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Breezewood, 96 project on I-41 ready to start

Neenah News

A \$16.25 million contract to rehabilitate Interstate 41 between Breezewood Lane and State 96 in Winnebago and Outagamie counties was signed last week by Gov. Tony Evers.

The project, which begins Monday and is expected to finish in November, will have traffic impacts through the entire project and motorists are advised to use alternate routes whenever possible. Reduced lanes in both directions, road closures and several ramp closures will occur.

Construction will include concrete pavement repair and diamond grinding of mainline I-41 and service interchange ramps, and replacement of bridge ap-

SEE **Highway project** ON PAGE 12

Council approves camping ban

Homeless can't take overnight spaces in public

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

An ordinance banning homeless people from public areas in the city was unanimously approved last week by the Neenah Common Council.

The ordinance passed the same day that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill to criminalize homelessness in that state and place the unhoused in temporary encampments monitored by law.

Referred to as "2024-04 Camping on City Owned Property," the Neenah ordinance was introduced in response to an increase in police calls targeting the homeless population, particularly in the 900 block of South Green Bay Road.

A squatter also took up residence on a city-owned parcel on South Commercial Street late last year, and the city was granted a judgment to evict him last week.



Neenah News

Bill Von Lopek of ESTHER spoke against a ban on public camping at last week's Common Council meeting.

The State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness recorded 4,861 people in emergency shelters, transition-

al housing, safe havens or unsheltered in January 2023, the greatest number recorded in the state in five years.

The ordinance banning camping on public property is similar to ordinances and laws passed by conservative lawmakers across the country in recent months and has been met with criticism from residents and local nonprofit leaders.

Bill Von Lopek, who works for the social justice organization ESTHER, asked the council to consider a more compassionate way to deal with people who are homeless rather than "shooing them away."

"But there's other solutions, other cities have tackled it, and I'm just encouraging you all to think about other alternatives, other than giving a citation to someone who already doesn't have money to pay," he said.

Rosemary McCarthy of Neenah said the city should be focused on providing

SEE **Homeless issue** ON PAGE 12



Neenah News

Retiring alderman Todd Stevenson is shown in the Common Council chambers this week.

Councilman reflects on city service

Stevenson steps down after 34 years on panel

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

After more than three decades of service to the city of Neenah, Todd Stevenson will enter the Common Council chambers as a District 3 alderman for the final

time Wednesday.

For years he has known this day was coming, having decided that when he turned 66 he would not seek re-election, a milestone he achieved earlier this month.

"It's time for the council to develop its own profile without Todd Stevenson," he said.

Stevenson was born at what was then Theda Clark Hospital, now ThedaCare

Regional Medical Center. He graduated from Neenah High School and lived here most of his life. He met wife Nancy while in college. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and she graduated from UW Platteville. They have two adult daughters, Ashley and Amber, and grandchildren Maddie and Theo.

SEE **Stevenson era** ON PAGE 3



April 2, 2024

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Service dog exemption becomes law

Neenah News

Owners of service dogs throughout Wisconsin are now exempt from paying a dog license fee after a bill sparked by discussions in the Neenah Common Council chambers was signed into law by Gov. Tony Evers last week.

Senate Bill 728, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 189, was co-sponsored by state Sens. Rachael Cabral-Guevara of Fox Crossing, Tim Carpenter of Milwaukee and Mark Spreitzer of Beloit, and introduced by representatives Nate Gustafson of Fox Crossing, Lori Palmeri of Oshkosh and 12 others.

Alderman Kathie Boyette championed the cause, stating that the city of Neenah's definition of service dog, which included seeing-eye dogs, hearing dogs and mobility-assistance dogs, was outdated and discriminatory.

The city contended it adopted the state's definition of service dog and noted the city provides a licensing fee exemption to service dogs as long as the owner checks a box on a form identifying them as such, answers yes or no to whether the dog is a service animal required because of a disability and describes the work or task the dog has been trained to perform.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service dog as one that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability that are directly related to the person's disability. Boyette sought parity between the state and federal definition of a service dog.

The law signed last week provides a dog license fee exemption for all service



Photo from Rep. Nate Gustafson

Alderman Kathie Boyette, shown left of Gov. Tony Evers, was among those in attendance for the signing of a bill that exempts service dogs from a dog license fee in Wisconsin.

dogs and slightly changes the definition of a service dog to include "a guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is individually trained or is being trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, including the work or task of guiding a person with impaired vision, alerting a person with impaired hearing to intruders or sound,

providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items."

Boyette wrote on social media that the law is bigger than licensing fees.

"This makes Wisconsin a service animal friendly state," she said. "Because of this, all ADA service dogs are now equal and recognized as such."



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Neenah Historical Society photo

Easter activities

Students from Hoover Elementary are shown in this undated photo preparing for their annual Easter Parade.

Edward Jones

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Stevenson era

FROM PAGE 1

Stevenson's tenure on the council began in 1989 and since then he has devoted his time to the enhancement of downtown Neenah. He was selected council president in 1991 and served a total of 29 years in that role. He's been on dozens of committees, commissions and task forces, working alongside 43 other aldermen over the years.

Council aldermen are responsible for adopting resolutions and ordinances, policy-making, approving budgets and enacting tax levies. Neenah aldermen serve a three-year term, with voters re-electing Stevenson 11 times.

Over the years, Stevenson said some things in city governance have changed, while others have remained the same. One of the significant changes is in the council chambers.

In the past, the aldermen were seated with their backs to spectators, facing the dais where the mayor, city attorney and city clerk were seated. Stevenson said the city started getting complaints because aldermen wouldn't turn and look at the people that were talking. This prompted a remodel.

Stevenson lent a hand by painting, staining the front of the council chambers and other tasks leading to the current chamber setup, where the nine aldermen, mayor and city staff are all seated at the dais facing the audience.

"It is just a better layout, the way we have now, to face the people that you're serving," he said.

