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## City looks at camping restrictions

### Areas may be barred from homeless activity

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Camping on City of Neenah-owned property and in rights of way could soon be banned as the city takes steps to deal with a growing homeless population.

Neenah News first reported in October that police were receiving increased calls related to the homeless population, particularly in the 900 block of South Green Bay Road in the right of way in front of businesses there. More recently, a squatter has taken up residence in

an RV on a city-owned parcel on South Commercial Street.

The Common Council will vote Wednesday on implementing an ordinance to prohibit camping on city-owned property, and to amend the city's open burning ordinance to prohibit outdoor cooking and recreational fires in rights of way.

The ordinance and amendment are in response to "many complaints about loitering on city property and city right of way," City Attorney David Rashid told the Public Services and Safety Committee last month.

Neenah currently has no ordinances targeting homeless individuals but does

prohibit aggressive panhandling and trespassing. Rashid told the committee that the city isn't trying to criminalize homelessness, rather the ordinance is expected to deter loitering and camping.

The ordinance will make it unlawful to camp in any city right of way or on any city property other than designated campgrounds, during certain special events or by emergency declaration of the mayor or city council.

The ordinance defines camping as any place where sleeping materials or a stove or fire is established. It lists a vehicle in the same category as a tent, meaning

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Photo by David Hall

### Stately celebration

The Neenah High School boys basketball team celebrates after beating Marshfield in a WIAA Division 1 sectional final at Stevens Point on Saturday. The win earned the Rockets a third straight trip to the state tournament where they will play Arrowhead on Friday.

## Batley's Grill & Bar puts new face on ongoing heritage

### Family's long legacy in Fox Valley continues

By Patti Lee  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

It's said that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

The Ground Round, a centerpiece grill and bar around which the Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel was developed, has been a Neenah dining tradition for more than 20 years. So when a new sign with a new moniker went up over the door it signaled some big changes – with some things remaining the same.

The Batley name is recognized throughout the state and beyond. The Bridge-

wood has been fully owned and operated by the family since pooling their resources to purchase an 18-hole golf course 21 years ago.

Ryan Batley, Bridgewood general manager and vice president, was 14 years old at the time. His dad, Richard, had always believed Neenah to be a great location for another hotel.

At that time the banks weren't too keen on talking to the Batleys, so Richard, brother-in-law Gary Laeyendecker and Jim Geertz teamed up to make the Bridgewood a reality.

"(Jim) was really instrumental in helping us to get where we are today," Batley recalled. "He was with us all the way up to about six years ago."

The Batley family story in the Fox Valley business dates to the 1960s with Richard's father, Howard, and Howard's Grocery on Broad Street in Menasha. Howard had his way of doing things: When his kids turned 16, they had to go to work delivering groceries, and that's the way it was until Richard, the youngest, told his dad that he wanted to stock shelves and cut meat and he wasn't going to deliver groceries.

Howard told Richard that if he wasn't going to deliver groceries he wasn't going to work there and Howard fired his youngest kid.

"Just think," mused Ryan. "It's kind of funny ... if Dad wouldn't have gotten

SEE **Batley's** ON PAGE 9



Submitted photo

Richard and Ryan Batley hold a J.D. Power Award given to the Best Western Premier Resort in Neenah.

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# Quilted heart project spreads joy

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A global movement intended to spread kindness to strangers in the form of quilted hearts has recently made its way to the Fox Valley.

Participants in the “I Found a Quilted Heart” (IFAQH) project sew and decorate a palm-sized heart and hide it in a public place. The hearts are made of fabric, typically have a layer of batting or fiber-fill and decorated with ribbons, buttons, sequins and other embellishments. The mysterious little hearts include only a tag that says, “I need a home!”

The hearts are intended to brighten the day of the finder, who keeps the heart and may also report it to the IFAQH website. Photos, locations and stories of the special finds are posted to the website and the IFAQH Facebook page, which has more than 83,000 followers.

IFAQH was started in 2014 by three sisters who were vacationing in Nevada and found a quilted heart in a remote area near a cave with nothing to identify the maker other than a tag that said, “I need a home,” according to its website. After unsuccessfully searching for information on the little heart, the sisters decided it brought them so much joy that they should do the same for others, and IFAQH was born.

In the first few months of this year, 16 quilted hearts have been reported in Neenah, 14 in Menasha and five in Oshkosh. IFAQH estimates that only about 5% of the sewn hearts are reported.

A heart with a firefighter theme was placed across from the Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue station on Columbian Avenue in late January.

“The three jingle bells for the siren and the silver heart on the firefighter vest really highlights the passion and love for the work that the firefighter serves the community,” the finder wrote.

A heart decorated in a Scooby Doo theme was recently reported March 4 by a nanny and child who spotted it in a tree in



a Neenah park.

“I gave it to the little girl I nanny,” the finder wrote. “She’s 4 years old and was very happy.”

A finder in Oshkosh wrote, “I’ll keep this heart tucked in my coat pocket for a while to remind me, every time I reach into my pocket, that there is good will in the world.”

A heart with a St. Patrick’s Day theme



IFAQH photos

Decorative hearts have been spotted in Neenah and Menasha as part of the I Found a Quilted Heart project.

was found hanging from a tree in downtown Menasha on the same day as the city’s 150th birthday celebration last week.

“Finding this little heart made my entire week and how neat that it was located on such a special day,” the finder wrote.

Popular local spots for the hearts include Shattuck Park, Riverside Park, near The Plaza and in the Doty Island area.

Information on participating and reporting found hearts is at ifaqh.com.

A local school counselor who found a heart while taking a walk in Neenah after an emotionally challenging day said it best: “It gave me a wonderful reminder that there is so much love in the world and although there are hardships and traumas that happen every day, a little love can go a long way.”

## Edward Jones

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Neenah Historical Society photo

## For the cause

During World War II, the Red Cross mobilized in support of the U.S. military, our Allies and civilian victims. In nearly every American family, someone was a Red Cross volunteer, donor, blood donor, or received Red Cross services. Join the Neenah Historical Society at the Neenah Public Library at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21, to learn about the varied and numerous wartime efforts by the Neenah Red Cross during WWII.

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# County judge candidates share views in LWV forum

By Jonathan Richie  
NEENAH NEWS

The two candidates for Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 Judge participated in a public forum last week before voters head to the polls April 2.

LaKeisha Haase and Michael Rust answered questions regarding qualifications to sit on the bench, when a judge should recuse themselves and their philosophy for accountability, equity and fairness from the bench during the forum held by the Winnebago County League of Women Voters. Branch 1 Judge Teresa Basiliere is not seeking re-election.

