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Superintendent selection narrowed

Board will choose from among three candidates

Neenah News

The Neenah Joint School District Board of Education has selected three finalists for its next school superintendent with the retirement of Mary Pfeiffer after 15 years in the role.

The three job candidates are Steve Harrison, assistant superintendent for assess-

ment curriculum and instruction for the Appleton Area School District; Michael McMahon, director of teacher and student learning in the Grafton School District; and Tina Owen-Moore, superintendent of the School District of Cudahy.

Selected through an initial interview process from among a pool of candidates, the three will spend a day in the district next week.

Harrison, who will visit Monday, has worked in Appleton since 2015 and in

his current position for five years after previously serving as the district's continuous school improvement coordinator for math, science and health. He was an assistant principal at Oshkosh West High School for two years and taught science at West for 10 years.

Harrison began his teaching career at Badger High School in Lake Geneva in 2000. He holds a doctorate from Cardinal

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Photo by David Hall

Tourney time

Basketball fans at Greene's Pour House cheer on the Wisconsin Badgers as they fell short of a Big 10 Tournament championship Sunday against Illinois. Former Neenah High School star Max Klesmit scored in overtime Saturday against top-seeded Purdue to move the Badgers to the title game. Wisconsin earned a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament and face James Madison University tonight with a 8:40 p.m. tipoff time.

Right at home: Klesmit has been ideal fit for Badgers

Badgers guard puts team in winning form

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

"Born to be Badger" was a book released late in 2023.

The fictional work is built around the adventures of a family of honey badgers, but anyone who has followed Max Klesmit's basketball journey might have suspected otherwise.

Klesmit may have been born to be a Badger. No player on the Wisconsin Bad-

gers' men's basketball team is a better fit in terms of background and program culture than No. 11.

But none of that really matters if the guy can't play.

Klesmit can play. He's erased any doubts about whether he's Big 10 material with his rock-solid play the past two seasons for the NCAA tournament-bound Badgers.

The 6-foot-4 starting shooting guard is putting the finishing touches on his sec-



Klesmit

ond season with Wisconsin. In 31 games before the Big Ten tournament, Klesmit averaged 9.6 points – fourth best on a balanced team – along with 1.9 rebounds and 1.5 assists. He shot 43 percent from the floor and led the team in 3-pointers made (51), while shooting 37.5 percent from beyond the arc.

He followed that up with a strong performance in the Big Ten tourney that included 16 points and a game-winning shot against top-seeded Purdue to put them into the championship game before falling to Illinois.

Klesmit's value on the court, though,

transcends numbers. He's considered to be Wisconsin's best defender and is a gritty, high-effort player who routinely gets teammates and the Kohl Center crowd fired up.

"One of the reasons why we recruited him when he went into the portal was his toughness," said Wisconsin coach Greg Gard in a press conference earlier this season after the Badgers' 75-64 win over Marquette.

Toughness is one of the many intangibles Klesmit brings to the Badgers.

SEE **Former Rocket** ON PAGE 12



April 2, 2024

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Special dog leash grabs some attention

Neenah man's business plan on 'Project Pitch It'

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A Neenah entrepreneur who found a solution to walking two dogs at the same time is hoping to make it big after being featured in an upcoming episode of the "Shark Tank"-style television show "Project Pitch It."

Brian Jankowski, 40, created the Doggy Dupa after his mother, Kathy, struggled to walk her two dogs.

"She used to use two leashes and she's like, 'Brian, this is frustrating. Can you make me a leash that doesn't tangle?'" he said.

Jankowski, who is a golf instructor, has entrepreneurial experience from previously going through the audition process for "Shark Tank" with a golf tee he invented.

"My first product really taught me a lot about being an entrepreneur, how to get something manufactured and how you can have an idea—that's great. But how are you going to sell it? What does it cost to make? How are your margins?" he said.

Jankowski purchased several leashes touted as tangle free, but identified issues with each of them. He focused on solving those issues with the Doggy Dupa.

"I like to create things and solve problems," he said. "So I started making prototypes for a double dog leash that didn't tangle and it just kind of evolved from there."

The Doggy Dupa features two variable bungee leads with lengths of 3 to 8 feet, and includes a swiveling pulley with stoppers.

"It basically gives the dog free range to move wherever they want – in front of the other dog, behind, crisscross, zigzag – and they don't tangle," he said, adding that bungee leads are easier on a dog's body.

The Doggy Dupa's design included extra space in the handle, which Jankowski used to add a doggy waste bag dispenser and waste bag holder. The handle also has a wrist strap and reflective grip tape for easy handling and visibility during late night walks.

Jankowski and Kathy are business partners and filed for a utility patent on the Doggy Dupa about a year ago. His father, Bob, makes the leashes in the lower level of the couple's Omro home.

The product was named by Kathy, who noted "dupa" is a polish word for buttocks, and when walking dogs you're typically looking at their butt.

"It's cute. It sticks out. People remember it," Jankowski said. "And then it's funny because anybody who's polish is like, I know what dupa means; that's hilarious."

Last September, Kathy sent Jankowski the link to apply for "Project Pitch It," a television series where Wisconsin entre-



Submitted photos

Above: Brian Jankowski invented a dog leash for his mother, Kathy, that will be featured on an upcoming episode of "Project Pitch It." At right: The Doggy Dupa leash has two bungee leads, a swiveling pulley and stoppers for tangle free dog walking.



preneurs pitch ideas to a panel of business moguls while vying for weekly awards.

After going through the interview process, Jankowski was selected to be on Season 8, episode 6 of the show. Filming took place in November in Milwaukee.

"With the leash, I know it so well, it was just easy," Jankowski said of the process. "Once the moguls started asking me questions, it was just like a conversation."

Those who want to know how the Doggy Dupa did on the show and what prize Jankowski won will have to watch the episode when it airs at 10:45 p.m. April 21 on WBAY-TV 2 with a replay June 16 at the same time.

In the meantime, Jankowski is promoting the Doggy Dupa at trade shows, pet expos and online. People also find out about the product through word-of-mouth.

"People understand how it functions by using it," he said. "I can explain it to somebody all day, but unless they see it, use it, feel it, it's a tough thing for people

to visualize."

With the episode air date coming up, Jankowski said he's excited and nervous. The family is preparing for the possibility of a surge of orders by increasing inventory.

"We take pride that we hand make all these and test all these," he said, adding that the company stands behind its products. "If anything goes wrong with it, it's guaranteed, so we'll replace it or refund them."

Jankowski said orders for the leashes have come in from several other states. More information is at doggydupaleash.com.



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Winnebago board approves funding for police barriers

Neenah, Menasha gain event protection help

By Bethanie Gngler
NEENAH NEWS

This week the cities of Neenah and Menasha were approved for a combined total of just under \$500,000 to purchase police barriers after the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors previously failed to pass the measure by the required majority.

Using federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to partially fund the traffic barriers that protect the public during parades and other large events was a contentious item leading up to the meeting.

After the board initially voted against funding the barriers, an email exchange between Neenah Police Chief Aaron Olson and county supervisors added fuel to the fire. Olson wrote that he sought to clear up misinformation from the meeting, where supervisors Steven Binder, Rachael Dowling and Brian Defferding spoke against the funding.

Binder said the police department would use the barriers for a couple of years and then would sit in a shed, and said city vehicles can be used instead during events.

Olson wrote that it was insulting for Binder to claim that police would only use the barricades for two years, saying they will be used for decades. He said the city's insurer advised that if vehicles are damaged while being used for purposes other than what they are meant for they would not be covered.

Binder changed his vote at this week's meeting in support of awarding \$184,957 to Menasha and \$300,000 to Neenah for the barriers.

Dowling and Defferding both stated at last month's meeting that the funding request was a result of the two cities' irresponsible budgeting. Replying to those claims, Olson wrote that during the initial stages of the grant process for the county's ARPA funds, the applicants were informed that the funds were matching, so the city budgeted for a 50% match through the city's Capital Improvement Plan and the \$300,000 request is the other half of the total.

In response to the email, Defferding called Olson "the first chief in Neenah's history to email an entire county board calling out his disagreements with board members without the courtesy of a personal conversation or call first."

Defferding said at a previous board meeting that he voted against accepting the federal ARPA dollars that the board is dispersing and voted against every proposed ARPA expenditure brought to the board for a vote. This week, Defferding doubled down on his statements opposing the funds for Neenah and Menasha, calling the money "low-hanging fruit" from a forbidden tree, and then biting into an apple.

Menasha Police Chief Nick Thorn, Neenah Mayor Jane Lang and Olson were in attendance at the meeting. Al-

though Olson didn't speak during public comments, Thorn echoed many of the statements Olson previously made, emphasizing the need to protect the public.