Although meeting agenda packets are now available digitally, when Stevenson started the council packets were hand-delivered by police officers the Friday before each biweekly meeting. One of those hand-delivered packets inspired Neenah's current aldermanic setup.

Stevenson's late father, Paul, served as Winnebago County executive for eight years and after the U.S. Census in 1990 worked to reduce the size of the County Board from the second largest in the nation, with 45 members, to 38.

The county restructuring reduced Neenah from eight supervisory districts to six. Stevenson said at the time the council discussed whether to reduce the number of aldermen to six – one for each district – or increase to 12.

After receiving the new district map in the council packet delivered one Friday, he came up with the idea for three districts, with three representatives per district each serving a staggered three-year term, so one alderman is up for election in each district each year. That setup has remained since it was voted in by the council in 1991.

Most of Stevenson's working career was in supply chain, logistics and operation management in the private sector, and he also served as the director of Future Neenah when the organization was in its infancy, in the beginning stages of negotiating a memorandum of understanding as to what roles the city had in managing the downtown, and the roles for which Future Neenah would be responsible.

The initiatives to improve downtown began long before Stevenson's time on the council, but he and others have been involved in continuing that momentum.

"There's a mindset within the community that this is a valuable resource, a valuable initiative and a worthwhile objective to maintain a vibrant downtown," he said.

While downtown Neenah has been enhanced over the past three decades, Stevenson said the structures themselves

have largely remained the same.

"Part of that is because one of the things we did was help create a historic district downtown that helped conserve the history of the buildings that are here," he said, adding that the city has continued to maintain the downtown, helping the area stay relevant and not become dilapidated.

Stevenson looks back on his years of service with fondness, but noted there were also controversies. One of the first he faced was the rezoning of Theda Clark Hospital in 1989 to enable it to expand.



Stevenson

The proposal caused the neighborhood to be up in arms. Stevenson recalled a furious resident told the council, "You rezone my property, I'm taking the mayor out with the first shot and I'll get as many aldermen as I can with the others."

The council did vote to rezone the site, and Stevenson said without that action it's likely the modern ThedaCare Regional Medical Center would not exist in Neenah today.

More recently, in late 2022 the former Shattuck Middle School site was slated to be sold to an Oshkosh developer, with a requirement that the site be rezoned to be made into apartments and homes. The rezoning proposal drew pushback from neighboring residents, who were vocal in their opposition.

The council ultimately voted against rezoning and the site was later sold to Neenah developer Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations, who said he will be turning the building into apartments and selling sites for single-family homes, but didn't require rezoning as a contingency.

Stevenson said he regrets that he won't be on the council to be involved in the final direction for the property and has ongoing concerns that the plan for Shattuck is not transparent.

One of his biggest disappointments was losing the mayoral race to George Scherck in 2010. While he wasn't able to lead the city in that role, he believes that it was meant to be.

"I think that things happen for a reason and (it impacted) my ability to continue serving on the council, and then do other things in my professional career, and retire at a level that is beneficial to us now," he said.

Over his tenure, he is most proud of the way the council has interacted with residents and each other.

"We have truly respected the process that we have," he said. "We've debated, we disagree, we voted, and then we move on. And it's a very respectful process and I'm so proud to be able to say that I helped nurture that."

For those considering public service, he advised it's important to challenge proposals, ask questions, take input and then lead in a manner consistent with what the

community wants.

Jane Lang has worked alongside Stevenson for 10 years, first in her role as an alderman and now as mayor. She said serving with Stevenson has been an honor and a privilege.

"His guidance and insight on the history of the council, its decisions and its procedures, has been very much appreciated, and his steady presence on Neenah's City Council will be very much missed," she said. "Clearly, he has demonstrated his commitment and dedication to the city of Neenah, and we wish him the very best in his retirement from public service."

His Wednesday night council meetings will be replaced with a weekly golf league and he recently joined the Neenah-Menasha YMCA board. He also plans to spend more time traveling.

Looking back on the past 34 years, he acknowledged that public service comes with a cost, and he commended his colleagues in city hall for their efforts.

"I'd like to thank them for how they've helped the city mature and grow," he said. "It's been a nice ride. And they've all played a part in the success of Neenah, including myself."

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Voting starts for local elections ahead of Tuesday

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Early in person voting for the April 2 spring election and presidential preference began this week.

Neenah's Common Council will see a new face in District 3, with Todd Stevenson not seeking re-election after 34 years in the position. Jeffrey Linski and William Pollnow Jr. are vying for the seat.

Voters will also select either Mark Ellis or Kristen Sandvick as a replacement for John Skyrms in District 1, who did not seek re-election. Incumbent Brian Borchardt will run for the District 2 seat unopposed.

For the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education, there is one incumbent and five challengers running for three seats. Incumbent Brian Epley and newcomers Alex Corrigan, Susan Garcia Franz, Chari Long, Jeb Pfeifle and Roxanne Schwandt-Knutson are seeking those seats.

Two Town of Neenah supervisor positions are up for re-election, with incumbents David Bluma and James Weiss running unopposed.

In Fox Crossing, Trustee 1, 3 and 5 positions are up for election for two-year terms on the Village Board. Incumbents Michael Van Dyke and Deb Swiertz are running unopposed, while Trustee 3 incumbent Gregory Ziegler will be challenged by Nicholas Gebert.

Tuesday's election is set to be a historic one for neighboring Menasha, with voters electing either the city's youngest or first female mayor.

Austin Hammond, 26, and Rebecca Nichols, 47, are vying to replace Mayor Don Merkes, who held the office for 16 years and is not seeking re-election.

Hammond has been on the Menasha Common Council for two years and Nichols for 11 years. Nichols was also elected as a Winnebago County supervisor in 2022. This is her second time running for mayor, losing to Merkes in 2020.

Four Menasha council seats are also up for grabs, with District 2 incumbent Rosita Eisenach facing off against Sandra Dabill Taylor and District 8 incumbent Randy Ropella challenged by Josh School.