Haase said she currently practices as a trial attorney and sits on the Oshkosh Common Council. She worked as a court assistant and judicial assistant in the Winnebago County Courthouse while attending the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh before attending Marquette Law School.

Haase was a Branch 4 judge after being appointed by Gov. Tony Evers with the retirement of Karen Seifert in 2020. She lost an election bid in 2021 to retain the seat and was defeated by Judge Scott Woldt when she sought his Branch 2 seat



Neenah News

Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 judicial candidates LaKeisha Haase and Michael Rust take part in a forum last week at Oshkosh City Hall.

last year.

Rust serves as one of the county's court commissioners, ran the Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center for almost 10 years and serves on the Office of Lawyer Regulations Board of Administrative Oversight. He said over the course of his career has been a professional neutral working to resolve conflicts.

When asked what the No. 1 issue during their term as judge will be, Rust said it will

be the one in front of him as every issue is important, while Haase said it would be dealing with the impact of substance abuse and mental health.

They both outlined reasons they would recuse themselves from a case. Both mentioned that a conflict of interest, as in representing a party in a past case, is a reason for recusal, but both also stated the appearance of a conflict of interest is as important.

"If it looks like you have some invested interest in the outcome of the case – you shouldn't be on it," Haase said.

"I would absolutely recuse myself if it appeared I had a conflict. I may not have that conflict, but the appearance is important," Rust said.

Both agreed that the circuit court is not the place to revisit legal precedent. Rust said the role of a circuit court judge is to apply the law to the facts of a case.

"Determine the facts – apply the law," Rust said. He continued to say the Supreme Court is designated to changing the law if needed.

"At the circuit level, at every level, is to apply the law to the circumstances before you," Haase said.

In final statements, Haase noted the importance of transparency and having an impact on the community as someone residents can rely on. Rust said judicial officers need to be neutral and have the right mindset and temperament.

Voters will decide April 2 which of the candidates will serve as judge for a six-year term.

## Calendar of events

### Friday, March 15

"Shrek the Musical," 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School, 1050 Zephyr Drive

Neenah Middle School's "High School Musical JR," 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium  
Stuck on Blue, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing

### Saturday, March 16

MPK Christian Celtic Band, 2 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road  
"Shrek the Musical," 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School, 1050 Zephyr Drive

Neenah Middle School's "High School Musical JR," 1 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

### Sunday, March 17

"Shrek the Musical," 2 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School, 1050 Zephyr Drive  
Neenah Middle School's "High School Musical JR," 1 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

### Tuesday, March 19

Rocket City Jazz Festival, 4 p.m., Neenah High School

### Wednesday, March 20

Hollywood Master Directors: Howard Hawks' "Sergeant York," 1 p.m., Neenah-Menasha YMCA,

### Thursday, March 21

Art After Dark, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
Classy Fiddles Concert, 7 p.m., Neenah High School  
Neenah Red Cross in World War II, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Friday, March 22

Meet the Rockets baseball team, 5:30 p.m., Neenah High School Atrium  
Adam DuVall Trio, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing

### Saturday, March 23

Percussion Panorama, 6 p.m., Neenah High School  
Kurt Gunn, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing

### Sunday, March 24

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

## DMV offers help on obtaining proper voter ID

Ahead of the spring election and presidential preference vote April 2, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds voters how to obtain identification for voting.

Valid identification for voting purposes includes a driver license, identification card, military or student ID card. There is

no separate "voter ID."

A federally compliant REAL ID card is not required to be able to participate in the voting process..

A list of the required documents to bring to a DMV Customer Service Center is available for viewing at wisconsin.dmv.gov.

If the required documents are not read-

ily available, DMV has a free process to obtain the information.

DMV's toll-free hotline is at 844-588-1069.

Questions regarding voter eligibility, poll locations, registration or other election information can be directed to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov.



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NJSD photo

Neenah High School's robotics teams are shown in Green Bay during the state championships that include elementary and middle school teams.

## Robotics teams earn awards, advance to worlds

Neenah Joint School District's VEX robotics teams won state championships at the elementary and middle school levels over the weekend in Green Bay and will send three teams to the world championships in Dallas.

The middle school team of Sam Bontorno, Joseph Buttron and Nolan Manteufel won a state championship and earned a world championship berth. The group also captured the Think Award and placed second in Skills. The team of Elliott Seidling, Nolan Morrow, Hugo Goethel, Graham Engelhardt and Noah Sabatke placed second overall.

Neenah had an elementary team competing for the first time and the team took

home the state title and a world championship berth. The team of Hudson Hendries, Ben Bontorno, Gus Goethel and Greyson McCulloch also won the Judges Award.

In the high school competition, Neenah had three of the final eight teams, while no other school qualified more than one team. The team of Asher Brotherton, Nate Brotherton, Aidan Colby, Jace Ostermeier and Connor McNulty won the Judges Award and qualified for the world championships.

The high school team is coached by Adam Hendries and Nick Verhagen. Middle school coaches are Brian and Crystal Schalliol.

## Doty Island home on state register

Neenah News

The Bacon-Johnson house on Doty Island in Neenah has earned a place on the State Register of Historic Places.

The large arts and crafts house built at 1002 E. Forest Ave. with bungalow and Georgian Revival styles was built for Elizabeth Bacon by her daughter, Isabel Smith, later enlarged when Smith moved in with her third husband, silent film star Orrin Johnson. Isabel's second husband was Charles R. Smith, a wealthy owner of a woodenware factory in Menasha who died in 1916.

According to notes from Carol Cartwright on wisconsinhistory.org, the original house was built by Isabel Bacon Smith (Johnson) for her mother Elizabeth Bacon in 1901. It was a two-story, late Queen Anne style house with a steeply pitched intersecting gable roof, first story bay window, and a wide wrap-around porch with turned posts and an open patterned balustrade.



City of Neenah photo

This home on Doty Island has been placed on the State Register of Historic Places.

trade.

The house was significantly altered in 1919 with Arts and Crafts style details. Most of the decoration in the rooms suggest the Classical Revival style with classical moldings and paneling and a fireplace in the living room with a classical surround. Isabel continued to live in the house and pursued her socialite lifestyle until her death in 1950.



Photo by David Hall

## Helping horses

As part of last weekend's Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) regional conference, Beaming Inc. presented an equine-assisted services demonstration at its ranch south of Neenah. The demonstration showed how horses can positively impact early to moderate stage dementia clients.

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# Appliance business keeps items up and running

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

For almost four decades Les Lohff has been doing his part to keep appliances out of the landfill.