Olson



Defferding

Lang expressed gratitude for the board's willingness to reconsider awarding the funds.

"I would really appreciate your support with that," she said. "I feel like we're partners in Winnebago County, working for the safety and security and betterment of our entire county."

Funding for the barriers was approved by the board, who met Tuesday for the final time before a new board is selected by voters April 2.

Other ARPA expenditures approved by the board this week:

- \$350,000 for Child Care Resource and Referral to support child care pro-

viders with training and mentoring and increase available child care openings in Winnebago County.

- \$500,000 for property expansion or programming at the YMCA of the Fox Cities Neenah-Menasha location on Water Street in Neenah.

- \$500,000 to expand the child care space and program offerings at the Oshkosh YMCA.

- \$275,000 for the early childhood nonprofit First 5 Fox Valley to promote cross-sector collaboration and build an efficient, effective and equitable family support system.

- \$300,000 for a comprehensive space needs assessment and facility master plan for the county.

- \$3.9 million to improve outdoor recreation in Winnebago County.

The newly elected board taking office next month will have about \$6.2 million of the \$33 million in county ARPA funds remaining to allocate by the end of the year.

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Calendar of events

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
Heatbox, Cranky Pat's, 9 p.m., 905 S Commercial St.

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

Tuesday, March 26
Movie Talks: "Guys and Dolls," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, March 29
Starfire, 6 p.m., Winncrest Banquet Hall, 2788 Towne Court, Neenah

Saturday, March 30
The Chalk Down Trio, 7 p.m., 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing

Friday, April 5
Daddio, 7 p.m., 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing
Rockin' Psalms, 7 p.m., Faith Global Methodist, 1025 Tullar Road

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County board backs funding for overdose response

Narcan machines will be available to public

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

For more than 10 months the debate has continued on whether to bring vending machines to Winnebago County that dispense the opioid overdose-reversing medication Narcan, but that ended Tuesday with a vote in favor of accepting an \$80,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to fund them.

The discussion on whether the county should offer Narcan, fentanyl test strips, Deterra drug deactivation systems and education and recovery materials for free to people who obtain an access code from the Health Department comes in the wake of the county's deadliest year for overdoses, with a record 48 deaths in 2023.

The Board of Supervisors in January failed to pass the resolution to accept the funds by the majority required. It was brought to the board again this week, with residents and community leaders imploring the supervisors to accept it.

"Help us save ourselves," Oshkosh resident Ashley Hesse told the board during an impassioned speech.

The Rev. Ellen Rasmussen, pastor at Algoma Blvd United Methodist Church, said the vending machines have the support of the church leadership and congregation.

"Sometimes we just need the right moment in order to take the next positive step, and so I urge your support of the

harm reduction vending machines, so that someone's bad decision is not their last decision," she said.

Oshkosh City Manager Mark Rohloff, County Human Services Director Bill Topel and County Executive Jon Doemel were among the community leaders who spoke or submitted written testimony in favor of the machines.

Most fatal drug overdoses are believed to be accidental due to fentanyl being added to opioid and non-opioid substances. Narcan is the brand name for naloxone, a lifesaving opioid antagonist, meaning it blocks the effects of opioids.

Last March, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved over-the-counter Narcan nasal spray, paving the way for its availability in drug stores, convenience stores, grocery stores and gas stations, as well as in vending machines.

Referred to in the resolution as harm reduction vending machines, about 60 have been placed throughout the state using grant funds. The county board has been divided on accepting the funds and installing the machines, with some supervisors vocal in their opposition.

Concerns over the machines' proposed locations – outside Neenah's Human Services building and in the county administration building's outdoor courtyard in Oshkosh – were expressed, with some stating the machines will attract drug users who will overdose near them and then self-administer Narcan.

Health director Doug Gieryn has dispelled that myth, noting Narcan isn't self-administered. He also countered a statement made by Sheriff John Matz at a meeting in June, who claimed that Nar-

can perpetuates drug use.

"Nobody really wants to overdose and having to use Narcan is going to create a miserable situation for that person," Gieryn said.

A spokesperson for the sheriff's department was at the meeting Tuesday and Supervisor Don Nussbaum requested that he be allowed to share the department's views on the machines during the supervisors' discussion, but he was not allowed to do so due to the order of the meeting, with public comments at the start.

County medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer spoke at a meeting in August, stating she has concerns that drug use supplies will end up in the machines. The resolution was subsequently altered to take up Brehmer's concerns and she clarified at a meeting in January that she supports the vending machines as long as the supplies are limited to opioid antagonists, substance testing strips and drug deactivation materials.

Brehmer's endorsement was not

enough to sway the County Board, with 11 supervisors voting against accepting the money at that meeting, failing to pass by the two-thirds majority required.

In advance of Tuesday's vote, District 29 supervisor George Bureau introduced an amendment that would limit the items in the vending machines to include only opioid antagonists. The amended resolution was included in the supervisors' packet after the original resolution, which prompted significant discussion and confusion, before ultimately failing to pass by the required majority.

Bureau, who previously voted against the resolution, changed his vote to support it at the meeting. Nussbaum, Betsy Ellenberger, Rachael Dowling, Paul Eisen, Maribeth Gabert, Thomas Swan and Howard Miller voted against it for the second time. Conley Hanson abstained and three supervisors were absent.

The final vote was 24-7 in favor of accepting the grant funds to install the machines.



Neenah Historical Society photo

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Easter Sunday: March 31
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9:15am Easter Egg Hunt

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Mexican ice cream, sweet treats store to open

By Jenny Grunwald
NEENAH NEWS

When Hugo Ramirez of Frio Mexican Treats in Appleton saw an opportunity to take his love of serving Mexican style desserts to Neenah, he did not hesitate to do just that.

Allchillakill and Cereal Ice Cream Bar will be at 1001 Winneconne Ave., which is in the True Value Hardware parking lot, when it opens in the near future.

According to Ramirez, the vacant SNAPS hut was supposed to become a family-owned coffee drive-thru, but after Starbucks moved in across the street that plan quickly fell apart. Ramirez and True Value Hardware share the value and importance of small, local businesses, so Ramirez found the opportunity to bring his Mexican treats to the area with Allchillakill.

“We still believe there are a lot of people in the Valley (who) would like to support small businesses versus big companies. I think that’s what makes the community unique,” Ramirez said.

The grand opening date for Allchillakill and Cereal Ice Cream Bar is still to be announced. Pending city and health department regulations, Ramirez wants to make sure all his needs are met before making an announcement. When he was in the process of opening Frio Mexican Treats, he said he had around four different opening dates and does not want to make that mistake a second time.

Allchillakill and Cereal Ice Cream Bar will serve sundaes and other types of Mexican ice cream, along with food and



Neenah News

Allchillakill and Cereal Ice Cream Bar is getting ready to open at 1001 Winneconne Ave.

organic Mexican coffee. Ramirez mentions that the restaurant hopes to serve churros and churro-type treats, but due to the size of the building the city and health department may not allow it.

“One of the top sellers here in Appleton are the churro bars,” he said.

Ramirez believes that by engaging with the community, getting involved and supporting the community, residents will support Allchillakill.

“A lot of people from Neenah are looking forward to it though. I’m pretty sure the short trip is going to make them happier,” he said.



An example of Allchillakill food packaging is shown.

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Keller-backed musher wins sixth Iditarod

Neenah News

The J. J. Keller/Dallas Seavey Iditarod Racing Team triumphantly crossed the finish line in Nome, Alaska, March 12 to secure a victory in the 52nd Iditarod sled dog race.

Seavey, racing his 14th Iditarod, clinched an unprecedented sixth championship with the steady support of long-time sponsors James and Rosanne Keller, representing J. J. Keller & Associates in Neenah. The Kellers, who have sponsored Seavey since 2007, were at the finish line to celebrate the win.

“He’s a phenomenal athlete with an outstanding team of dog-athletes,” said James. “We had faith in him — in his perseverance. During the race, he overcame a critical encounter with a moose, which attacked his team and required one of his dogs to be flown out for surgery. That was a tough situation for him.”

The Kellers visited the Seavey kennels and training center in Seward, Alaska, in 2006 while on vacation, meeting the then 18-year-old Dallas.

“We started sponsoring Dallas in 2006 for the 2007 race, where he finished 41st,” recalled James. “We all kept the faith and built the team. We wanted Dallas to be the youngest ever to win at age 25, and he won in 2012. Then a three-peat in 2014, 2015 and 2016. He won again in 2021. This race ... crowns him the greatest musher in the history of this competition.”

Race standings and more information about the 2024 Iditarod is at Iditarod.com.