Hammond in District 4 and Thomas Grade in District 6 are not seeking another term on the council, with Terri Perkins and Tom Marshall running for those respective seats unopposed.

Three seats on Menasha's school board are up for election, with Mary Jean Shimek, Chad Lewis and Steve Thompson running unopposed.

It's between LaKeisha Haase and Michael Rust for Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 judge, vying for the seat being vacated by Judge Teresa Basiliere. Haase is a former judge in Branch 4 of Winnebago County Circuit Court who is running for the third time in as many years, losing her seat in the 2022 election and failing to defeat Scott Woldt for a Branch 2 seat last year. Rust currently serves as a court commissioner in Winnebago County.

All 36 county supervisor seats are up for election, with Neenah News reporting on the candidates in Neenah and Menasha.

Districts 1-4 represent Menasha, with District 1 incumbent Rachael Dowling running unopposed, no candidate for the District 3 seat being vacated by Thomas Borchart, and newcomer Jeffery Lutz running unopposed for the District 4 seat being vacated by Paul Eisen.

In District 2, Jake Ackmann and Kristl Laux will face off for the seat being vacated by Nichols.

Districts 5-10 represent Neenah, with District 5 incumbent Kay Horan challenged by Stefanie Holt.

In District 6, Jason Kraayvanger and Lucas Reinke will vie for the seat vacated by Brian Defferding.

District 7 incumbent Betsy Ellenberger will face off against challenger Kate Hancock-Cooke.

District 8 incumbent Jim Wise and District 9 incumbent Donald Nussbaum are running unopposed.

District 10 incumbent Bryan Stafford is challenged by Timothy Jacobson.

Districts 11-25 represent Oshkosh, while District 26 includes the portion of Winnebago County in the city of Appleton.

Districts 27-29 also represent Neenah, with incumbent Morris Cox in District 27 and incumbent Nate Gustafson in District

28 running unopposed.

In District 29, incumbent George Bureau will face off against Benjamin Frank.

District 30 represents the Town of Vinland and portions of Neenah and Oshkosh, with incumbent Chuck Farrey running unopposed.

Districts 31-36 include Oshkosh, Omro, Winneconne, Larsen and other rural villages and towns.

All 36 county supervisor district maps can be found at winnebagocountywi.gov/county-board/supervisory-districts.

The ballot will also include two statewide referendum questions, the first asking yes or no to prohibiting the use of private donations and grants in primary, election or referendums; and the second requiring a yes or no answer to whether election officials should only be those who are designated by law to perform tasks in primaries, elections and referendums.

More information on what is on the ballot is at myvote.wi.gov.

Steps noted to obtain ID to use at polls

The state Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) notes the steps needed to obtain an ID to show at the polls if the voter does not already have some form of ID, such as a Wisconsin driver license or ID. There is no separate "voter ID" and a federally compliant REAL ID is not required.


Voters wondering what forms of ID are acceptable at the polls should check the Wisconsin Elections Commission website.

Those looking to get their first Wisconsin ID should begin at the DMV's website. This ID may be obtained free from the

DMV if used for voting purposes.

Bring the required documents and apply at the nearest DMV. Appointments are available but not required. Certain documents, such as a birth certificate, proof of identity and Wisconsin residency, are necessary to obtain an official Wisconsin ID card.

If all documentation is not readily available, DMV offers a process that may be used to obtain a receipt valid for voting while the remaining documents or verifications are obtained. DMV's toll-free hotline at 844-588-1069 is available for questions on obtaining an ID.



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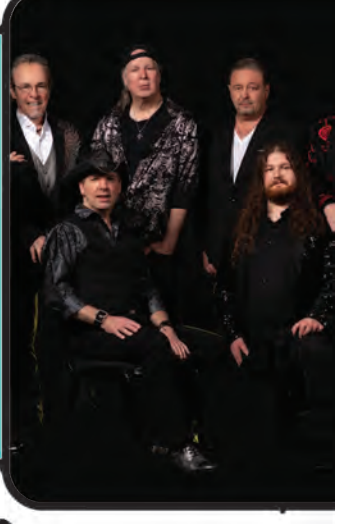
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Student takes food allergy advocacy to Capitol Hill

St. Mary sophomore recognized for efforts

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Adel Schneider is only a sophomore in high school but has already been to Capitol Hill four times to advocate for legislation related to food allergies and making epinephrine, a lifesaving medication, more affordable and available.

“If you want change done, you have to do it,” said Schneider, a student at St. Mary Catholic High School who has suffered from food allergies and cold urticaria, an allergy to the cold, since she was a toddler.

The daughter of Tom and Kara Schneider, her visits to Washington were part of trips coordinated by Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE). She said one day focuses on the legislation the group will discuss that year along with educational and research updates. The next day is spent on Capitol Hill meeting with legislators and their staff.

During their March visit, Schneider and her mother met with congressmen Mike Gallagher and Glenn Grothman along with staff members from Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Sen. Ron Johnson’s offices. The message is the same: discussing the importance of different legislative bills and encouraging their sponsorship and support.

“The meetings are why we go,” said Schneider, who began attending at age 10. As she’s aged, she does more of the talking than her mom and shares her personal story of living with life-threatening allergies.

For efforts on behalf of food allergy



Submitted photo

Adel Schneider, shown on the U.S. Capitol steps, is a sophomore at St. Mary Catholic High School.

legislation, Gallagher honored Schneider with a recognition for her advocacy efforts, which was read into the record on the House floor. The Schneiders also received a behind-the-scenes tour, including on the House floor with Gallagher, who recently announced he is leaving Congress later this month.

“I was so surprised to receive the (commendation). It’s quite the honor,” she said. “He’s worked with us on several legislative issues.”

This year, Schneider discussed three potential bills while on Capitol Hill:

- The Adina Act, which Gallagher has introduced into Congress, would require the labeling of prescription and over-the-counter medication that include the top nine allergens and gluten.