Les of Les's One Better spoke with Neenah News in advance of Monday's Global Recycling Day to share the alternative way he recycles.

Surrounded by washing machines, clothes dryers, stoves and stand-up freezers, and with only a couple of part time employees, the 85-year-old Oshkosh resident manned the front desk of the business last week.

Les got his start selling used appliances while living in Appleton, where he would display them in front of his home. He's been operating out of a storefront in Neenah for about 26 years, where those driving by can see some of the appliances out front when the weather is nice. Some of his first customers still patronize the business 38 years later.

Les hand-writes each of the price tags on the appliances in the showroom, listing the brand, model and serial number, and with a cleaning and replacement checklist.

"It's a rotten shame to throw away a good-built machine that lasted people for years," he said.

The appliances beyond repair are either used for parts or scrapped. His eco-friendly business model saves customers money, with used appliances a fraction of the cost of buying new. Some of the refurbished inventory is indistinguishable from when it was first made.

Les believes older appliances last longer than new ones. He said newer appliances are designed to make money for the man-

ufacturers and retailers, while older models were made for longevity.

"So many people that you talk to, two or three years and their new washing machine is junk," he said. "You get one from here and you can get eight or 10 years."

Some modern appliances are computerized, which can be more costly to repair than purchasing a used appliance, with Les' prices ranging from a few hundred dollars at the low end, to upward of \$1,000 or more.

He also likes to help people. For those who may not be able to afford an appliance, he offers no-interest financing by accepting half of the cost down and post-dated checks for additional payments until the balance is settled.

All of Les' appliances come with a 30-day warranty and he works with people if something goes wrong after that.

"Sometimes that hurts my wallet pretty bad, but doggone it your reputation means something," he said.

Although the appliances Les sells are refurbished, he also sells new bedroom furniture and mattresses. He sleeps on one of the mattresses himself.

When customers ask why he's still working at his age, his response is: "If I'm not here, a lot of people are going to have to buy new."

For now, you can find Les in his business on South Commercial Street, turning what is old, new again.

"I don't believe in selling junk," he said. "I want to sell people something that they can get their money's worth out of and use. That's what makes happy and satisfied customers."



Neenah News

Les Lohff stands among washers and dryers in the showroom at Les's One Better, where used appliances are refurbished and renewed.

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# County event focuses on current recycling education

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

About 100,000 tons of materials are recycled by Winnebago, Outagamie and Brown county residents each year, amounting to 800,000 pounds processed per day at Tri-County Recycling, according to Outagamie County Recycling & Solid Waste Program Coordinator Jordan Hiller.

Hiller and Winnebago County Education and Outreach professional Kelly Reyer presented a Recycle Right Master introduction class to a packed room at the Neenah Public Library last week, where attendees were taught the dos and don'ts of curbside recycling.

Single-stream recycling is where all recycling materials are loosely placed in the same bin, which is collected and transported to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for processing, then sold to be made into new products.

Reyer said that in the past, recycling was placed at the curb in plastic bags, "but a lot has changed since then and now we throw all of our recyclable materials in the same bin."

Tri-County's MRF in Appleton serves 16% of the state. Of the materials processed there annually, 59% are paper, 24% glass, 9% residual waste, 5% plastic and 4% metal.

After recycling is collected curbside and transported to Tri-County's MRF, it first enters a pre-sorting room where employees sort and remove items considered contaminants, meaning not recyclable and potentially dangerous.

The top contaminants at Tri-County are plastic bags including bagged recyclables, shredded paper, garbage, sharps, ropes, cords, string lights, hoses, wires, textiles, batteries, tanks and compressed gas cylinders.

Hiller shared that one of the things that



Jordan Hiller shows attendees a bucket of "glass fines," plastic bits that get mixed in with glass and are too small to sort out at the recycling center.

shocked him was the amount of dirty diapers that come through the facility. Diapers are not recyclable and require employees to pull them out of the machines by hand.

"They've come to determine that because there is a recycling symbol on a box of diapers to let you know that that cardboard is recyclable, there's a little bit of a barrier or a miscommunication that everything that comes with it, and is put into them, can go to the recycling facility," he said.

After the pre-sort room, the items are sent through disc screens where flat items such as paper and cardboard float across the rotating discs, and three-dimensional items such as bottles, jugs and jars, fall between the gaps. Employees in paper sort lines remove items by hand that incorrectly made it through the discs.

Metals are then pulled off the conveyor using a giant magnet and plastics are sorted by three AI robotics machines added in November that analyze based on color, shape, size and function. The materials then go through an eddy current, which

magnetically separates aluminum into the correct bunker and drops everything else down to a conveyor belt.

An optical sorter identifies items sorted in the incorrect area and sends a concentrated puff of air at it to send the item up and over into the correct bunker. The final step is the last-chance line, where a robot picks through the remaining items and identifies and sorts commodities.

After the separation process, the items are banded, bailed and shipped to be re-used, either into the same item or into brand new products. Tri-County ships up to 440 bails of recycling every day, with most staying in the Midwest.

Only plastic, paper, metal and glass are recyclable; and typically only those items found in a kitchen, bathroom and laundry room. The smallest an item can be for recycling is 2 inches by 2 inches.

"Anything 2 inches or less is too small for our equipment to sort out and it ends up in the glass cleanup system," Hiller said. "That is why we advise to leave caps and lids on containers and do not accept shredded paper."

## Stress management called crucial for maintaining heart health

ThedaCare Communications

Maintaining a healthy weight, eating right and exercising are all important to heart health – and so is managing stress. According to the American Heart Association, chronic stress can contribute to heart disease – the leading cause of death in the U.S.

Everyone experiences stress, and it's not all negative. Some forms are positive and can motivate change when it isn't serving us.

At the same time, long-term, unmanaged stress can pose health risks. It may lead to high blood pressure, which can pose a risk for heart attack and stroke.

Stress can also prompt the release of cortisol, a hormone that can increase blood cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure and triglycerides. Those are all common risk factors for heart disease, explained Michele Moldenhauer, a licensed professional counselor with ThedaCare Behavioral Health, who also works with cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation patients.

Stress can lead to irritability, anger, impatience, anxiety, racing thoughts, depression and feeling overwhelmed. When people feel that way regularly, they're more likely to develop poor lifestyle habits or other unhealthy coping strategies, according to

Moldenhauer.