The 1,000-mile-long sled dog race started in 1973, inspired by the Iditarod Trail, which was a critical route for gold mining,



J. J. Keller photo

Dallas Seavey is shown after winning his unprecedented sixth Iditarod sled dog race last week in Alaska.

and mail delivery and, in 1925, delivery of diphtheria serum. It begins in Anchorage and finishes in Nome, lasting from eight to 15 days or more, depending on weath-

er and trail conditions. Musher and their teams pass by remote towns and villages, with designated rest periods for the mushers and their dogs.

Goodwill NCW promotes disabilities awareness

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month has a theme this March titled A World of Opportunities, which aligns with Goodwill’s mission that everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive through the power of work.

As one of more than 150 members of the international movement, Goodwill North Central Wisconsin (NCW) offers employment services to those who are underserved, underrepresented and disadvantaged, including people with disabilities.

“Goodwill NCW celebrates the ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities,” said Kayla Countney, manager of mission relations. “We are proud to serve all those who face barriers to employment.”

In 2023, Goodwill NCW’s mission impact included these outcomes:

- 75% of people who secured meaningful employment through Goodwill NCW programs shared they have at least one disability.
- Program participants with a disability who received Goodwill NCW employment services increased their collective annual income by more than \$2.6 million, combating poverty rates that can be up to three times

higher than for those without a disability.

Employers can reach out to Goodwill NCW to explore a partnership on programs that provide job-skills training and employment placement services. Community members support those programs by shopping and donating at local Goodwill NCW stores because an average of 90 cents of every dollar in store sales is reinvested into the mission.

Water leak awareness promoted this week

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is highlighting the importance of preventing household water waste and practicing water conservation this week in recognition of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s Fix A Leak Week.

The United States wastes an estimated 1 trillion gallons of water each year due to household leaks. To make it easy for residents, the EPA’s Fix A Leak Week webpage provides guidance on detecting and fixing the most common household leaks.

Try these water-protecting, money-saving ideas to stop water waste:

- Check the meter over a period when water isn’t being used. If it goes down, you probably have a leak.
- Tighten showerheads. Ensuring a tight connection between the showerhead and pipe stem can reduce water use by up to 500 gallons a year.
- Inspect outdoor faucets and irrigation systems each spring to ensure frost or winter freezing didn’t damage the pipes.
- Reach out to experts if you can’t fix or locate a leak. Consulting a plumber can help ensure you have a leak-free residence for years.

To learn more, visit the DNR’s Water Conservation and Efficiency webpage.

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Considering shipping beer? Beware of the restrictions

It's no surprise that New Glarus Brewing is known and loved throughout the U.S. After all, they're the country's 12th largest craft brewing company, according to the Brewers Association.

However, if you live outside the state, New Glarus is impossible to find because the brewery proudly proclaims "Only in Wisconsin" on their website home page. So, what's a beer-lover in, say ... Pennsylvania supposed to do?

There are ways, but a brief disclaimer before we go further. Of course, we at Wife+Husband=Beer are law-abiding citizens of our fine city. That said, we do ... know things.

With tongue firmly planted in cheek, this column will take a hypothetical look at shipping beer to thirsty folks across America, if by chance, someone wanted to do such a thing.

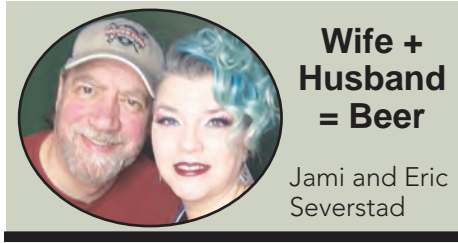
If you haven't opened a box of beer you've never tried, it's like a holiday. Not only do you get to taste something new, but you can also share the brews with your beer geek friends and earn some cred. Plus, you may be inspired to search up new breweries and expand your craft beer knowledge.

In addition to Beer of the Month clubs and other regulated beer shipments, thousands of boxes of beer are being shipped every day, privately and discreetly, by individuals without a license to do so. Technically, this could get the shipper into hot water, yet most shipping companies tend to look the other way and focus on more dangerous items (toxic chemicals, explosives, other harmful materials) passing through their facilities and on their delivery trucks.

As we'll see, most shipping companies — specifically private ones — don't prioritize enforcing beer shipments. It's only when things go wrong (broken bottles or leaky contents that are visually evident) will the shipper even be contacted. So, here's your first piece of advice when it comes to shipper selection: Never ship beer with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

It's no surprise that a government institution such as USPS "prohibits shipping beer, wine, and liquor through the mail, except in limited circumstances." The USPS considers these items as restricted items. Penalties may be significant, so steering clear of USPS is a good idea.

Private shipping companies are a different story — kind of. Officially,



both FedEx and UPS only accept alcohol shipments from those who carry a proper license to manufacture, sell, distribute or otherwise import alcohol. Both require you to enter into an official Alcohol Shipping Agreement to use their services. Again, that's on the record, and here's how they express their policies:

FedEx: "As an individual, you may not ship alcohol, including wine, beer, liquor, or champagne, through the FedEx network. If you'd like to send alcohol as a gift to a friend or family member, you'll need to have it shipped from the licensed retailer or winery you purchased it from."

UPS: "UPS only accepts packages containing spirits from shippers who are licensed under applicable law and who have signed and entered into a contract with UPS for the transportation of spirits. UPS provides service for other alcoholic beverages (beer and wine) on a contract basis only."

If, as an unlicensed alcohol shipper, you're willing to accept the consequences of getting caught (which for both UPS and FedEx can bring a suspension of your account), you have options.

How do you set up a beer trade? First, think of personal friends, relatives or remote co-workers in the region you're targeting, and see if they're up for an adventure. They may not share your passion for beer, so you'll need to connect online with people experienced with trading. There are social networks to explore; just search around.

Here are some rules of thumb for trading: Consider both rarity and value. If you just have to try Yuengling Traditional Lager because it's from the oldest brewery in the U.S., you're not going to send a bottle of Central Waters' Anniversary Stout (which is much rarer and more expensive). You'll send something like Spotted Cow, a beer with similar value and accessibility.

A quick side note: An unwritten rule in trading is to include a beer or two beyond the expected agreed-upon list. Maybe even some swag, too; people

love stickers, coasters or promo items from breweries they don't know. It's a way of thanking the trader by including something unexpected and fun.

Once you have an agreement on a trade, assemble your package. There's nothing special required: bubble wrap, shipping tape and a sturdy box. You can get creative with other soft or shock-absorbing material, if you have it. Or maybe you have preformed cardboard or Styrofoam packaging made for shipping bottles. It's always smart to save material you can reuse later.

Wrap each bottle or can in five or six layers of bubble wrap. No need to be stingy here; it's valuable beer you're sending! The industry's rapid adoption of cans has made shipping beer less stressful than ever, but cans still require a proper amount of love to arrive in good shape.

Some people take extra precautions to ensure beers stay safe. Electrical tape wrapped around the cap of each bottle provides some added security during potentially rough shipping. Also, each bottle or can may be placed in a plastic, resealable bag that locks tight, with either a ribbed zipper or a plastic slider. Going beyond what you think is necessary is usually a good idea.

Place these bubble-wrapped bottles or cans in the box so they fit tightly and without much wriggle room. And, if possible, add shock-absorbing material along the sides and top/bottom of the box for extra cushion.

Reusing material is fine but avoid boxes with beer or liquor branding (logos, names, etc.). You may get unwanted attention as you're trying to get this package through unnoticed. USPS policies state: "If you want to reuse a box that has alcoholic beverage labels on it, remove all logos and labels so your package will pass through the mail system." Just avoiding them is preferred.

Trying to keep brews cool, by using

ice packs for instance, isn't common but it can be done. Most people just won't ship beers they feel could arrive in poor condition (maybe that's a lager, Kölsch, or farmhouse ale).

That brings us to seasonal shipping. Be aware that boxes will get cold in winter (and risk freezing) and quite warm in summer (which could damage delicate beers). Consider shipping when weather won't hurt beers and alert the recipient when the box is arriving so they can get it out of the elements as soon as possible.

