy flavors in a way to provide guests with an unforgettable experience. But not just the cake is changing, also more couples are now looking for desserts that have deeper cultural significance, and that are maybe attached to their cultural backgrounds. Also different ways to display dessert, even an ice cream truck is allowed now because, who doesn't love ice creams? Bypass traditional table service and offer slices directly to interested guests. For others, provide personalized to-go boxes for a quick grab-and-go dessert on their exit. This approach guarantees a bustling dance floor while ensuring that late-night revelers can indulge in their midnight cravings. Also dessert platters allow couples to cater to all the allergies and dietary restrictions their quests may have. Everyone can choose what they want, and where and when to have it.



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2. THE PERFECT DRESS

White is and will always be a bride's color but, let's say the menu has become a little bit more interesting. Whether you go for romantic, modern, bold, or glamourous, there are a new range of colors that are on the table. This season, in particular, many designers opted for muted hues in shades of blush pink, pastel green, baby blue, and light gray, warm and hot colors like poppy red and sunset inspired. 2024 also seems to be the year of the mini. They have become the perfect option for an engagement, a pre-wedding, a post-wedding, for civil weddings and as second looks of the day. Whether adorned with lace, sequins, or intricate embroidery, these mini wonders are perfect for the bride who wants to dance the night away in style. The '80s-inspired puff shoulders trend is making a comeback with a modern twist, featuring voluminous, structured shoulders that add drama and flair to wedding gowns. Floral appliques and bows are in now, adding a playful and feminine element to wedding dresses.



3. ECO FRIENDLY WEDDINGS

Sustainability is an everyday growing concern and the weddings zone is not the exception. Every year we became more environmentally conscious than we were in the previous 12 months. So, if you are planning your BIG day consider a local venue close to where you and your loved ones live. This cuts down on travel emissions and supports your local community. Think charming village hall, stunning barn conversion, or even a beautiful outdoor space near your home. Embrace the beauty of the season by choosing locally-sourced, seasonal ingredients for your menu, bursting with flavor and freshness which will reduce transportation needs and will also support local farmers (bonus points for incorporating edible flowers and herbs). Minimize food waste by offering smaller portions and creative leftovers solutions and donate any usable food to local shelters or charities. Upcycle vintage finds, borrow from friends and family, or choose natural materials like wood and greenery. Create DIY projects with loved ones, adding a personal touch and minimizing waste. Let your décor tell a story of shared creativity and resourcefulness.





Wedding Song Bingo!