Unmanaged stress can lead to behaviors that can affect heart health:

- Poor eating habits due to a lack of motivation to cook or eat nutritious meals
- Emotional eating that leads to consuming foods high in sodium, sugar and fat
- Smoking
- Use of nonprescribed drugs
- Excessive drinking
- Disrupted sleep

Other factors can arise as well. Exercise and connecting with other people are important factors in lowering stress and improving heart health. However, when a per-

son is overwhelmed from chronic stress, they are less likely to exercise and engage with other people, Moldenhauer said.

"People may begin to isolate and have negative self-talk, which can lead to more depressive feelings," she said. "When there is low motivation and lack of interest in life, people may decide to quit taking their medications or not take them consistently as prescribed. This can result in compromised physical and mental health."

Research also shows that people with depression can have stickier platelets, making it more likely that a person with heart disease will have a heart attack.

Cardboard, pizza and other food boxes, envelopes, junk mail and milk containers are recyclable. Cardboard boxes should be flattened and cut to no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet. Shredded paper, tissue paper and pet food bags are not recyclable and should be placed in a refuse bin.

Plastic household bottles, jars, jugs, dairy and deli containers should be rinsed and their caps replaced. Plastic bags, wraps, films, motor oil bottles and plastic foam are not recyclable.

Aluminum, steel and tin cans, and bottles are recyclable but propane tanks, aluminum pans and foil, scrap metal, cookware, appliances, aerosol cans and empty paint cans are not suitable for recycling.

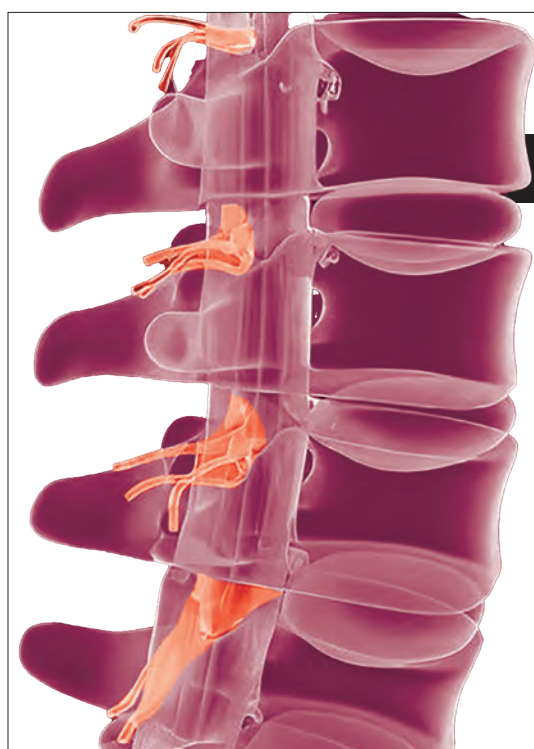
Although glass food and beverage bottles and jars are recyclable, mirrors, window glass, ceramics, china and drinking glassware are not.

Hiller said a huge problem in the industry is referred to as "wish-cycling."

"Nobody wants to throw anything away, but they don't want to keep it anymore so they assume that if they put it in the blue bin, somebody somewhere will take care of it – out of sight, out of mind," he said. "Unfortunately, all this material ends up in the landfill."

It was noted at the class that recycling varies by location and even if an item has the arrows symbol on the package, it may not be recyclable locally. Fast-food coffee cups were cited as an example of an item that has a recycling symbol but is not recyclable at Tri-County.

Hiller and Reyer suggest using the Betterbin app, which allows scanning an item's barcode to determine whether it's recyclable, and the Waste Wizard tool, where users type the name of a waste item to find out how to recycle or dispose of it. Both are available for free at [recyclemore-tricounty.org](http://recyclemore-tricounty.org).



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# Oshkosh Corp. using AI to prepare workers for future

## Governor's task force gains policy knowledge

By Jonathan Richie  
NEENAH NEWS

Governments, businesses and individuals are starting to find out how artificial intelligence (AI) can help in daily operations. One company – Oshkosh Corp. – is using AI to automate services from packing shipping containers to responding to customer emails.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers' AI task force met at the vehicle maker's global headquarters last week as they continue working on developing policy and guiding principles. The task force formed in August is focused on four areas that will impact AI: education, government, workforce development and economic development.

Anupam Khare, chief information officer and senior vice president at Oshkosh Corp., said the company is using AI to prepare the workforce for the future. This includes using physical robots and software bots to complete everyday tasks faster.

Khare told the task force that Oshkosh Corp., which has vehicle-building facilities

that include Pierce Manufacturing in Fox Crossing, will use physical AI robots to do welding or painting jobs across the company that would be next to impossible for an employee to accomplish.

There is also AI software that Oshkosh Corp. is using such as bots, as Khare identified them, that are able to answer hundreds of emails in about five minutes that used to take employees many hours to handle.

Oshkosh Corp. began using AI to do simple jobs, then moved to communication applications such as responding to customer inquiries and installing virtual assistants. Then the company began analyzing data using AI and is now creating content with the technology.

Khare said consumers in general may be unaware how shipping containers are packed with the help of technology. Oshkosh Corp. ships important parts all over the world and before AI would need to input the sizes of each box and how the boxes were orientated in the container.

With AI analytics, shipping containers

are packed 15 times faster without having an employee input individual boxes.

"AI is helping to make better decisions and make them faster," Khare said.

The company also recently announced an investment in Eatron Technologies, a developer of AI-powered battery management software to manage its electric vehicles.

Amanda Ballantyne, executive director of the AFL-CIO Technology Institute, spoke to the task force about workers using AI and how the labor movement has always been on the front lines of technology.

She advised that AI should be used to make jobs safer and more efficient, and that generative AI could lead to people losing their jobs and speculated that the positions subsequently created may not be as desirable.

She also noted that AI could lead to Draconian performance evaluations such as at Amazon warehouses where workers wear devices that track several indicators like how fast they are moving, length of

bathroom breaks and even when employees are talking to each other.

"These are very significant concerns regarding job performance evaluations," Ballantyne said.

Evers in his 2024 State of the State address announced that this will be the year of the worker. Department of Workforce Development Secretary Amy Pechacek highlighted this when opening the meeting at Oshkosh Corp. global headquarters.

"It's important that we promote ethical decision making," she said, "and that we ensure workers have a seat at the table."

Department of Administration Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld said her agency is developing safe-use policies for AI to be used by all state agencies.

The governor's task force is made up of state officials, county officials and business leaders in the private sector, including Google and Microsoft. The group first started meeting last year to develop the guiding principles and will present a final action plan to the governor this summer.



Khare

## Veterans suicide prevention training offered

Gatekeeper training is considered a best practice in suicide prevention among veterans to teach how to recognize warning signs and reach out to veterans who may be in distress.