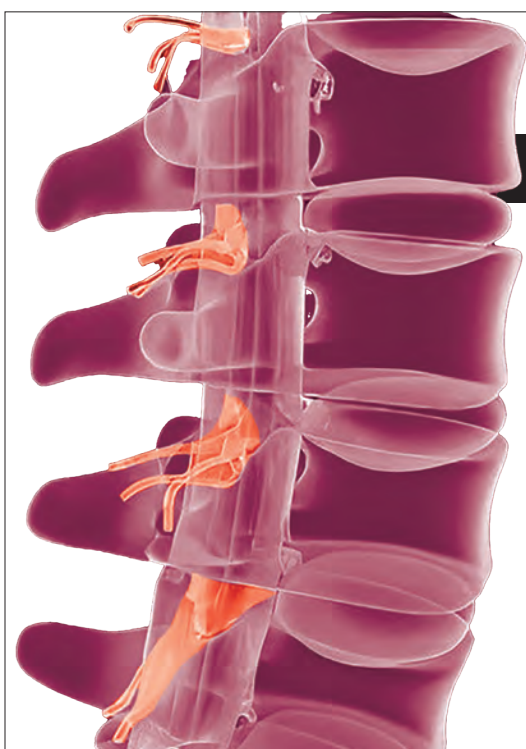
Now, we'll cover a possible shipping plan, if you're still game. Create a personal account with one of the two private shipping companies. You'll need to have access to a printer so you can print shipping labels, which are simply black and white labels with a scan code; they're not fancy.

After securely affixing the label to a properly packaged box, deliver it to a drop-off site in your neighborhood, then say, "I'm just dropping off; I don't need a receipt." Your box is now off, and you can track it online.

Finally, let's discuss costs. In addition to the expense of the beers and shipping materials, you must pay for that box to get to its awaiting beer fan. Here's an example of what to expect: An 8-pound box shipped from Neenah to Harrisburg, Pa., will cost about \$32 using FedEx's "Home Delivery" service.

That's not cheap, so choose your beer shipping opportunities wisely. Most of all, have fun, and remember: this is all hypothetical and probably never happens in real life.

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



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Council candidates share views in advance of election

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The four candidates vying for two seats on the Neenah Common Council answered questions on affordable housing, the city's debt and listening to diverse constituents at a candidate forum hosted by the League of Women Voters and the Doty Island Development Council last week.

Mark Ellis and Kristen Sandvick are running for John Skyrms' District 1 seat. Skyrms was elected in 2021 and is not seeking re-election.

Ellis is retired. He was first elected to the Common Council when he was 25, serving in the 1980s and 1990s.

"I like where the city's going," he said. "There's always things that need to get done that you need to balance, between the private and the public sector, and what I want to do is to make sure we marry those two together."

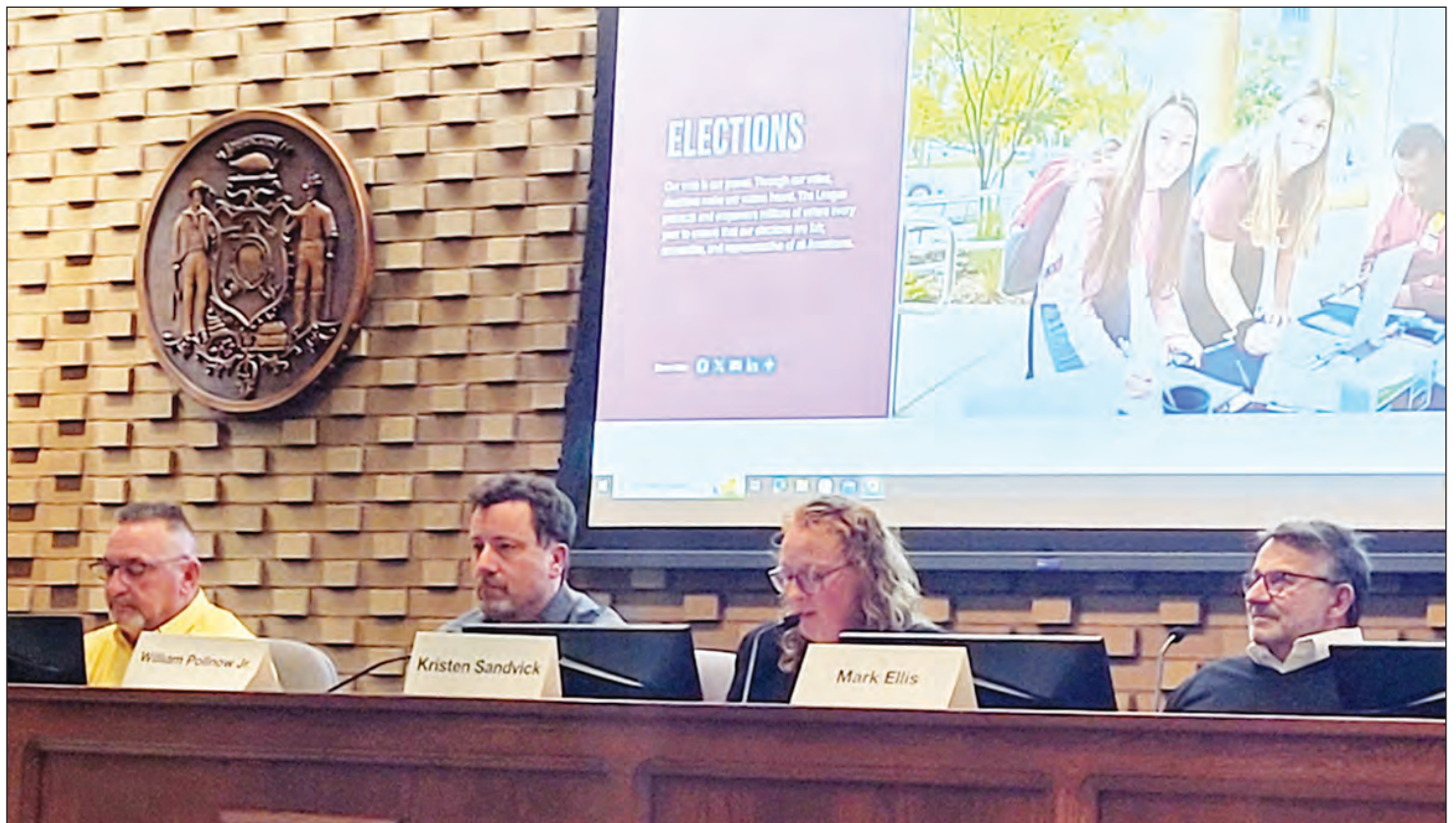
Sandvick is a stay-at-home mother of two children who made her first run for Common Council in 2022, losing to Kathie Boyette by 10 votes.

"Creating a community that is sustainable and an enjoyable place to live and that will continue to be for generations to come is my biggest reason why," she said.

Jeffrey Linski and William Pollnow Jr. are running for Todd Stevenson's District 3 seat. Stevenson has held the seat since 1989 and is not seeking re-election.

Linski is making his first run for public office and has leadership experience from serving in the military for 24 years as an airplane maintenance manager.

"Not only do I live in the community, I also firmly believe it is my civic duty to be an active member of it," he said.



Common Council candidates Jeffrey Linski (from left), William Pollnow Jr., Kristen Sandvick and Mark Ellis participated in a Winnebago County League of Women Voters forum last week.

Pollnow served on the council from 2012-2018 and was previously a supervisor on the County Board. He served in the Air Force, works in the rental apartment business and recently began home-building.

"I think, you know, homes are what people need to live in, not housing units, and housing units are for cats and dogs and pigs and cattle," he said during his opening statement. "You know, I just think we need to focus that on homes, and I really feel passion for the city of Neenah."

The first question was on how the candidates are preparing for the possibility of serving on the city council.

Ellis said he has prepared by speaking with some of the people in City Hall, residents in his district and downtown businesses. Sandvick, Pollnow and Linski said they're doing research by reading meeting minutes and agendas, with Sandvick and Linski noting they've also been attending council meetings.

On a question of how the candidates will balance the need for affordable housing with concerns from neighboring residents that new apartments and housing units could bring crime, Pollnow said he has faith in the council and police to deal with concerns, while Linski said if there's a need for it, police departments could increase patrols to the areas.

Ellis said Neenah has not had an incursion of drugs and other illegal activities at apartments and single-family or multifamily residences; while Sandvick said she would have conversations with residents that have those concerns and explain who would be using the housing.

A question on the city's debt drew similar responses from Sandvick and Ellis, who said the city is doing fine handling debt and Ellis expressing the importance of educating people on the city's process for balancing debt.

Pollnow and Linski gave conflicting answers, with Pollnow stating the city has doubled its debt and is a direct component to why taxes continue to increase, and Linski stating the city is making progress recovering after COVID-19 challenges and inflation.

The candidates were asked to explain how they'd ensure the district's diverse voices and opinions are heard.

Sandvick said she will actively seek out people's opinions and be available for her constituents, while Ellis said he would reactivate the board meetings that he used to host.

Linski said he will be available by phone and email and will get out and talk to people, while Pollnow said he doesn't know what it means to categorize someone as diverse and he treats everyone the same.

During closing statements, Ellis said there's a lot of work that goes into city government that people don't see.