- The EpiPen Act would cap the out-of-pocket cost for a two-pack of epinephrine auto-injectors at \$60. Right now, epinephrine can cost anywhere between \$320 and \$750.

- Dillon’s Law encourages states to offer training sessions on identifying symptoms of anaphylaxis and administering epinephrine. Dillon’s Law is named after Dillon Mueller of Mishicot, who had an undiagnosed allergy to bee stings and died shortly after being stung at age 18. Dillon’s Law is already a law in Wisconsin but FARE wants to make it a national law.

Schneider discussed Dillon’s Law, which empowers training individuals to administer epinephrine to individuals experiencing allergic reactions under the

Good Samaritan clause, protecting them from being sued, with Dillon’s parents, Angel and George Mueller, on Capitol Hill.

“It takes a while to get bills passed – some take as long as seven years and the final law isn’t the same as what you started with,” Schneider said.

She previously lobbied for support of the FASTER Act, which added sesame to the list of major allergens for food labels and became law in 2021.

“I want to raise awareness about food allergies. It’s OK to not understand them, but people need to be informed about them and what to do if someone is having a reaction,” Schneider said. “Food allergies are a disease, not a diet. It’s not like I choose to not eat dairy. I can’t.”

Schneider enjoys attending the FARE gathering because she gets to see people she has met on previous trips and it is good to share updates and learn what each other has been doing.

Kara Schneider said her family became involved with FARE after Adel was diagnosed with her allergies as a way to help others.

“When your child receives a diagnosis like this, it is very overwhelming. You want to make the world safer for her and for other people who have food allergies,” she said.

In addition to her advocacy work on behalf of food allergies, Schneider is a member of St. Mary’s tennis and softball teams, Key Club and a volunteer with the Miracle League.

Schneider said it’s important for her to be an advocate for food allergies.

“There is a lot of misunderstanding about them. I want people to know they are real and are life-threatening,” she said. “Raising awareness about them is so important.”

During the past 10 years, the Schneiders have also raised \$50,000 for FARE through various events, including an annual Teal Pumpkin event where people can paint a pumpkin teal to indicate they have Halloween treats free of allergens, and private fundraising activities.

“The Teal Pumpkin event is important since it helps make sure everyone can be included at Halloween. Kids with allergies can often feel left out of different activities so it’s good to make sure they can be involved,” she said. “You just need to be aware and take some precautions to keep everyone safe.”



Submitted photo

Adel Schneider was recognized last month for her advocacy efforts on behalf of food allergies by U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher during a recent trip to Washington, D.C. Schneider is a sophomore at St. Mary Catholic High School.

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Former city attorney released on bond in child porn case

Neenah News

The Outagamie County human resources director and former Neenah city attorney accused of distributing child pornography was released last week while awaiting trial in federal court.

A magistrate judge released Adam Westbrook, 34, into the custody of relatives in Kaukauna. He's required to remain at the residence while being monitored with GPS and is prohibited from accessing the internet.



Westbrook

As part of the conditions, he's only allowed contact with his children as directed by CPS and must undergo a mental health and sex offender assessment.

Westbrook, of Neenah, resigned from his position with Outagamie County after his arrest last month on state charges of possession of child pornography and sexual exploitation of a child. Those charges

were later dismissed after he was charged in federal court with distribution of child pornography, which carries a sentence of five to 20 years in prison.

His arrest is tied to the high-profile case of former Racine County Sheriff's deputy Preston Kite, 37, charged with 16 counts related to child pornography, child exploitation and bestiality.

Westbrook is accused of recording videos of a prepubescent naked male child and sending them through Snapchat to Kite.

Two more Fox Valley men have also been arrested and charged in connection with Westbrook. Jacob Boudreau, 30, allegedly sent explicit photos and videos to Westbrook, who was his client at a Menasha dog grooming business.

Boudreau is facing 12 possession of child porn charges and a search of his phone led to four charges of bestiality for his roommate, 20-year-old Noah Thiel.

Kite, Boudreau and Thiel remain incarcerated. Westbrook is due back in court July 11.

Argument leads to stabbing downtown

Neenah News

A man was injured in a stabbing incident Saturday that occurred in a confrontation with another man in a downtown bar/restaurant.

Neenah police officers were called to a weapons complaint at Greene's Pour House at 4:37 p.m. Saturday after two men playing cards began arguing about

accusations of theft. One followed the other into the restroom where the stabbing reportedly occurred.

The victim was treated and released from a local hospital.

The suspect left the scene and was later arrested without incident at his residence and booked into the Winnebago County Jail.



Photo by David Hall

Spring concert

The Neenah Community Band performed in the Neenah High School auditorium Sunday night. The group is planning a new summer program starting in June featuring road trip music from around the country.



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Neenah sophomore victim of auto crash

Neenah News

The driver killed in the single-vehicle crash on County CB in the Town of Neenah last week has been identified as 16-year-old Olivia Witkowski.

Witkowski was a sophomore at Neenah High School, according to an email sent to parents in the school district. The district stated last week that it had additional counselors available and encouraged students in need of support to contact the counseling department.

The incident occurred around 10:30 a.m. March 20 at CB and Rockwood Lane. Wit-

nesses from a nearby business reported the crash and attempted lifesaving measures.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Town of Neenah Fire Department, Town of Neenah First Responders and Gold Cross Paramedic Units responded and found Witkowski unconscious. First responders continued lifesaving measures and Witkowski was transported to a local hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

The Sheriff's Office Drone Unit, Neenah Main Towing and county medical examiner's office assisted in responding. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Business news roundup

Jake's Network of Hope development director **Jenn Harper** was recognized as the 2024 Inspiring Business Person of the Year at the recent Heart of the Valley Chamber of Commerce awards dinner. The award recognizes Harper's efforts and how she carries on the mission of what Jake's Network of Hope does to combat diaper need, period poverty and extending hope in the community.