I Hope You Dance -Lee Ann Womak	Shut Up and Dance -Walk the Moon	Love Story -Taylor Swift	Marry You -Bruno Mars	Single Ladies - Beyonce	Hips Don't Lie -Shakira	Mambo No. 5 - Lou Bega	At Last -Etta James	Party in the USA - Miley Cyrus	Bottoms Up -Trey Songz	At Last -Etta James	Piano Man - Billy Joel	Sweet Caroline - Niel Diamond	l Gotta Feeling - Black Eyed Peas	Shake It Off - Taylor Swift
Hotel Motel Hotel Holiday Inn -Bogus Trizzy	Dancing Queen - ABBA	Man! I Feel Like a Woman! - Shariia Twain	Don't Stop Believin' - Journey	Beautiful Crazy - Luke Combs	Dancing Queen - ABBA	Fishin' in the Dark - Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	Man! I Feel Like a Woman! - Shania Twain	Tennessee Whiskey - Chris Stapleton	Crazy in Love - Beyonce	Uptown Funk - Bruno Mars	Party in the USA - Miley Cyrus	Single Ladies - Beyonce	Wobble -VIC	Apple Bottom Jeans -Flo Rida
Love Shack - The B- 52's	Every Time We Touch - Cascada	FREE SPACE	Tennessee Whiskey - Chris Stapleton	Piano Man - Billy Joel	Wobble -VIC	Hot in Here - Nelly	FREE SPACE	Mr. Brightside -The Killers	Every Time We Touch - Cascada	Hips Don't Lie -Shakira	Yeah! - Usher	FREE SPACE	Signed, Sealed, Delivered - Stevie Wonder	Save a Horse - Big & Rich
Fishin' in the Dark - Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	I Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston	Save a Horse - Big & Rich	Hips Don't Lie -Shakira	Hot in Here - Nelly	Single Ladies - Beyonce	Hotel Motel Hotel Holiday Inn -Bogus Trizzy	Beautiful Crazy - Luke Combs	Signed, Sealed, Delivered - Stevie Wonder	Apple Bottom Jeans -Flo Rida	Every Time We Touch - Cascada	Casper Cha-Cha Slide -DJ Casper	Marry You -Bruno Mars	Don't Stop Believin' - Journey	Hot in Here - Nelly
Shake It Off - Taylor Swift	Can't Help Falling in Love -Elvis Presley	Livin' On a Prayer - Bon Jovi	Get Low - Lil' Jon	Wobble -VIC	Can't Help Falling in Love - Elvis Presley	Marry You -Bruno Mars	I Hope You Dance -Lee Ann Womak	Casper Cha-Cha Slide -DJ Casper	l Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston	Can't Help Falling in Love -Haley Reinhart	Dancing Queen - ABBA	Mr. Brightside -The Killers	Fishin' in the Dark - Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	Livin' On a Prayer - Bon Jovi
I Hope You Dance -Lee Ann Womak	Dancing Queen - ABBA	Beautiful Crazy - Luke Combs	Shake It Off - Taylor Swift	Man! I Feel Like a Woman! - Shania Twain	Play for prizes				Get Low - Lil' Jon	Marry You -Bruno Mars	Hot in Here - Nelly	Every Time We Touch - Cascada	Man! I Feel Like a Woman! - Shania Twain	
All the Small Things - Blink 182	Can't Help Falling in Love -Elvis Presley	Mr. Brightside -The Killers	Signed, Sealed, Delivered - Stevie Wonder	Shots! - LMFAO	with guests at your reception.			Celebration -Kool & The Gang	Party in the USA - Miley Cyrus	Mr. Brightside -The Killers	Shut Up and Dance -Walk the Moon	Cupid Shuffle -Cupid		
Casper Cha-Cha Slide -DJ Casper	Single Ladies - Beyonce	FREE SPACE	Footloose -Kenny Loggins	Apple Bottom Jeans -Flo Rida	Participants should					Save a Horse - Big & Rich	Mambo No. 5 - Lou Bega	FREE SPACE	Bottoms Up -Trey Songz	I Gotta Feeling - Black Eyed Peas
I Gotta Feeling - Black Eyed Peas	At Last -Etta James	Livin' On a Prayer - Bon Jovi	Love Story -Taylor Swift	Cupid Shuffle -Cupid	only play one card. Be sure to coordinate				Livin' On a Prayer - Bon Jovi	I Hope You Dance -Lee Ann Womak	Single Ladies - Beyonce	Can't Help Falling in Love -Elvis Presley	At Last -Etta James	
Crazy in Love - Beyonce	I Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston	Bottoms Up -Trey Songz	Baby Got Back -Sir Mix-a-Lot	Yeah! - Usher	with your DJ.			Don't Stop Believin' - Journey	Hips Don't Lie -Shakira	Apple Bottom Jeans -Flo Rida	Footloose -Kenny Loggins	Can't Help Falling in Love -Haley Reinhart		