Abbey Bernier, suicide prevention coordinator for Department of Veterans

Affairs, is giving a presentation at 6:30 p.m. April 4 at the Neenah Public Library. Those interested are welcome to attend the free event.

For more information, contact 920-886-6315, Library@neenahlibrary.org or visit neenahlibrary.org.

## Outdoor warning sirens enter testing season

Winnebago County's outdoor warning sirens will be tested every Saturday at noon starting tomorrow and continue through at least September. Tests are canceled in the event of severe weather or other serious conditions.

The Winnebago County Office of Emergency Management said the sirens are designed to warn people who are outdoors that a severe weather situation is happening or likely to happen soon and

should seek shelter immediately.

Residents can enhance their readiness by purchasing a NOAA Weather Radio from local retailers. They turn on automatically when the National Weather Service issues warnings.

For more information, contact 920-236-7463.

Winnebago County will participate in the statewide mock Tornado Drill on April 11.

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# There's never a dull moment in city if you look for it

"I'm bored!" – the phrase that is the bane of every parent's existence. Growing up, my mom always told us, "Only boring people get bored." That meant if we didn't find something to do, and quickly, she'd solve that problem with a fantastic idea like cleaning the bathroom or weeding the garden. Did you know that many of Neenah's larger or public institutions and organizations offer a wide variety of smaller ongoing programming on a regular basis that really adds up to a ton of Neenah fun? Let's look at some of these special but sometimes seemingly secret or surprising boredom busters. Future Neenah: Did you know that some of our long-standing event staples

such as the Out to Lunch Concerts and Farmers Markets both offer special kids' days? Did you know that we now start and end the summer with street concerts? Neenah Parks & Rec: A quick glance at their Fall-Winter Activity Guide included a Winter Festival, an Ugly Sweater Shuffle, Search the Neenah Creek, Story Walk, Paint & Peck and Snowshoeing. Neenah Public Library: Here's just a small sampling of recent events – Swiftie Party, Ukulele Open Jam, Ugly Cupcake



Party, LEGOs, Mah Jongg Meet Up, Game-A-Palooza and Stuffed Animal Clinic. The Plaza: In the past six months, their calendar has included a New Year's Eve Ball Drop, Polar Express Night, Skate Lessons, The Art Bus by Emma, visits with Grinch and Santa, Yoga, Pumpkin Painting, Cupcake Sale and Cookbooks and Art Mercantile. The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass: Art Activity Days every first Saturday of the month to create your own glass art item such as a suncatcher, pendant or garden stake. Art after Dark themed quarterly after-hours events – recent ones have included Renaissance and Gingerbread themes. The museum always has

free admission. It's not just all music, parks, books, skating and glass. These options are just the tip of the iceberg, not a comprehensive list, and many are low to no cost. The other thing my mom always told us was, "Try it, you might like it." We would challenge you to try out at least one, preferably more, new-to-you activities this spring; you just might like it. And, to anyone who would say they are bored in Neenah, I say, you're not looking very hard. Keep up to date on many of these events and more happening at Neenah.org/events/community-calendar.

## District seeks input on information strategies

Neenah News

Two meetings have been set to help improve the Neenah Joint School District's communication plan and strategies. Parents, staff and community members

are invited to a virtual meeting at 1 p.m. Monday and in-person meeting in the district office board room at 6 p.m. Wednesday. The district is seeking input about its communication efforts, including: What information or topics you are not currently receiving that you would like to receive? What specific communication channels you prefer or find most effective? What aspects of communications could be improved? What barriers prevent you from engaging with current communications? The link to the virtual meeting will be on the homepage of the district website at the time of the meeting. A form will also be available to submit feedback.



Neenah News

Construction is underway in the Town of Vinland for Acton Academy. Town officials advanced a commercial site plan review Feb. 28 for the project.

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## Private school project underway in Vinland

Neenah News

Acton Academy Oshkosh's new campus for middle school and high school students in the Town of Vinland recently had its commercial site plan approved along with a conditional use permit that will include a traffic study in the area. The private education institution is keeping its elementary school students at its adjacent current location that opened in September 2020, with anticipated completion of the new facility in the fall. The school currently has about 60 students ages 4-7. "Our building team is making great progress with the warm weather and they are hopeful to complete the project on time before the end of the year," said Sharon Chmura-Moore, founding director of Acton Academy Oshkosh. "This building project is a testament to our Acton families over the last four years and to our supportive community." Chmura-Moore said they will open the middle school classroom in September for ages 11-14 and grow in the new building all through high school, ultimately housing learners ages 8 to 18. Town Board supervisors Feb. 18 approved the site plan that defines construc-

tion obligations and hours of operation for school activities that will include a traffic study sometime in April on the potential impact of school traffic in the neighborhood. The 13,000-square-foot school will take up about eight acres of the 40-acre parcel, according to Mark Seidl of Pinnacle Engineering, who appeared before the board. Stormwater and erosion control permits have been acquired from the state Department of Natural Resources and Winnebago County, which will include a stormwater pond and culvert adjacent to the driveway. The Acton Academy Network has more than 250 affiliated academies that promotes a "one-room schoolhouse" approach to learning. Acton Academy Oshkosh founder Carey Sharpe said the school's enrollment draws from both the Oshkosh and Neenah school districts while being open to a wider geographic range. Vinland Plan Commission members reviewed zoning, traffic concerns and potential annexation of the land to the city of Oshkosh. Ganther Construction Architecture is leading the project financed by Atlas Capital Group, who will lease the land to Acton.

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Submitted photos

A panoramic view of the Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel where Batley's Grill & Bar has transformed the former Ground Round restaurant.

## Batley's

FROM PAGE 1

fired, we might have chains of grocery stores in our family instead of restaurants and hotels."

So there's Richie Batley, all of 16 years old, without a job on the mean streets of Menasha. He did what countless teens have done in that situation. He took a job as a dishwasher. That was his very first position in food and beverage.

As often happens in restaurants, one day a cook called in sick. The manager told Richie that he was going to learn how to make soup. Batley slowly started to get involved on the culinary side and pretty soon he was in love with food and beverage and restaurants.

Rich ate up the knowledge like a gourmet meal and wound up making quite the name for himself. Batley was a chef at some of the most memorable names in Wisconsin dining: Alex's Crown, Alex's Edgewater and the Left Guard.

"Dad really loved mixing it up with those great Green Bay Packers players," remembers Ryan. Max McGee and Fuzzy Thurston along with William Martine were the ownership group. But plenty of other Packers greats showed up to make the Left Guard in Menasha, Appleton, Madison and the Left End in Manitowoc and Green Bay real destination spots back in the glory days.