The New North Summit, the largest regional economic-development event in northeast Wisconsin, will be held June 6 at the Lambeau Field Atrium in Green Bay. This year's theme "Leaps, Leaders, Legacies" and registration is open at newnorthsummit.com. New North board co-chairs Michelle Schuler of Microsoft and Sachin Shivaram of Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry will welcome business and community leaders from across the region.

Verve, a Credit Union has named

Renee Petersen as vice president of operations on its executive team. She will be responsible for providing service and support to teams and members while driving increased efficiency in daily operations. Petersen comes to Verve with more than 30 years of financial institution experience, beginning her career at a small local credit union in Green Bay and most recently working as senior vice president of operations at Community First Credit Union in Neenah.

Ancor, a global packaging solutions corporation, recently earned eight Flexible Packaging Achievement Awards for innovative and sustainable contributions to the industry. The awards were presented during the 2024 Flexible Packaging Association (FPA) annual meeting in Tucson, Ariz. The FPA Achievement Awards have showcased packaging industry innovation since 1956. This year, there were a record 333 entries, with 22 honored.



Photo from Women's Fund

Former Green Bay Packers receiver **Bill Schroeder** (from left), **Terri St. Lawrence**, development manager at the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region; and Packers chief executive **Mark Murphy** are shown after the Packers Foundation awarded a grant for Women's Fund programming.

Women's Fund picks up support for two programs

The Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region has received what it calls a significant grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation in support of its Starting Point program and The Monthlies Project.

The foundation's grant will provide resources to Starting Point, a collaborative program in partnership with Fox Valley Technical College and BABES Child Abuse Prevention Program to help women improve their long-term financial security through post-secondary education.

This program provides opportunities for vulnerable children and parents together, and one of the only programs in the Fox Valley specifically working to reduce poverty of female-headed house-

holds.

The Monthlies Project, a community initiative that provides menstrual hygiene products to school-aged students and bringing awareness to educational inequity, will be able to increase its efforts in combating period poverty and promoting menstrual equity in the region with the funding.

"Both of these grants will have a profound impact in making a meaningful difference in the lives of women and girls in our community and region," said Julie Keller, Women's Fund executive director. "Together, we are working towards a future where every woman and girl has the opportunity to thrive and succeed."

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Public library calendar

April 1
2 p.m.: Adult Afternoon Program: Wisconsin Waters: The Ancient History of Lakes, Rivers, and Waterfalls

April 2
10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months)
Noon: Open Art Space - Wood Crafts (school age)
6:30 p.m.: Powered by Yarn

April 3
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)
Noon: Open Art Space - Egg Carton Crafts (school age)
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

April 4
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
Noon: Open Art Space - Paper Crafts (school age)
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam
6:30 p.m.: Veterans Suicide Prevention-S.A.V.E. Training: Four Ways You Can Help a Veteran in Crisis

April 5
9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Boot Camp
10:30 a.m.: Chair yoga
2 p.m.: First Friday Concert Series: Erin Krebs Trio

April 7
1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)
2 p.m.: Lawrence Jazz Student Combo: Charles Mingus

April 8
10 a.m.: Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Riverside Park
1 p.m.: Monday Matinee: "The Color Purple" (PG-13)
7 p.m.: Short Story Night: Featuring author Christopher Chambers

April 9
10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months)
1:30 p.m.: Tech Talk Tuesday: A Guide to Social Media
4:30 p.m.: Free Legal Assistance Clinic

April 10
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

April 11
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

April 12
9 a.m.: Library closed

April 13
1 p.m.: Retro Video Game Tournament (all ages)

April 14
2 p.m.: Lawrence Jazz Student Combo: Ornette Coleman

April 15
10 a.m.: Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Riverside Park
1:30 p.m.: Memory Cafe: Ageless Grace
6:30 p.m.: Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "The Poacher's Son" by Paul Doiron

April 16
10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (12-24 months)
6:30 p.m.: Cookbook Book Club: Sweet Treats

April 17
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)

5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

April 18
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam
7 p.m.: History Program-Orville Babcock

April 19
9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Balance and strength
10:30 a.m.: Chair yoga

April 20
10:30 a.m.: Earth Day Celebration: Get a Charge Out of Chemistry!

April 21
1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)
2 p.m.: Lawrence Jazz Student Combo: Kenny Garrett

April 22
10 a.m.: Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Riverside Park
10 a.m.: MMBK - The Perfume Collector

April 23
10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (12-24 months)
7 p.m.: John Harmon and the Story of Matrix

April 24
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup

April 25
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

April 27
10:30 a.m.: The Game of Life! A Tween/Teen Budgeting Event

April 28
2 p.m.: Lawrence Jazz Student Combo: Jaimie Branch

April 29
10 a.m.: Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Riverside Park

April 30
6:30 p.m.: Movie Talks: "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"



Photo by David Hall

Big sound

Neenah students ranging from fifth grade through high school performed at the annual Percussion Panorama on Saturday night at Neenah High School. This was the first year the musical performance was featured in the 800-seat black box theater.

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State Supreme Court changes process to speed up cases

Politically contentious cases set for litigation

By Jack Kelly
WISCONSIN WATCH

The Wisconsin Supreme Court’s liberal majority last month quietly amended the high court’s internal operating procedures, according to documents obtained by Wisconsin Watch — changes that could speed up the disposition of several upcoming high-stakes political cases.

The changes limit the time dissenting justices have to respond to certain orders to two days; allow the court to shorten the window for parties to respond to certain petitions to less than the 14 days allowed in state law; and allow the court to agree to hear cases by a majority vote of members present at a meeting, rather than a majority of the entire court.

The changes were not publicly announced, but after Wisconsin Watch learned about them and asked the justices for comment, liberal Justice Rebecca Dallet said in a statement they “were made primarily to ensure that any one person could not hold up the work of the entire court.”