Hot in Here - Nelly	Footloose -Kenny Loggins	Uptown Funk - Bruno Mars	Love Shack - The B- 52's	Don't Stop Believin' - Journey	I Hope You Dance -Lee Ann Womak	Hotel Motel Hotel Holiday Inn -Bogus Trizzy	Fishin' in the Dark - Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	Shake It Off - Taylor Swift	At Last -Etta James	Baby Got Back -Sir Mix-a-Lot	I Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston	Fishin' in the Dark - Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	Hotel Motel Hotel Holiday Inn -Bogus Trizzy	Wobble -VIC
Hips Don't Lie -Shakira	Yeah! - Usher	Piano Man - Billy Joel	Casper Cha-Cha Slide -DJ Casper	Crazy in Love - Beyonce	Baby Got Back -Sir Mix-a-Lot	Save a Horse - Big & Rich	Marry You -Bruno Mars	Love Shack - The B- 52's	Footloose -Kenny Loggins	Tennessee Whiskey - Chris Stapleton	Marry You -Bruno Mars	Livin' On a Prayer - Bon Jovi	Mr. Brightside -The Killers	Love Story -Taylor Swift
Signed, Sealed, Delivered - Stevie Wonder	Single Ladies - Beyonce	FREE SPACE	Shake It Off - Taylor Swift	Can't Help Falling in Love -Elvis Presley	Can't Help Falling in Love -Haley Reinhart	Signed, Sealed, Delivered - Stevie Wonder	FREE SPACE	Man! I Feel Like a Woman! - Shania Twain	Apple Bottom Jeans -Flo Rida	Shots! - LMFAO	Hot in Here - Nelly	FREE SPACE	Footloose -Kenny Loggins	Can't Help Falling in Love -Haley Reinhart
Get Low - Lil' Jon	Hotel Motel Hotel Holiday Inn -Bogus Trizzy	Save a Horse - Big & Rich	Bottoms Up -Trey Songz	Sweet Caroline - Niel Diamond	Tennessee Whiskey - Chris Stapleton	Mambo No. 5 - Lou Bega	All the Small Things - Blink 182	Don't Stop Believin' - Journey	Sweet Caroline - Niel Diamond	Party in the USA - Miley Cyrus	Mambo No. 5 - Lou Bega	Cupid Shuffle -Cupid	Shut Up and Dance -Walk the Moon	Bottoms Up -Trey Songz
I Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston	Tennessee Whiskey - Chris Stapleton	Love Story -Taylor Swift	Mambo No. 5 - Lou Bega	Mr. Brightside -The Killers	Livin' On a Prayer - Bon Jovi	Hips Don't Lie -Shakira	Celebration -Kool & The Gang	Hot in Here - Nelly	Yeah! - Usher	Every Time We Touch - Cascada	Get Low - Lil' Jon	Crazy in Love - Beyonce	Apple Bottom Jeans -Flo Rida	Can't Help Falling in Love -Elvis Presley
Piano Man - Billy Joel	Casper Cha-Cha Slide -DJ Casper	Love Shack - The B- 52's	Shake It Off - Taylor Swift	Don't Stop Believin' - Journey	Tennessee Whiskey - Chris Stapleton	Hips Don't Lie -Shakira	l Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston	Uptown Funk - Bruno Mars	Party in the USA - Miley Cyrus	Shots! - LMFAO	At Last -Etta James	Dancing Queen - ABBA	Marry You -Bruno Mars	Hips Don't Lie -Shakira
Celebration -Kool & The Gang	Shots! - LMFAO	Party in the USA - Miley Cyrus	Sweet Caroline - Niel Diamond	Man! Feel Like a Woman! - Shania Twain	Casper Cha-Cha Slide -DJ Casper	Crazy in Love - Beyonce	Save a Horse - Big & Rich	All the Small Things - Blink 182	Signed, Sealed, Delivered - Stevie Wonder	Piano Man - Billy Joel	Bottoms Up -Trey Songz	Party in the USA - Miley Cyrus	Baby Got Back -Sir Mix-a-Lot	Livin' On a Prayer - Bon Jovi
Apple Bottom Jeans -Flo Rida	Hotel Motel Hotel Holiday Inn -Bogus Trizzy	FREE SPACE	Single Ladies - Beyonce	Beautiful Crazy - Luke Combs	Shut Up and Dance -Walk the Moon	Yeah! - Usher	FREE SPACE	I Hope You Dance -Lee Ann Womak	Apple Bottom Jeans -Flo Rida	Can't Help Falling in Love -Elvis Presley	Mr. Brightside -The Killers	FREE SPACE	Footloose -Kenny Loggins	Hot in Here - Nelly
Cupid Shuffle -Cupid	Dancing Queen - ABBA	Save a Horse - Big & Rich	Hips Don't Lie -Shakira	Every Time We Touch - Cascada	Single Ladies - Beyonce	Piano Man - Billy Joel	Man! I Feel Like a Woman! - Shania Twain	Love Shack - The B- 52's	Dancing Queen - ABBA	Don't Stop Believin' - Journey	Every Time We Touch - Cascada	Signed, Sealed, Delivered - Stevie Wonder	All the Small Things - Blink 182	Yeah! - Usher
Get Low - Lil' Jon	Love Story -Taylor Swift	I Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston	Mambo No. 5 - Lou Bega	Can't Help Falling in Love - Elvis Presley	Sweet Caroline - Niel Diamond	Beautiful Crazy - Luke Combs	Shots! - LMFAO	Marry You -Bruno Mars	Hot in Here - Nelly	Save a Horse - Big & Rich	Wobble -VIC	Single Ladies - Beyonce	Get Low - Lil' Jon	Man! I Feel Like a Woman! - Shania Twain