"What I would hope for is that we would continue to work together so we don't have to act like the fools do in Washington, D.C., where one side is always right and one side is always wrong," he said.

Sandvick said she'll be solution-oriented if elected to a council position.

"I will strive to listen to the concerns of my District 1 neighbors, but we work together to keep our community strong," she said. "I will never have all the answers to all the problems, but as a representative I will seek out information, listen to ideas and work toward compromises."

Pollnow thanked the forum attendees and participants.

"I've been a resident of Neenah for 30 years, I love it, I've certainly had many different roles," he said. "I hope to serve in another role as an alderman for District 3 and I'd ask for your vote on April 2."

Linski said if elected, "I bring a unique perspective to the Common Council just from the experiences in the past, living in different communities, seeing how they've come across different things."

A recording of the forum will be available for viewing on the City of Neenah YouTube page.



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School board hopefuls discuss education issues

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Voters heading to the polls April 2 will select three of the six candidates vying for a three-year term on the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education.

Three of them – Alex Corrigan, incumbent Brian Epley and Susan Garcia Franz – answered questions during a forum held by the League of Women Voters last week.

Cherie Long, Jeb Pfeifle and Roxanne Schwandt-Knutson chose not to participate. Although the school board race is nonpartisan, the three are supported by the Winnebago County Republican Party, according to a postcard mailed to residents in the district.

The forum started with each candidate giving an opening statement.

Corrigan is an attorney and social worker who emphasized the importance of consensus, even if it means that not everyone is happy.

“I really believe in service and I really think that I can be of use, using my professional skills for our community,” she said.

Epley is a structural engineer who has served on the school board for six years as a member at large, vice president and current president. During his opening statement he said that at the first candidate forum held Feb. 8, his words were taken out of context and he was called a liar.

“This has since become part of a radio commercial disparaging my time on the board,” he said. “I hope this is not a new normal for our community in what should be a nonpartisan local election. I’m proud of my time on the board and the decisions I have worked deliberately to make on behalf of all constituents in the Neenah Joint School District.”

Garcia Franz has been a public employee for a total of 15 years, employed by Winnebago County for the past 12.

“And as a public employee, I really have an opportunity to be in a position to hear the public and community and do a lot of engagement, and take those opinions and work them into the work that we do – the important work that we do at the county level,” she said.

The three candidates were asked about partisan politics infiltrating local elections and accepting assistance from outside organizations or political parties.

Epley said he hasn’t accepted any outside assistance for his campaign.

“My approach has been to engage with the community,” he said. “I use a Facebook page because it’s a free thing to do. I put signs out there and I talk to people. And those direct communications and hearing



Neenah News
Neenah Joint School Board candidates Susan Garcia Franz (from left), Brian Epley and Alex Corrigan are shown in city hall after participating in a forum last week.

people’s stories and hearing what’s on their mind are really the most meaningful.”

Garcia Franz did not disclose whether she accepted party money but said partisan politics should not play a role in the school board election.

“I think nonpartisan races are important because the decisions that are in front of us should need to be made by taking into consideration the vision and mission of the school board of the district,” she said.

Corrigan disclosed that she accepted volunteer coordination assistance from the Democratic Party but declined financial assistance.

“My hope is that I win without party money, and then maybe party money isn’t a part of these races going forward,” she said.

When asked what the biggest challenge facing the district is, Corrigan said it’s divisiveness and communication.

“I think that I’m seeing evidence of the divisiveness and national politics bleeding into an issue where we should be able to agree that, while we may not be able to agree on exactly how we think that our kids should be taken care of, that we all agree that we want our kids taken care of the best we can,” she said.

Epley said he doesn’t believe there is a single biggest challenge but agreed communication has been a problem.

“For the public, it seems like many people only listen when they feel like there’s a problem, and so the issue is being able to get the communication out to everyone and get them to be interested and engaged, even when it’s not specifically impacting them, because all of these issues do impact all of our community members,” he said.

Garcia Franz said the challenge is having enough time and information to make decisions.

“I would say the complication and all the nature of what’s in front of the district will be an ongoing challenge,” she said.

Equity, diversity and inclusion have recently become political buzzwords. Garcia Franz described equity as access to opportunity across the board and emphasized the importance of diversity.

“I hope that we continue to embrace a diverse community, and find ways that we can meet together, to come together as committed to make sure that we’re giving access to opportunity for all of our students,” she said.

Corrigan said equity is meeting each

child where they are.

“Not every kid comes with the same tools, not every kid comes with the same abilities, not every kid comes with the same strengths,” she said. “But our job as educators is to find and highlight each kid’s strengths and help them find their path and move forward.”

Epley agreed with Corrigan.

“We have students of every culture, ethnicity, orientation, religion, gender and ability, and we have to serve all of them,” he said.

During closing statements, Garcia Franz became emotional.

“And so I’ve wanted to tell you that we have an opportunity to bring someone to the board that has that lifelong passion for this community, and this district and the students, to be an advocate,” she said.

Epley also expressed emotion as he described why he is a member of the school board.

“Why do this sometimes-thankless job? I do it because I am proud of the Neenah Joint School District. I’m proud of our phase one basketball team. I’m proud of our national debate champions. I’m proud of our journalism staff winning 77 awards in a single competition ...” he said.

Corrigan closed by stating she did not graduate from the Neenah school district but is impressed by the teamwork, camaraderie and problem solving that goes on there.

“That being said, we chose this community and I choose this community over and over,” she said. “I am so proud and so impressed by the Neenah Joint School District.”

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Ramadan observance includes fasting for students

Neenah News

With Ramadan now underway and set to conclude at sunset April 10 or 11 marking the commencement of Eid Al-Fitr, the Neenah Joint School District seeks to accommodate Muslim students observing the monthlong observance of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.

Information was shared with district staff about students observing Ramadan, fasting and how it can affect the teenage body. Some potential effects of intermittent fasting include dehydration, sleep

disruption, tiredness, low energy, irritability, headaches and lightheadedness.

Oshkosh-based Ahmadiyya Muslim community member Ayesha Zafar Ullah said a common question regarding Ramadan is about children fasting.

Typically fasting is described as not eating or drinking for the entire day, but Ullah said there is more to the fasting ritual.

"Fasting is one of the five pillars or duties in Islam that is obligatory for healthy adult Muslims. At dawn, Muslims eat a prefast meal known as suhoor. They can break their fast when it hits sunset. That

dinner meal is called iftar," she said. "Generally you start with reciting a prayer and eating a date, milk or water. This is followed by dinner. At night, between the prayers, eating a snack and hydration is encouraged."

Children who haven't hit puberty yet, the elderly or those who are not physically or mentally able do not have to fast, according to Ullah, and pregnant women are also exempt from fasting. Those in early teenage years may not be physically prepared to fast but can still join adults in pre-dawn or evening meals.

Ramadan is a time of spiritual dis-

cipline that highlights the suffering of those less fortunate and shows gratitude for the things others have, according to Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, caliph of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community.

"When fasting is based on righteousness, it produces a beautiful society, creating a spirit of sacrifice for each other," he stated. "This becomes a source of removing anxiety from society and creates feelings of empathy for the less fortunate among those who are well-off; and feelings of love and gratefulness in the hearts of underprivileged believers for their well-off brothers."

Pornography possession charges expand in county

Neenah News

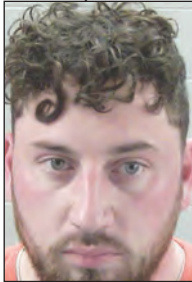
A former Oshkosh man is facing 12 felony counts of possession of child pornography in Winnebago County, a case linked to a high-profile federal case involving multiple parties in the Fox Valley.

Jacob J. Boudreau, 30, is currently in custody on a cash bond of \$200,000. If convicted on all counts, he could face up to 180 years in prison.

Leading to the arrest was a Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation report stating the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department was investigating Preston Kite, a former Racine County sheriff's deputy, for receiving videos of child pornography.

Kite allegedly received the videos through Snapchat from Adam Westbrook, former Outagamie County human resources director, who previously was Neenah's city attorney before taking a position with an Oshkosh nonprofit organization.

Westbrook is facing federal charges of distributing child pornography. Kite



Boudreau

is facing several felony counts in Racine County, including child sexual exploitation and possession of child pornography.

While investigating Kite and Westbrook, another snapchat user later determined to be Boudreau allegedly sent explicit photos and videos to Westbrook.

Boudreau, who owns Show Worthy Pet Salon and Boutique in Menasha, was taken into custody March 6 in Appleton. He was questioned by officers and told officers Westbrook was a client of his and acknowledged there were explicit Snapchat images that were taken inside his business.

The complaint alleges Boudreau's cellphone was recovered as part of the warrant, on which at least 10 images of child pornography were found.