The move comes as a wave of politically contentious litigation — mostly filed by Democrats and their allies — works its way through the courts. Issues expected to come before the court include abortion access, collective bargaining rights for public sector unions and several election- and voting-related matters.

The changes also come as the court reshapes Wisconsin’s political paradigm. In December, the court threw out the state’s Republican gerrymandered voting districts, which led to Republican lawmakers



Wisconsin Watch photo by Andy Manis

Wisconsin Supreme Court’s justices are shown during the opening hearing of their term Sept. 7 at the State Capitol in Madison.

approving new districts drawn by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers. The new boundaries scale back Republican legislative power and could even lead to Democratic majorities for the first time in more than a decade.

The operating procedure changes were adopted over the strong objections of the court’s conservative members. They were made with little discussion, the records suggest, and were approved via email. All four liberal justices — Justices Dallet, Ann Walsh Bradley, Jill Karofsky and Janet Protasiewicz — voted in favor, according to emails viewed by Wisconsin Watch.

They have already taken effect, according to an email sent by Walsh Bradley and reviewed by Wisconsin Watch. Walsh Bradley wants the changes to be discussed further during a meeting of the justices later this month, according to the email, and

indicated her vote “on certain provisions may be modified pending further discussion.”

The Wisconsin Supreme Court’s operating procedures “are intended to structure the internal operations of the court” and effectively serve as a description of current court practices, according to an introduction of the procedures. They are not the same as “rules of appellate procedure” that typically get discussed in court conferences.

But the procedures can affect how quickly a case moves through the system.

Cases arrive at the state Supreme Court in a number of ways:

- A party who lost a case in the Court of Appeals can ask the court to review the decision.
- Any party involved in litigation de-

cided by a district court may ask the high court to bypass the Court of Appeals and take a case.

- The Court of Appeals can ask the high court to take a case.
- The state Supreme Court, on its own motion, can decide to review a case appealed in the Court of Appeals directly.
- A party can petition the state Supreme Court to take a case directly, known as an original action.

One key change made last month allows the court to order a party’s response to a petition to bypass be submitted sooner than the 14 days outlined in state law.

Another change would create a tight timeline for the justices to attach written concurrences or dissents to orders. For ex-

SEE **Supreme Court** ON PAGE 11

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Supreme Court

FROM PAGE 10

ample, if a majority of the court ordered a response to a petition to bypass, a dissenting justice would have just two business days to prepare their response. If another justice wanted to respond to that dissent, they would have just one day to file that reply.

A timeline for attaching a concurrence or dissent to such a preliminary order existed only for original actions in previous versions of the court's operating procedures, according to a version of the document from August obtained by Wisconsin Watch. Under that version of the procedures, justices had five days to circulate a concurrence or dissent to an order for a response. Under the new rules, that timeline is shortened to two days.

The change to operating procedures would require any "concurrence or dissent to an order granting or denying a petition for bypass" be circulated among the justices within seven business days of the justices circulating a draft order. The same timeline would be in place if the court votes to take jurisdiction over an appeal pending in the Court of Appeals, which it can do without a petition for bypass or request by the appellate court.

The changes would also likely accelerate the timeline of original actions — which are usually reserved for litigation that carries substantial weight and has a statewide effect.

If the court orders a response to a petition for original action, justices would also have just two business days to circulate a concurrence or dissent to the order. If a justice wants to respond further, they would have just one business day to circulate their reply. "Following the circulation of the last additional separate writing, the order for a response shall be issued as soon as practicable," according to a copy of the changes obtained by Wisconsin Watch.

Responses that aren't written within those time constraints would be noted in

an order as "separate opinion to follow."

Regardless of if a response is ordered in an original action, the changes would require the justices to consider a petition for original action at a court conference on a date determined by the court's administrative committee, a body liberal justices created last year to oversee some tasks once left to the chief justice. Liberal justices maintain a 2-1 advantage on the committee, giving them the ability to override conservative Chief Justice Annette Ziegler.

The operating procedure changes would also allow the court to take on a case filed directly with it "upon the vote of a majority of the participating members of the court," according to the documents obtained by Wisconsin Watch. That means the court could take on high-profile cases without the support of four members, as the previous version of the operating procedures required.

The liberal justices also added a section related to further amending the operating procedures.

"These internal operating procedures may be amended at any time by a majority vote of a quorum of the court," the addition reads. "Any such amendment is effective immediately unless there is an affirmative vote of a majority of the court otherwise."

The Wisconsin Constitution states that four justices constitute a quorum. The change means just three justices could change the court's operating procedures if only four members were present.

It's the third set of changes to the court's internal procedures adopted since the liberals took control of the court in August. That ties for the most changes in a single term since they were created in 1984 and amended 22 times since.

Dallet said the latest change was being decided over email because the justices had "no upcoming conference dates scheduled," according to an email obtained by Wisconsin Watch.

"Since we have been in the majority, there have been members of the court who seem to want to limit the court's ability

to do its work," Dallet said in a statement to Wisconsin Watch. "Although we don't lightly make changes to our internal operating procedures (IOPs), changes were necessary to make sure we can timely address all cases brought before us."

"The vote on the proposed changes was taken by email, as that has become standard practice of the court, especially this term when we have far fewer days on our calendar to discuss court business in conference," Dallet added. "In fact, the chief justice just removed two more conference days. Our multiple requests for additional conference dates have been refused."

The liberal justices have asked for the changes to the operating procedures be discussed at the court's next conference, Dallet said, adding that she hopes "that some of our colleagues will actually engage in discussion about them at that time."

"Frankly, they have refused to do so thus far," Dallet said. "Unfortunately, it seems some would prefer to use delay to achieve their desired outcomes rather than allow the court to collegially do its work."

The changes, approved Feb. 22, drew criticism from the court's conservative justices. In August, Wisconsin Watch reported previously unknown details about the process the court's liberal justices used to make changes to the court's operating procedures to give themselves power over key court functions, such as scheduling oral arguments.