Rich was working at the Left End in Manitowoc when he was surprised by a life-changing phone call from John and Dick Bergstrom. They wanted Rich to "come home" and play a big role in their hotel and restaurant properties, which included the Valley Inn (Neenah), Paper Valley Hotel (Appleton) and Pioneer Inn and Marina. (Oshkosh).

"Dad was involved with the Bergstrom properties for 20 years," Ryan said. "He was really sad when they were sold. He enjoyed it so much and it was a true part of him."

As for Ryan, he said there was never any paternal pressure to go into hospitality.

"I actually never thought I was going to be in it; I always had a passion for sports," he said.

Thinking he would wind up in sports therapy or possibly coaching, Batley had the opportunity to walk on and play soccer at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. "I did that for a year and wound up studying business. I figured I could use that no matter what field I went into."

Batley worked at the hotel throughout high school and summer months of college. He started as a greenskeeper, cutting grass and doing some landscaping. He dug new sand traps when the resort transitioned to a nine-hole course, cut the fairways and cared for the greens. But having diverse interests, eventually he gave the restaurant a shot.

"My first job on the hospitality side was as a fry cook," he recalled. "Then every



Elevated and heated pickleball courts are part of the new offerings outside Batley's Grill & Bar.

summer I tried something different ... serving, bartending, and eventually supervising and managing. Slowly but surely I fell in love with the industry."

Batley completed his degree in business and marketing at Carthage College – where he also played soccer – before returning home. "I couldn't be happier for the opportunity to work side by side with my dad and my sister, who's in HR."

Ryan is quick to mention mother Lori as a steady presence at the resort.

"My mom doesn't have a specific job title but she's here almost every day of the week," he said. "Whether helping out with our engineering or maintenance teams, doing decorations or side jobs that need help, she's very hands on and all in on the business side of things as well. It's absolutely a true family business."

That family business is once more on the move, refreshing and rebranding a perennial favorite. The new Batley's Grill & Bar menu was rolled out last week and it's a dandy. Longtime patrons need not fear as plenty of the traditional items – soups, salads, sandwiches and burgers – will remain. But Batley's is elevating its fare with food and beverage director James Bellmore overseeing the culinary transition.

More offerings will be made in-house, and Batley's is vying for the position of best hand-pattied burgers in the Valley. There are new steak choices – including a

sumptuous sandwich – and prime rib will be featured Saturdays and Sundays. Adding to the yum factor will be fresh buns and breads.

All traditional celebration events such as Mother's Day, Father's Day and Easter will still be offered. Kicking it off will be the O'Batley's St. Paddy's Day Bash this Sunday. They will be serving up the corned beef and cabbage recipe that's been a fave for years and will feature Irish-themed music and drink specials.

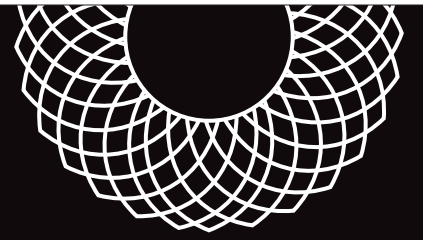
Batley's guests will have a choice with its two-room concept. Couples having a night out or folks who want conversation can enjoy the quiet dining room. Just on the other side of the wall is the sports lounge with 21 TVs – one at every booth where kids can put on a cartoon, sports fans can tune in to their game, and the atmosphere is fun and upbeat.

Batley's has also created additions to its outdoor patio. This includes a Rainbow Playground, basketball hoop, tetherball, giant checkers, giant Jenga, four firepits and a mini-golf course.

Which leads to the platform courts and the Batley's Pickleball League. The courts are 4 feet off the ground with underground heaters. They don't heat up the players, they just assure that snow and ice won't accumulate on the surface, even in winter.

The league is the brainchild of Batley's bar manager Matt Palmer. It costs \$5 a spot and the league is for all comers looking to have fun. If you don't have a racket, no problem, one will be provided. The league has already started, even before the weather officially changes. Reserving a spot is strongly encouraged.

Just outside the ballroom in the hotel is a 1950s-style streetscape with cobblestone flooring. In the floor is a replica manhole cover designed by Neenah Foundry, and along the walls and corridor you will find a storefront named "Howard's Food Market." It's a nod to the stubborn old guy who had a lot to do with the whole thing.



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# Homeless camps

FROM PAGE 1

people who sleep in a vehicle on city property would also be in violation. Rashid said RV trailers are also included in the definition of vehicle.

Those violating the ordinance will first be issued a warning and if they continue to camp more than one hour after being warned, they will receive a citation. A first offense violation will result in a fine of between \$10 and \$500 plus costs; with subsequent violations increasing to \$25-\$1,000 plus costs.

The ordinance also includes wording to deal with homeless individuals who temporarily leave belongings on public property, noting police will collect and hold abandoned property for 30 days. After the 30 days, police may dispose of it.

The issue of banning camping on public property as a way to deter homeless individuals has made news headlines across the country in recent months, with several towns approving ordinances similar to the one being considered in Neenah.

Later this year, the U.S. Supreme Court in City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson will consider whether the enforcement of laws regulating camping on public property constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment" prohibited under the Eighth Amendment.

In Wisconsin, Senate Bill 669 introduced late last year by Sens. Cory Tomczyk of Mosinee and Rachael Cabral-Guevara of Fox Crossing would criminalize homelessness statewide. Those who temporarily camp on public property not designated for camping would face a misdemeanor charge, a fine

of up to \$500 and up to 30 days in jail.

The bill would also allow the Department of Administration (DOA) and municipalities to set up homeless encampments on public property. Those who do not comply with DOA instructions or conditions at the encampments would be charged with a misdemeanor.

The Fox Valley social justice organization ESTHER provided written testimony opposing the bill. Oshkosh resident Tina Haffeman is a member of ESTHER, helped found the Day by Day Shelter in Oshkosh and works for the charity LEAVEN Fox Cities, which provides financial assistance and resources to people experiencing a crisis.

Haffeman told Neenah News that laws and ordinances criminalizing being unhoused "plays into the idea that homeless people are bad and lazy and drug addicted and don't deserve to live anywhere."

"So what are you going to do, send them underground so that they're going to be under bridges like they are here?" she questioned. "Or walking around your neighborhoods, hiding in your garages at night? Because, what are they going to do? Where are they going to go? What options are there?"

She said the average person is one car accident, car repair or illness away from being homeless themselves, especially with the skyrocketing costs of housing, and she implored the city to reconsider the ordinance.