During an initial appearance, Court Commissioner Eric Heywood set Boudreau's cash bond at \$200,000 and ordered Boudreau to have no contact with minors, no use of electronic devices, no use of internet or social networking websites, not to possess or have contact with any animals.

Boudreau is set to be in court Thursday for a preliminary hearing in front of Heywood.

Driver dies in Town of Neenah solo crash

A driver was killed in a single-vehicle crash Wednesday morning at County CB and Rockwood Lane in the Town of Neenah.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office along with Town of Neenah Fire Department, Town of Neenah First Responders and Gold Cross Paramedic Unit responded to the scene at 10:30 a.m. after witnesses from a nearby business reported the crash and attempted lifesaving measures.

Law enforcement and first responders discovered the unidentified person was unconscious. The driver was transported to a local hospital but succumbed to injuries.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

The Sheriff's Office Drone Unit, Neenah Main Towing and county medical examiner's office assisted with the investigation.



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Submitted photo

Stephanie Sara Lifshutz's art exhibition will feature neon sculptures including this 2018 piece.

Language of Light neon art exhibit coming to glass museum

Stephanie Sara Lifshutz's neon artwork exhibition Language of Light opens April 26 at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass with a member opening and artist talk from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The exhibit runs through Oct. 13.

Lifshutz uses textual neon sculptures to consider the universal experiences people share while focusing on her real-life encounters and conversations. She invites viewers to make their own interpretation of this language as though it were an instructional sign.

"Lifshutz visualizes the nuances of human emotion and communication through her poignant neon works," said Amy G.

Moorefield, museum executive director. "Using phrases from her experiences, she traces our humanity with glass and light."

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Lifshutz studied photography and portraiture at Franklin and Marshall College and received master's in 4D/time-based art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2016. Growing up in a Modern-Orthodox Jewish household gave Lifshutz the desire to become involved in the Jewish Artist Lab in Madison and served as its artist-in-residence.

She has shown work nationally, regularly teaches and has been awarded a Nissley Grant.

Fishing tournament registration updated


Fishing tournaments that are statewide or regional, seasonal without specific fishing dates or have fewer than 20 boats or 100 participants will be required to register with the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) starting April 1.

DNR officials state they regulate fishing tournaments or organized competitive fishing events where money or prizes are awarded to protect fish populations from overharvest and to avoid crowding or conflicts among waterbody users. Larger tournaments and some specialized tournaments are monitored and regulated

through a paid permit system, but there is little information on unpermitted tournaments.

Tournament organizers will be able to submit their free registrations using online or paper forms that ask for organizer contact information and event information, including waterbodies to be fished, dates, target species and expected number of boats or participants.

A screening tool that asks questions about the planned tournament will help organizers determine whether they need a registration or permit.




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Photo by David Hall

Young artists featured

Visitors to the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass will have a chance to admire the pieces from 15 local high schools at the Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition. Neenah High school students included in the exhibit are Laura Strack, Natalie Curry, Bridget Munson, Lina Struijcken, Laura Strack, Natalie Curry, Addison Harttert and McKinna Peters. The art will be on display through April 14.

Superintendent

FROM PAGE 1

Stitch University and master's degrees from UW-Milwaukee and UW Oshkosh.

McMahon, who will come to Neenah on Tuesday, is in his third year in his current position after spending six years as principal at Woodview Elementary School in Grafton. McMahon was previously the principal for two years at Hawthorn Hills Elementary School in Wausau.

He began his career as a fourth-grade teacher for a year in Poynette and six years in Chippewa Falls. McMahon earned a doctoral degree from Edgewood College and a master's from UW-Eau Claire.

Owen-Moore will visit the district Wednesday and has been the superintendent in Cudahy for the past four years. She previously worked with the Chicago International Charter School and was the founder and school leader of The Alliance School of Milwaukee for 13 years.

She began her career as a teacher at Milwaukee Washington High School in

1998. Owen-Moore is a graduate of the Doctor of Education Leadership program at Harvard University. She earned a master's degree from Alverno College.



McMahon



Owen-Moore

The three will each tour the high school, middle school and an elementary school while meeting with other administrators and high school students. District staff members are invited to meet them from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. on their respective days in the high school Performing Arts Center.

Residents are invited to meet each of the candidates from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. on their respective days in Pickard Auditorium at

Neenah Middle School. The community meetings will be livestreamed on the district's YouTube page.

The candidates will participate in a final interview with the Board of Education on April 8. The hiring is expected to be announced by April 15.

Volunteer needs

Big Brothers Big Sisters is seeking mentors (Bigs) to be matched with youth in their community-based or site-based program. Matches that are community-based meet two to four times a month in the community to explore hobbies and interests together. Bigs must be 18 years old and fulfill a 12-month commitment. Learn more at bbbsecw.org.

Fox Valley Literacy is looking for adult education tutors to support students in basic literacy or English language learning through reading, writing, spelling and conversation. A teaching background or foreign language is not required, though training is provided. The next round of tutor training sessions starts March 27. Contact Paola at paola@foxvalleylit.org or 920-991-9840.

Miracle League of the Fox Valley, a program of Goodwill Industries, seeks Buddies to support and encourage players on the field. Buddies, aged 12 and up, attend every game that their player participates in, fostering friendships and sharing the joy of baseball. Matches are based on age and the player's needs. Contact Jenny at jhaberman@goodwillincw.org or 920-204-6067.

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Ziebell, Rockets pick up top WBCA honors

Neenah News

Before the start of the WIAA Girls Basketball State Tournament, Neenah High School senior Allie Ziebell was honored by being named Ms. Basketball for Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association.

Ziebell is the two-time Player of the Year in the Fox Valley Association and a three-time first-team all-conference selection. She was named the state's Gatorade Player of the Year last season and played with USA Basketball's U19 this past summer.

The four-year varsity starter finishes her career with the fourth-highest point total in Wisconsin history with 2,819 points, while also finishing with nearly 600 re-

bounds and 350 assists.

Ziebell helped lead Neenah to its first state appearance since 2009 and its first victory at the state tournament since 1981. The Rockets fell to Arrowhead in the state championship game.

Ziebell plans to attend the University of Connecticut next season, joining 2023 Ms. Basketball winner KK Arnold of Germantown.

In addition to earning the Ms. Basketball honor, Ziebell was one of four players to earn all-state recognition from the



Ziebell

WBCA.

Ziebell was a first-team selection on the Division 1 team for the fourth straight season, while Neenah sophomore Rowan Klesmit earned honorable mention honors. She averaged 14.9 points per game.

The duo also helped Neenah earn top academic honors from the WBCA as the Rockets ranked first among nominated Division 1 teams with a 3.903 combined grade point average. The ranking takes the top 10 players on the team for grade point average.

Ziebell was joined on the first team by fellow FVA players Kate McGinnis of Kimberly and Rainey Welson and Mikayla Werner of Hortonville.

In Division 4, St. Mary Catholic senior standout Audrey Norville was named to the all-state first team. Norville, who will attend Black Hills State University next year, averaged 14.3 points and 6.0 rebounds in helping the Zephyrs to a 25-2 record this season. The four-year varsity player finished her career with 1,038 points.

Junior Emily Vogel received honorable mention all-state honors in Division 4 for the Zephyrs. Vogel led St. Mary Catholic at 15.1 points per game this season.

Sheboygan Lutheran's Addy Verhagen was the only other first-team all-state selection from the Big East Conference.

Former Rocket

FROM PAGE 1

"To me, Max's greatest strength has always been between the ears," said Lee Rabas, his former coach and current boys' basketball coach at Neenah High School. "He's extremely smart, very confident, a great competitor and very grounded with a great attitude.

"When he was getting ready to play college ball, I knew he'd know how to acclimate himself and fit in wherever he was at."

It took Klesmit a few years to get to his desired location at the Kohl Center. The Badgers failed to offer him a scholarship coming out of high school after he averaged 25.5 points and 7.8 rebounds per game while leading Neenah to a 23-2 record.

Klesmit accepted a Division 1 scholarship to Wofford over offers from UW-Green Bay, UW-Milwaukee and North Dakota. He averaged 8.2 and 14.9 ppg his first two seasons at the South Carolina school, landing third-team all-Southern Conference honors his second year.

But Wisconsin had always been home and the NCAA's new transfer portal was a way to get there. Klesmit joined the Badgers after entering the portal, which allows athletes to play immediately rather than sit out a full season like in the past.

It was an easy choice for Klesmit, who was a dedicated Badgers' football and basketball fan while growing up in Neenah. He and family members made countless game-day visits to Camp Randall and the Kohl Center where Bucky Badger, the Kohl Center scoreboard, "Jump Around," "Varsity" and "On Wisconsin" became familiar sights and sounds in his life.