"Once again, by sheer will, the new court of four, in secret and behind closed doors, bulldozes over the institutional integrity of the court, all to advance their political agenda while simultaneously silencing any opposing opinion," Ziegler said in a statement.

Ziegler said she removed the two conference days from the court calendar because

there were no oral arguments or rules hearings that could be scheduled on those days.

Justice Rebecca Bradley, another conservative, said the liberal justices were acting as a "political cabal."

They "met in secret, without their colleagues, and rewrote rules and statutes to silence their colleagues, expedite political cases, and serve the interests of their donors and political allies," she said in a statement. "This rogue majority continues to trample the constitution, giving itself dictatorial powers to reshape the political balance in Wisconsin."

Justice Brian Hagedorn, one of the court's conservative members who occasionally votes with the liberals, wrote in an email to his colleagues on Feb. 22, "this is, once again, an unfortunate way to go about things."

"Changing the way the court operates and handles its docket should be something we discuss together as a full court," he wrote. "The only reason to make a change now, with no alert, and to do so via email, would seem to be because four justices wish to expedite some of the politically charged cases we are now receiving."

Hagedorn, who declined to comment for this story, also worried the procedural changes — and the process to make them — would further erode trust among the justices.

"It's not worth it, and it's causing more long-term damage to the institution," he wrote. "At some point, the ends cannot keep justifying means and methods that would — if the shoe were on the other foot — be seen as discourteous and unprofessional."

The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (www.Wisconsin-Watch.org) collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



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Homeless issue

FROM PAGE 1

more housing and mental health resources in the community.

“Our economy is producing more and more houseless families,” she said. “Targeting these people does nothing to solve our real problems and frankly, it doesn’t feel very Wisconsin-like.”

Sara Kosmicki, executive director of the Omro charity Casa Esther, said the city’s monetary penalty for people who are unhoused is unjust.

“Not having a home is a tragedy and it’s not a crime,” she said. “Criminalization of homelessness has been shown to be ineffective, expensive, and in some instances, it has even been shown to be unconstitutional.”

Neenah doesn’t have a homeless shelter. The U.S. Supreme Court in the 9th Circuit has twice ruled it unlawful to prohibit public camping in areas where homeless shelters are not available, and is expected to rule on the matter a third time later this year.

Neenah’s ordinance defines camping as any place where sleeping materials or a stove or fire is established and includes vehicles and RVs. A first-offense violation is punishable by a fine of between \$10 and \$500 plus costs; with subsequent violations increasing to \$25-\$1,000.

One resident spoke in support of the ordinance at the meeting, and another submitted a letter that was read out loud by an alderman.

“The best way to show true compassion is to not allow the encampments,” Susan Perkins wrote. “Allowing the encampments leads to a dangerous and unhealthy situation for the unhoused.”

There was little discussion and council members did not take up any of the speakers’ concerns before voting, with Kathie Boyette, Tami Erickson, Lee Hillstrom, Cari Lendrum, Todd Stevenson and Scott Weber unanimous in support. John Skyrms, Brian Borchardt and Dan Steiner were excused from the meeting.



Neenah News

The squatter who took up residence on a city-owned parcel on South Commercial Street is in the process of being evicted by the city.

At the state level, Wisconsin makes it unlawful for any person to camp on public highways or adjacent lands. A bill introduced late last year by Sens. Cory Tomczyk of Mosinee and Rachael Cabral-Guevara of Fox Crossing would criminalize homelessness statewide, punishable by a misdemeanor charge, a fine of up to \$500 and up to 30 days in jail. It would also require municipalities to designate areas as homeless encampments monitored by law.

Florida’s new Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping law passed earlier the same day as Neenah’s ordinance largely replicates the bill introduced in Wisconsin, but differs from the ordinance by allowing overnight stays in a vehicle that is registered, insured and located in a place where it may lawfully be.

Mayor Jane Lang, who does not vote on council matters unless there’s a tie, said the city wants to help homeless people. This week, city officials and Neenah police behavioral health officer Josh Peterson planned to meet with the director of Pillars, an Appleton homeless shelter, “to discuss ways we can cooperatively address the issue of homelessness in our community.”

“We continue to diligently work with our community and regional partners on compassionate solutions to the difficult issue of homelessness,” Lang said.



Fox Crossing Recreation Department photo

Fox Crossing recital

Some of the young dancers at Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation Department’s 20th annual recital took the stage last Friday night at the Menasha High School auditorium. Parks director Amanda Geiser said there were close to 100 dancers in this year’s program. Whitnee Koerner is the dance coordinator and instructor, along with instructor Andi Haag.

Highway project

FROM PAGE 1

proaches, existing beam guard, deteriorated metal culvert pipes, median inlets and on I-41 over the Green Bay Road bridge deck.

Structure rehabilitation work will take place at about 30 other structures.

Green Bay Road will be closed at I-41 for roughly four to five months due to the bridge deck replacement. Jacobsen Road will be closed at I-41 for up to a week for minor rehabilitation of the bridge and a lane of Cold Spring Road will be closed under U.S. 10 during daytime hours for about a month.

Vinton Construction from Manitowoc is the prime contractor.

Impacts to I-41 traffic:

- Northbound lanes will be reduced full time from three to two in the vicinity of Green Bay Road for a majority of the project. Both directions of I-41 will have areas reduced full time from three to two lanes for a significant portion of the project to facilitate replacement of bridge approach-

es, other structure repairs and reapplication of the high-friction surface treatment.

- Concrete pavement repairs will require single and multilane closures during night-time and off-peak hours.

- Mainline I-41 traffic will be routed up and down interchange ramps during night-time hours to facilitate the replacement of some metal culverts.

Impacts to I-41 interchange ramps:

- Northbound entrance ramp from County II will be closed for a majority of the project.

- U.S. 10 westbound to I-41 northbound system interchange ramp will be closed for roughly three weeks.

- Southbound exit ramp to County II will be closed for about two weeks in late spring/early summer and another one week in early fall.