"All it helps is wealthy people who don't have to look at homeless people," she said.

Neenah's proposed ordinance passed the Public Services and Safety Committee unanimously Tuesday.



Submitted photo

One of the homes featured on the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society Kitchen Tour is in west Neenah.

## Kitchen tour features five homes in west Neenah

Neenah News

The 15th annual Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society Kitchen Tour from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 25 features five homes in the countryside west of Neenah and Menasha with demonstrations and tastings, including a grab-and-go lunch or appetizer tasting dinner at Ridgeway Country Club.

The sponsored tour will have a mix of innovatively designed and renovated homes, including Modern Farmhouse and European Cottage styles. Each home will feature demonstrations and tastings by area eateries such as Thunderbird Bakery, Sante Wine Bar and Bistro, and Rusted Roost Restaurant and Bar.

NMES began in 1906 as an effort to assist those devastated by the San Francisco earthquake. With support from the community, the organization began focusing on local efforts, including assisting with the maternity ward at Theda Clark Hospital, now ThedaCare Regional Medical Center, the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA Senior Care) and Neenah Public Library.

NMES is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization with more than 35 members

who give a five-year commitment to helping students and families in Neenah and Menasha meet their core needs. Programs include Emergency Assistance, Caring for Kids, Back-to-School Fair, Caring for our Community and a scholarship program.

"As a small nonprofit that is 100% volunteer run, we rely on this Kitchen Tour to provide the necessary funding for our programs," said Julie Last, co-president. "We are so grateful to Nicolet National Bank and our other sponsors, the residents who open their homes, the local businesses providing tastings and demonstrations, and the attendees who make this event such an enormous success year after year."

To learn more, go to [nmesociety.org/kt](http://nmesociety.org/kt) where advance tickets are available and in person starting April 1 at area Nicolet National Banks, Bedrock Coffee Roasters, Bill Paul Ltd., Brown Family Dentistry, Cedar Ridge Crafts & Gifts, Natural Boutique, Neenah Vintage Mall, Red Door Mercantile, Zuppas Cafe & Catering in Neenah, and Club Liquor in Menasha.

Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. Tickets for Ridgeway Country Club are available at [nmesociety.ticketleap.com/2024-kitchen-tour](http://nmesociety.ticketleap.com/2024-kitchen-tour).



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# Neenah girls take second at state tourney

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

The emotions shown by the Neenah High School girls basketball team in the moments following a 69-59 loss to Arrowhead in the WIAA Division 1 state championship game at the Resch Center weren't only about collecting the silver basketball.

Some of it was the realization that this tight-knit group – complete with eight seniors – was never going to be able to take the court together again.

"I was just happy to have another week with them," Neenah head coach Andy Braunel said. "It's a long season and you think about how much time you spend with one another. Sometimes you spend more time with these kids than your own family. You do it because you love the kids and this was a special group."

Senior Allie Ziebell, who ended her career as the most decorated girls basketball player in Neenah history, was also disappointed in the loss but knows that playing her final high school game for a state title was special.

"It was just a great run, with a great

group of girls and I could not have asked for my senior season to go out on a bigger stage than this," said Ziebell, who was named the WBCA's Ms Basketball for the 2023-24 season prior to the start of the state tournament. "Everyone battled their butts off and did everything we could."

The Rockets, after pulling out a grueling 77-70 win over Hartford in a semifinal game less than 24 hours earlier, kept pace with the top-seeded Warhawks for more than 25 minutes before Arrowhead was able to break free.

A Ziebell 3-pointer with just under 12 minutes to play capped a 14-6 run to start the second half and gave the Rockets a 43-40 lead.

Arrowhead then rattled off a 12-0 run to take a nine-point lead before another Ziebell 3-pointer ended the Warhawks' outburst.

Arrowhead was able to maintain a comfortable lead until five straight points from Ziebell cut the deficit to 59-55 with 3:37 remaining. But the Warhawk proved



Neenah News

Rockets' senior Allie Ziebell totaled 75 points in Neenah's two games at the Resch Center in the WIAA Division 1 state tournament.

SEE Neenah girls ON PAGE 12



"Go Neenah, win that game. Keep your spotless fame. We will cheer you all the while, as you fight and fight. Rah! Rah!"

# Neenah girls

FROM PAGE 11

to be a little too much, finishing the game on a 10-4 run to close out the win.

The Warhawks finished 9-of-11 at the free-throw line for the game to help close out the win.

“Part of the big thing today was having a little bit of an easier draw (Friday) night as opposed to us having a dogfight. You could see that in our shots,” Braunel said. “That was a concern going into it. We gutted it out. We battled our tails off, so proud of their effort.”

Ziebell echoed her coach’s thoughts. “I would say our legs were a little tired. Our energy needed to pick it up a little bit,” she said. “I still think everyone battled their butts off and did everything we could.”

Ziebell finished with 35 points and seven rebounds in the game, shooting 14-of-29 from the field and 7-of-16 from the 3-point line. After attempting 20 free throws in the semifinal win, Ziebell did not get to the free-throw line against Arrowhead.

“Just starting off aggressive was a big tone to set just so other teammates could settle in. It makes us relax a little more,” Ziebell said. “That was a big thing coming into the game because I knew on offense and defense we really had to step it up tonight.”

Rowan Klesmit, who scored the first points for Neenah in both the state semifinal and championship games, was the only other player to reach double figures with 14 points against Arrowhead.

“I was just trying to do whatever I could to help my team and play my role,” said the sophomore Klesmit. “Every girl



Neenah News

Senior Rachel Dietrich handles the ball during Saturday’s WIAA Division 1 state championship game against Arrowhead.

on this team has worked for this position. I’m just glad we got here as a team.”

Abbie Fischer added six points off the bench for the Rockets, while Amaya Jones rounded out the scoring for the Rockets with four points.

Jones also led the team with a game-high 16 rebounds and a pair of assists as she closed her basketball career with some stellar play.

“So proud of her and how she busted her tail. Not going to score a lot, but

doesn’t care about that,” Braunel said. “She will go play defense, get boards, set screens and do whatever she can to help everybody else out. You need people taking on those rolls that are out of the spotlight.”

The game also marked the end of Ziebell’s storied career with the Rockets.

Over the two state games, Ziebell scored 75 points and grabbed 26 rebounds – including 19 in the win over Hartford. She finished 16-of-20 from the free-throw line in the semifinal win, while also dishing out five assists.

The UConn recruit will play in the McDonald’s All-Star Game this summer and leaves as the fourth leading scorer in Wisconsin girls basketball history.