Like practically every Wisconsin kid who has picked up a basketball, Klesmit dreamed of playing college hoops for the Badgers. Unlike the vast majority, he made it happen.

"I always dreamed of it as a kid and it's been everything I dreamed of," Klesmit said. "Not only would we go to Camp Randall and the Badgers basketball games, but we'd get groups together and go to the (high school) state tournament every year at the Kohl Center.

"The whole experience of just going down to Madison and experiencing the

fan base was just super cool. Now that I've been able to live out the dream of actually playing here, I'm just grateful for the opportunity. To make this a reality, it's just a blessing."

Klesmit gets plenty of support. His parents, Rich and Kelly, are regulars at Badgers home games along with what seems like half of Neenah's population.

"The support has been awesome," Klesmit said. "Not only are my parents able to come to my home games, but I see aunts, uncles, cousins, my grandparents, friends I went to school with. It's just something that makes people back home in the community super proud.

"I feel blessed to be a part of something that can bring people together for a bigger reason than just hoops. Getting to see people smile after games, that's what means the most to me."

Max isn't the only basketball star in the family. His younger brother, Cal, is a redshirt freshman at Division 2 Northern Michigan University, while his little sister, Rowan, was a sophomore starter on Neenah's outstanding girls' basketball team that finished as the WIAA Division 1 state runner-up.

"We were all raised on the family values of working hard and doing everything to the best of our ability," said Max, who traveled to Green Bay's Resch Center a few weeks ago to watch Rowan and the Rockets compete in the WIAA girls' state tourney.

"That's something our parents stressed to us at a young age. I've always led by example and they have their own work ethic and determination to go where they want to go in athletics and life in general."

The Klesmit siblings bring different skill sets to the court, but there is a common denominator.

"I'd say it would be our basketball IQ," said Max. "That and the mentality we all have of not caring what anyone else has to say about us because we have enough self-confidence to get anything done that we put our minds to.

"We work hard enough to earn whatever we achieve. Nothing is ever given to us." Klesmit proved to be an immediate fit

with the Badgers, averaging 8.4 points, 2.7 rebounds and 1.4 assists in his first season at Wisconsin. This is his fourth year of college hoops, but he will get a final season of eligibility due to the NCAA granting players a fifth year because of the pandemic-impacted 2020-21 season.

"Playing in the Big 10 - it's just a whole different level of athletics," Klesmit said. "You've got to play almost perfect all the time because teams are always looking to find that weak link - that player who is going to make the mistake. You have to be disciplined and locked in all the time.

"Overall, though, I feel like the fit here has been perfect. We have some other in-state kids here who kind of have the same mentality, same dream, same focus that I have."

Klesmit is gearing up for what will be a first in his college basketball career: an opportunity to play in the NCAA's "Big Dance." Wisconsin was denied an at-large bid last season and instead played in the NIT.

"That's been another dream of mine - just to play in the tournament," Klesmit said. "I watched it every year growing up as a kid and we would always do brackets. We'd dream about what it would be like to be part of those teams that make it all the way."

A communication arts major, Klesmit is hoping to get the opportunity to play professional basketball, but broadcasting could be an option down the road.

"Playing professionally - that's the goal," he said. "I would love to do that as long as my body is willing to go along with it. I've also always had a dream of becoming a coach and teaching the game when my playing days are said and done.

"Another idea that's kind of in the back of my head is to be an announcer. When my brother and I would be playing video games as kids, we'd recite what announcers would probably say.

"We'd watch college games and act like we were announcers. We'll see how everything goes. Right now, I'm taking everything day by day and just enjoying this experience."

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Memorable night in Madison for Rockets

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

With the way Neenah entered the WIAA Division 1 Boys Basketball State Tournament, it was going to take something out of the ordinary to bring an end to the run the Rockets were on.

Unfortunately for Neenah, the "out of the ordinary" happened.

In the first four-overtime game in Division 1 state tournament history, the Rockets saw their 13-game winning streak and their season come to an end in a 99-95 loss to top-seeded Arrowhead last Friday at the Kohl Center in Madison, in the highest scoring game in the 108-year history of the state tournament.

"I'm proud of our kids for battling the way they did. They laid it out on the line," Neenah head coach Lee Rabas said. "It felt like we were defending and they were defending, so it was some pretty good basketball at the end of the day. It just hurts to be the team that's not going to play (Saturday) night."

The Rockets entered the state tournament with the longest winning streak of any of the four Division 1 participants and had won 17 of their last 18 games.

It was a streak that turned around a season that had gotten off to a slow start with a three-game losing streak leaving the Rockets staring at a 4-6 record and little chance to make the program's third straight trip to Madison.

"We were 4-6 and just hoping that we would get to host one home game in the (WIAA) tournament," said senior Justin Janssen. "It means everything to me that we got back here again."

Even Rabas wasn't sure where the Rockets' season was headed.

"The growth we experienced throughout the year was tremendous," Rabas said. "On December 1, we got our backsides handed to us by Kimberly in the first game in our new facility. If you would have told me walking out that night that we would have been in Mad-



Neenah News
Neenah players Grant Dean (13), Justin Janssen (3) and Luke Jung line up to set screens for Brady Corso to start a possession against Arrowhead on Friday in Madison.

SEE **Neenah boys** ON PAGE 14

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON!



2024 NEENAH ROCKETS BOYS BASKETBALL D1 SECTIONAL CHAMPS



Neenah boys

FROM PAGE 13

ison, I would have said you were crazy.”
But that’s where Neenah was on Friday and battling tooth-and-nail with one of the top teams in the state and getting a clutch shot from Janssen just to extend the game past regulation.

After Arrowhead made two free throws with 12 seconds left to take a 67-64 lead, the Rockets’ Brady Corso drove the ball up the left side and attempted a layup but missed, creating a scramble for the rebound.

“I’m set up in the right corner and Brady saves it to me,” Janssen said. “I saw it go through and it’s like every little kid’s dream. Even though it wasn’t a game-winner it allowed us to keep playing.”

Both teams mustered only a 3-pointer in the first overtime as Neenah held the ball for more than a minute to get a final shot.

The Rockets’ Luke Jung opened the second overtime with a driving layup, while a 3-pointer from Corso and two baskets by Charlie Wunderlich earned the Rockets a 79-78 lead. Arrowhead made one of two free throws with 42 seconds left to pull even but Neenah again was unable to convert a final shot.

“I’m trying to find the best shot for my team in that scenario, whether that was me or Justin, Charlie or whoever is



Neenah News

Neenah senior Brady Corso looks to drive to the basket as Luke Jung sets a screen during last Friday’s Division 1 state semifinal against Arrowhead.

on the floor,” Corso said. “It was just to get the best quality shot for our team that would give us the best chance to move on.”

The Rockets again took the lead to start the third overtime on a basket by

Wunderlich, who also scored to give Neenah an 83-81 lead.

But once again, the Warhawks were able to tie the score and the Rockets let an opportunity to win the game slip by.

“I felt we could have gotten better

shots the first three overtimes and that falls on my shoulders. I’m disappointed I didn’t do a better job at the end of overtimes one, two and three getting us a better shot. I’m going to crucify myself for that,” Rabas said. “I feel like I let the kids down a little bit at the end of those three overtimes. That’s something I will have to live with.”

The fourth overtime was the only extra period that Arrowhead scored first in and scored on its first two possessions to take an 87-83 lead.

Two free throws from Corso would get Neenah on the board, but the Warhawks were able to inch their lead along by making 4-of-8 free throws in a span of about 40 seconds to take a 93-88 lead.

A Janssen 3-pointer narrowed the gap with 35 seconds left before his driving layup answered an Arrowhead free throw to cut the deficit to 92-91 with 17 seconds remaining.

Neenah immediately fouled the Warhawks’ AJ Ohrmundt, who made the first free throw and then missed the second. But Arrowhead was able to steal the rebound from the Rockets and get two free throws from Sam Leoni with 10 seconds left to extend the lead to 97-93.

Corso scored on a layup with seven seconds remaining to get within two, but Blake Basich salted away the win for the Warhawks by making two free throws with just more than a second left.

SEE **Neenah boys** ON PAGE 15

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Neenah boys

FROM PAGE 14

“At the end there, it comes down to heart and I know every one of our guys laid everything they had on the line,” Corso said. “We were doing it for each other. We came up short, but I know everyone in that locker room at the end of the game gave all that they had. I’m so proud of this group for what we accomplished.”



Charlie Wunderlich drives to the basket during last Friday’s WIAA Division 1 State Semifinal.



Neenah head coach Lee Rabas watches from the sideline during the WIAA Division 1 state semifinal last Friday.