Oshkosh's voice on the Best in Oshkosh

VOTING

Voting will take place in two phases.

Phase 1 is open nominations between

January 24 - Feburary 12

Phase 2 is the top nominees in each category

Vote for at least 30 categories

RULES

Rules are simple: Nominees must be located in the Oshjosh Area School District, the Herald's coverage area. One Ballot per person per phase.

No Photocopies. No ballot stuffing

	Herald
Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	hkosh WI 5/901

City Pick 2024 Categories

Museum/Art Gallery	Ice Cream/Frozen Treats	Used Furniture/Antiques				
New Restaurant (restaurants opened after	Desserts	Gift Shop				
Feb. 2023)	Cheap Date	Garden/Nursery				
Sub/Sandwich Shop	Meat Market/Butcher Shop					
Late-Night Food After 10pm	Kids Party Place					
Patio	Child Care					
Brewery	Summer Camp/Youth Program	Pet Store/Care				
Coffee Shop	Birthday Cakes	Sporting Goods				
Breakfast	_ Family Restaurant					
Soup	Cocktail Bar	dame/ daming				
Chili	_ Dive Bar	Arts & Crafts				
Bakery	Sports Bar					
Fine Dining	Happy Hour	Shoes				
Steak	Margarita	Salon/Spa Mani/Pedi Tattoo Wedding Venue				
Vegan/Vegetarian	Old Fashioned					
Juice/Smoothie	Bartender					
Pizza	Place for Sober Socializing					
Pancakes	Jukebox					
Omelette	Trivia Night	Place to Hang With Your Pet				
Burger		Golf Course				
Tacos	Billiards	Gym				
Barbecue	Darts	Yoga				
Fish Fry	Beer Bar (multi-tap)	Neighborhood Bar				
Noodles/Ramen	Bloody Mary					
Sushi	Men's Clothing					
Italian	Women's Clothing	Outdoor Venue				
Mexican	Vintage/Consignment Clothing	Home Improvement				
Chicken	Jewelry	Auto Service				
Wings	Furniture/Accessories	Bank/Credit Union				

Nominees in each category that appear on the final ballot are chosen by the amount of nominations received from our readers during Phase 1.

Nominations will be accepted from Jan 24 - Feb 12, 2024. Ballots must be at the Oshkosh Herald's office by **5pm on February 19, 2024.** Nominations are limited. You can name one nominee in each category during Phase 1 of Oshkosh Herald City Picks voting. Your name and address must appear on the ballot.

Phase 2 will have the top 3-5 nominees per category and open a new wave of voting. Again, only one vote per name and address. This does mean that if you and your honey don't agree, you both can vote. Voting is just limited to one vote per person per phase. No ballot stuffing. In the appearance of ballot stuffing the person, place, thing or business may be disqualified. The Oshkosh Herald reserves the right to determine if ballot stuffing has transpired. And yes, you can nominate yourself or your own business.

Once Phase 1 of the nomination period concludes, the final ballot and voting will commence for Phase 2. The top 3-5 nominees from Phase 1 will move on to Phase 2. Final voting will run Feb 28 - March 15. Ballots must be at the Oshkosh Herald's office by 5pm on March 15, 2024. Our office is located at 36 Broad St., Suite 300, Oshkosh WI 54901. Off-site ballot boxes will be picked up by noon on the deadline for each phase.