Braunel believes that Ziebell was equally impressive off the court the past four years.

“I’ve been blessed to be able to coach this girl for four years and she has elevated our program to new heights,” Braunel said. “She has made all of us better and without a doubt I am a better person and a better coach being able to coach her for four years.”

Added Klesmit: “Obviously everyone sees Allie as the basketball player but off the court, she is a great person to be around. I’m grateful I had my two years with her.”

Ziebell scored 40 points in the semifinal win over Hartford, with Fischer chipping in 13 points off the bench – the third time in six playoff games she reached double figures – and Klesmit adding 11 points.

The Rockets also got six points from Jones, five from Ellie Buss and two from Kayla White.

Neenah scored the first five points of

SEE **Neenah girls** ON PAGE 13

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Sophomore Rowan Klesmit goes up for a shot after drawing contact against an Arrowhead defender in the second half on Saturday. Klesmit finished with 14 points in the state title game and reached double figures in both state tournament games.

## Neenah girls

FROM PAGE 12

the game against Hartford and led the entire first half, finishing the opening stanza with an 11-3 spurt that Ziebell capped with a 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer for a 40-32 lead.

Hartford opened the second half by scoring the first six points before a jumper from Klesmit and a basket by Jones stemmed the tide.

The Orioles then knocked down 3-pointers on consecutive possessions to tie the game at 44 and then took their first lead of the game at 47-46 following another trey.

Ziebell answered with a wing jumper and two free throws to help Neenah surge back in front 50-49 before a Fischer 3-pointer ignited an 11-0 run that pushed the Rockets' lead back to double digits.

Hartford would get as close as 69-65 with about two minutes to play before Ziebell, Buss and Klesmit combined to go 6-of-8 from the free-throw line to help seal the win.

"I'm so proud of their effort. There is nothing to be ashamed of here," Braunel



Neenah News

Allie Ziebell (1) and Abbie Fischer (22) talk over strategy in the second half against Arrowhead on Saturday.

said. "I know right now the color of the ball isn't quite what we wanted but that ball is going to be in a trophy case at Neenah High school forever. This group will be immortalized with that."

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# Neenah boys punch third straight state ticket

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Most high school basketball players dream of making it to a state tournament once during their four-year careers.

Brady Corso and Charlie Wunderlich can barely remember what it's like not to end a season with a trip to Madison.

Corso, Wunderlich and the entire Neenah High School boys basketball program will be making their third straight appearance at the state tournament when the team plays top-seeded Arrowhead in a WIAA Division 1 semifinal at the Kohl Center Friday evening.

"It's hard to describe the feeling. It's surreal," said Corso, who is one of two players in Neenah history (Gordon Ehlers, 1928-30) to play regular minutes in three straight state tournaments. "I'm just so grateful to be such a part of a great program with such a phenomenal coaching staff and phenomenal team."

The Rockets enter the state tournament as the fourth seed among the four Division 1 teams but are riding a wave of momentum like none of the other three qualifiers.

Neenah has strung together 13 straight wins and won 17 of its last 18 games since starting the season 4-6.

"Going through a season there are going to be good days and bad days. We put our heads down and just went day by day



Photo by David Hall

Head coach Lee Rabas watches from the sidelines during Saturday's win over Marshfield in a WIAA Division 1 sectional final.

through the storm," Corso said. "I never had a doubt in my mind with this team. Guys want to get better every single day and have a work ethic that is through the roof."

Neenah captured the state title two years ago, capping an undefeated season. Last season, the Rockets fell in the semi-

finals to the same Arrowhead program they will face on Friday.

Obviously both schools will bring new teams to the Kohl Center court but there is the sour taste from last year's matchup that has lingered with the Neenah players.

"They ended our season last year so we

are looking to get them back," said Wunderlich, who played very limited time as a sophomore at state but was a key figure for the Rockets a year ago. "That's what has gotten us here - our defensive effort and our effort overall. That has been the key. If we D up on Friday night, we should have a good chance."

Arrowhead, champions of the Classic Eight Conference, enter the state tournament off an 85-80 win over defending state champion De Pere and have rattled off 11 straight wins since a loss at home to Kettle Moraine.

The Warhawks feature two players averaging more than 17 points per game in Bennett Basich and Jace Gilbert, but bring plenty more talent to the court than just those two.

"They have two Division 1 athletes, and the pieces that fit around those kids are really good and really skilled and really talented. They are a formidable opponent," Neenah head coach Lee Rabas said. "It is exciting to be going back and it's different from two years ago and different from last year."

The Rockets advanced to the state tournament with wins over the two top-seeded teams in their sectional.

Neenah rolled past second-seeded Stevens Point, 68-50, in a sectional semi-

SEE **Neenah boys** ON PAGE 15

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# Neenah boys

FROM PAGE 14

nal last Thursday behind 23 points from Luke Jung and 19 from Corso.

Last Saturday, the Rockets trailed top-seeded Marshfield by six points at halftime and were down by nine in the second half before rallying for a 52-48 win.

"I called a timeout when we got down by nine and told them this is it. We either have to start playing better defensively and start getting some stops or it's done," Rabas said. "We started to play better on defense and then Brady hit some big shots. Literally the last six minutes, he just decided he was going to get the third trip to state.

"You are not alive right now at our level of the tournament unless you have that guy and he is special. He will go down as one of the most accomplished players in the program."

Corso, who finished with 24 points in the win over Marshfield, credits his teammates for helping hit the big shots against the Tigers and all season.

# State tourney

## WIAA Division 1 State Semifinals

at Kohl Center, Madison

### Friday's games

Arrowhead (25-3) vs. Neenah (21-7), 6:35 p.m.

Kettle Moraine (25-3) vs. Marquette (24-4), approx. 8:15 p.m.

"I feel like a lot of it has to do with all of our guys screening to get me open. All of my stuff is created off of what they do," Corso said. "We had a phenomenal second half against Marshfield. We fought the whole time."

And the result was another trip to Madison.

"You have to soak in every moment, that's what Brady and I have been telling all the young guys because you never know when you are coming back," Wunderlich said. "Making it to state was the goal all year. If our season is going to end, being in the Kohl Center is the best place to do it."



Photo by David Hall

Neenah's Justin Janssen (3) looks to make a move around a Marshfield defender on Saturday.

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- Create a permanent record of your family member's legacy for future generations to explore

To place an obituary in the Neenah News submit through Your Funeral Director • [obits@neenahnewsnow.com](mailto:obits@neenahnewsnow.com) • 920-486-1616