Corso had a huge night in his final game for the Rockets, scoring 30 points, while going 8-of-8 from the free-throw line and 4-of-8 from 3-point range. He also finished with seven of the team’s 14 assists, while playing all but 12 seconds of the 52-minute game.

Jung added 22 points and seven rebounds, while Janssen and Wunderlich finished with 18 and 17 points, respectively.

Grant Dean led the team with eight rebounds off the bench.

Rabas also highlighted the defensive work by Jung and Dean, who were sad-

dled with guarding the Warhawks’ two top offensive threats. For the 6-foot Jung, that often meant trying to deal with the 6-foot-5, muscular Jace Gilbert.

“(Luke and Grant) are both physical and tough guys and that’s why they were the matchup. They are both athletic and both strong and having them on their two best players made the most sense,” Rabas said. “In the sectionals, putting those two guys on the two best players no matter the size was big for us.”

Neenah started out the game strong by grabbing the early lead and then

putting together a 19-6 run to take its biggest lead at 29-14 with 4:27 left in the first half. The Rockets remained in control until halftime, leaving the court with a 37-25 advantage.

But Arrowhead opened the second half with a 13-2 run to pull within a point before the Warhawks took their first lead at 44-43 with 11 minutes left to play.

“Credit to them for battling back,” Rabas said. “They came out at halftime and whittled it away and before we knew it, it was a dogfight the rest of the way.”

Neenah News

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410 Oak Street. March 23rd, 7am-2pm.
Everything you can fit in a bag, \$5.

Miscellaneous

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**WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Net-
work) and/or the member publications**
review ads to the best of their ability.
Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people
are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE
CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT
SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more
information, or to file a complaint regarding an
ad, please contact **The Department of
Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protec-
tion 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

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Location 10 mi W of Appleton Completely
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Awesome Business 920-878-0005 or 920-
878-0288 No Msg, txt or VM, no answer try
later (WCAN)

STORAGE HIGHLY SECURED 10'x25' \$85/
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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at www.kidscoop.com
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GOATS

Goats and People

For 10,000 years people have been herding goats. Goats are one of the first animals people used to get



Circle every other letter to fill in the missing letters.
O M Y I J L B K

Goats Get Lonely

Goats like to live in groups, or herds. In fact, if they live alone, they will become very sad. If you ever want a goat for a pet, you should get more than one.



Help this lonely little goat get back with the herd!

Can goats climb trees?

Yes! They are mountain animals and have been known to climb to the tops of trees!

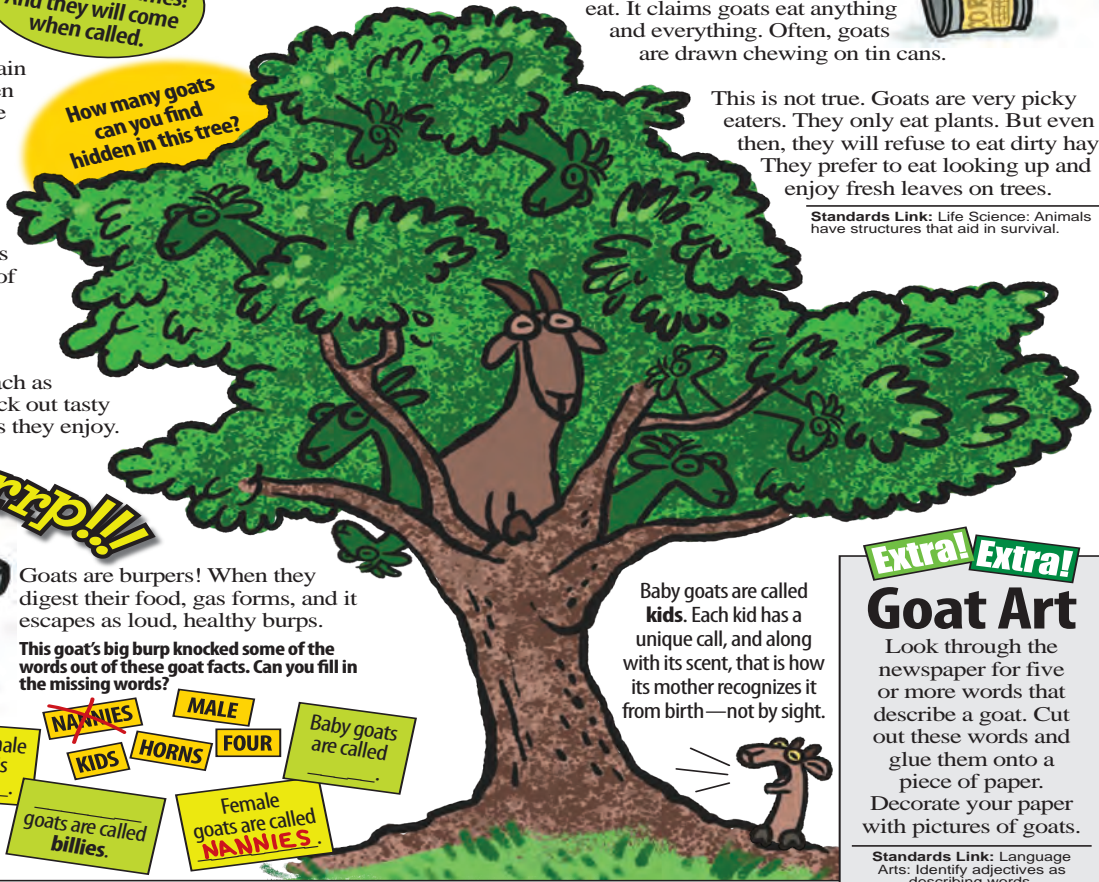
Goats can be taught their names! And they will come when called.

How many goats can you find hidden in this tree?

Grazers or foragers?

Foragers prefer leaves and the seeds on top of wild grass. They will also eat grass.

In nature, goats roam mountaintops and reach as high as possible to pick out tasty leaves and the grasses they enjoy.



Do goats eat tin cans?

There is a myth about what goats eat. It claims goats eat anything and everything. Often, goats are drawn chewing on tin cans.

This is not true. Goats are very picky eaters. They only eat plants. But even then, they will refuse to eat dirty hay. They prefer to eat looking up and enjoy fresh leaves on trees.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have structures that aid in survival.

Buuurrrp!!!



Goats are burpers! When they digest their food, gas forms, and it escapes as loud, healthy burps.

This goat's big burp knocked some of the words out of these goat facts. Can you fill in the missing words?

Goats have stomachs. **NANNIES** goats are called **billies**. Both male and female goats have beards and **KIDS** horns. **MALE** goats are called **FOUR**. Female goats are called **NANNIES**.

Baby goats are called **kids**. Each kid has a unique call, and along with its scent, that is how its mother recognizes it from birth—not by sight.

Goat Art

Look through the newspaper for five or more words that describe a goat. Cut out these words and glue them onto a piece of paper. Decorate your paper with pictures of goats.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify adjectives as describing words.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Look Into My Eyes

Look into a goat's eyes and you will see that their pupils are rectangular. Because of this, they can see almost 360 degrees, without turning their heads.

People can see about 160 to 210 degrees around them.

Hold this page up to a mirror to see why a goat's wide vision is important.

noiziv ɹ'ɹɔp ɛ ɓliw ɛɹtɪ nɪ
 nɪ ɪn ɹɔtɹɔpɹɔq ɛ ɹɹɹ ɹɪ ɹɔɹɹ
 !ɹqɹɹɔt ɔf ɛɹɪt

Goats can see all around themselves.

Humans can't see all around themselves.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

BURPS
 CALL
 CANS
 EAT
 HERDS
 HORNS
 KIDS
 LEAVES
 MYTH
 PICKY
 PREFER
 ROAM
 SCENT
 SIGHT
 TRUE

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

Kid Scoop Together

What Do You Know About Goats?

Try answering each of these questions. Then read *Kid Scoop* with a family member and find out which ones you got right.

If you got any wrong, you will learn something new!

- Goats can climb trees.
 TRUE FALSE
- Goats pupils are round.
 TRUE FALSE
- Goats like to eat tin cans.
 TRUE FALSE
- Goat burps are loud.
 TRUE FALSE
- Goats are foragers.
 TRUE FALSE
- Goats are one of the first animals tamed by humans.
 TRUE FALSE
- Goats like to live alone.
 TRUE FALSE
- Goats can learn their names.
 TRUE FALSE
- Goats have one big stomach.
 TRUE FALSE
- Baby goats are called kids.
 TRUE FALSE

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Answer questions using evidence from text.

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Write On!

Goats in a Tree

Imagine you see three goats in a tree. What are they doing there? How did they get there? Write a short news article.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using descriptive details.

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