Vote on as many categories as you'd like, but your ballot must include a minimum of 30 category nominations for your ballot to register.

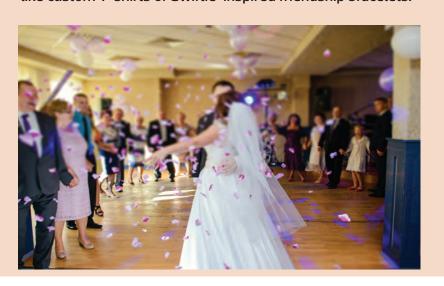
Totals registered by our analyst will be considered final. This is a paper ballot contest. No funny stuff can happen online nor will photocopied or downloaded ballots be accepted. Please find a paper issue of the Herald with a ballot.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNERS

Winners will be announced in the April 17, 2024 Oshkosh Herald.

1. KEEP IT ENTERTAINING

While you may already have your band or DJ secured, consider adding a unique touch to your event. You can have live painters to immortalize your wedding day on canvas, making for a truly special and memorable gift to yourselves. Some couples are opting for sketch artists to seamlessly mingle with the crowd during the cocktail hour, surprising guests with charming 5x7 portraits capturing the essence of their wedding attire and hiring a tarot card reader has become a fun and original option. Even flash mobs will WOW your guests and keep them talking about your big day for years to come. Have you heard about the after party? Club vibe with colored lights, an LED dance floor, dancers, a fog machine...? This post wedding get-together can be at a different venue than the reception and stocked with food, drinks and fun entertainment. This will absolutely continue into 2024 with couples leaving a separate line item in their budgets devoted solely to the after party where you can also hand out commemorative after party swag or favors, like custom T-shirts or Swiftie-inspired friendship bracelets.



2. SAY CHEESE!

You chose a gorgeous venue to celebrate your wedding, so why not showcase it? Drone photography is still a strong trend. The unique perspectives that capture, particularly outdoors, are awsome. Numerous photographers and videographers include aerial photography in their services, appreciating the enchantment of witnessing your initial kiss (and all your loved ones) from a bird's-eye view. You can also rent a photo booth that remains popular, but opt for a twist, it can be a revamped VW bus or a trailer photo booth instead of the traditional setup. Also provide unique props for guests to use, creating not just entertainment but also a memorable way to capture moments. Video and GIF Booths are a modern version of the classic photo booth, and super shareable on social media, instead of strips of still photos, guests can deliver a heartfelt message—or a champagne-fueled performance of off-key karaoke and killer dance moves. Finally, hand out disposable cameras to everyone, they were especially effective at capturing the sweatiest, loudest part of the night.















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3. LET'S TOAST!

When it comes to beverages, which is the best option to keep on a budget? You have different options:

You can choose a Limited Bar with just beer, wine and maybe a special signature cocktail.

V Host the bar for as long as you can and then switch to a cash bar (often referred to by venues as a Maximum Capacity bar) but don't forget to advise your guest about it.

Offer your guests drink tickets for a certain number of hosted drinks, then switch to a cash bar (always inform guests in advance if they'll need to pay for their own drinks).

Very few guests actually drink the champagne, so you can just skip it and have your toast with a cocktail or wine.



4. 2 DAY WEDDING

One of the main trends of 2024 will be to extend the celebration to take advantage of the opportunity to spend more time with family and friends (which is the second reason for couples to get married). Many couples choose to have on the first day the formal or religious ceremony so they can concentrate on the party the other day. It can be a brunch or some even opt for daytime parties of different types, such as a pool party. The format is the least important, the main thing is to add a few hours to the celebration to make the most of the weekend. Also after COVID, the concept of revenge travel was born, which refers to the need to make up for time lost during confinement with trips to distant and exotic places. A trend that has also established itself in honeymoons and that will continue strongly in 2024.

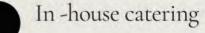


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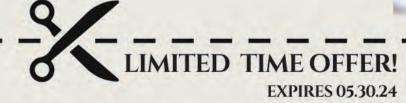


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