- Several interchange ramps will be closed for roughly two weeks.

- All other interchange ramps may be closed during night-time hours.

The benefit of this project is to extend the life of I-41 bridges and pavement by completing maintenance improvements along the corridor.

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New-look Rockets aim to carry on success

Neenah News

The past two seasons, the Neenah softball team has been a player in the upper half of the Fox Valley Association as well as at the sectional level of the Division 1 WIAA Tournament.

If the Rockets are going to be there again, it will be thanks to a lot of new faces.

Head coach Steven Gross graduated 10 seniors off of last year's squad and will

bring nearly an entirely new roster into competition as the Rockets look to remain a successful

force in the FVA,

"We had a lot of turnover from last year into this year with graduating 10 seniors, with a number of them being key players for us," Gross said. "This team that we have this year is completely different as far as experience wise."

Gross said this year's roster includes only four players who logged significant innings for the Rockets last season.

That group, along with a bevy of varsity newcomers, will not only have to replace what last year's seniors did on the field but what they brought to the team off of it.

"All of the seniors we graduated not only gave us a ton on the field in the way that they played and their leadership, but off the field in being such great support systems for our players. They are all tough spots to fill," Gross said. "I think this group of kids brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm and they are consistently wanting to get better every day. I think it will be a fun and interesting season."

One of the players returning for the

Rockets will be sophomore pitcher Kyleigh Manthe, who earned second-team all-FVA honors last season while serving as Neenah's No. 2 pitcher behind Morgan Harwood.

Manthe compiled a 1.24 earned run average in nearly 68 innings of work for Neenah, while striking out 97 batters. She finished 7-2 overall.

"I think Kyleigh is going to take on a role that she is excited about and ready for, to be that go-to girl on the mound. I think she's going to work hard and do an awesome job for us," Gross said. "Just her overall strength is improved. I think that's going to help her a ton. She has put so much work in the offseason on some of her pitches and to improve the spin on her ball and that will definitely be improved."

Although Mathe will be returning to the circle, who she will be pitching to will be a new face for the most part.

Junior Kaylee Marhefke saw limited action behind the plate last year and will be joined by Carson Harwood in competing for playing time at catcher.

"That's a super important position. Not only to help pitchers out but help the team out as well," Gross said. "It's going to be interesting to watch them grow into whatever position we put them in. It's going to be a learning year for them but they are quick learners and are very coachable, so we are excited to see how they do."

The Rockets will also bring back an anchor to their lineup in senior outfielder Bella Coulman.

Coulman, an honorable mention all-FVA selection last year, is expected to have a big year at the plate to help fuel the Rockets' offense.

Seniors Taryn Bauer and Parker Zipperer are also expected to have increased roles in the Neenah offense, while Mathe also saw significant at bats last season and should help boost the offense.

Gross also highlighted underclassman Tatum West as a player who could spark the offense after a strong season on the junior varsity team last spring.

Generating consistent offense will be key for the Rockets in order to compete in the talent-laden FVA, which includes three-time defending state champion Kaukauna.

But Gross said that the conference isn't just top-heavy with talent and that every time the Rockets take the field in conference play they have to be ready to go.

"You can't say enough about our conference from top to bottom. It's a battle every night," Gross said. "There is not a game you can walk into and say this is going to be a win. The moment you do that, someone is going to knock you in the teeth. It's going to be such a fun season with the turnover from some of the teams. It's going to be fun to see how it plays out."

Experienced Zephyrs ready for big season

The Zephyrs return six starters and the bulk of its roster from last year's squad, which finished third in the rugged Big East Conference and won a regional title.

"I believe we have a strong core of returning players this year with a lot of experience," commented head coach Jennifer Rodman. "This team is looking to continue to improve every year. ... We are looking to be very competitive in the Big

East-North this season, ready for any opponent on the field. This team is excited to compete."

Leading the cast of returning players for the Zephyrs is sophomore outfielder Adel Schneider, who was a first team all-conference selection a year ago and led the team with a .484 batting average and eight stolen bases.

Junior shortstop Emily Vogel and senior pitcher/third baseman Navaeh Saringer were both second-team selections last year, while senior pitcher/third baseman Rhiannon Reichenberger was an honorable mention all-conference selection.

Vogel batted .400 and scored 25 runs last season for the Zephyrs, while anchoring the infield defense. Saringer led the team with five home runs and 29 RBIs as a hitter and posted a 10-4 record and 2.18 earned run averaged in nearly 84 innings in the circle.

Reichenberger struck out 52 batters in 54 innings as a pitcher, while also batting over .300.

Other key returnees for the Zephyrs include juniors Jaylyn Akey at catcher and Addison Moder as a utility player, while sophomore outfielder Samantha Weiss and sophomore utility player Audrey Weber also saw key varsity innings a year ago.

Rodman also believes that varsity newcomers Ainslie Liddy, Cadence Kohel, Paige Danen and Elizabeth Seichter will add to the depth of the squad.

"We will bring both solid offense and defense to each of our games this year," Rodman said. "These players really improved as softball players last year and I believe that they could show even more improvement on the field together again this year."



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2024 Softball Schedules





ST. MARY CATHOLIC

Mar 26	Manawa	4:30 pm
Apr 8	Hilbert	4:30pm
Apr 11	@ Hilbert	4:30pm
Apr 13	@ Iola-Scandinavia	10:00am (DH)
Apr 15	@ Reedsville	4:30pm
Apr 18	Reedsville	4:30pm
Apr 20	Triangular @ Shiocton High School	10:00am
Apr 25	Mishicot	4:00pm (DH)
Apr 27	Triangular @ St. Mary Catholic High School	10:00am
Apr 29	Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	4:30pm
Apr 30	Peshtigo	4:30pm
May 2	@ Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	4:30pm
May 3	@ Wittenberg-Birnamwood	4:30pm
May 6	@ Manitowoc Lutheran	4:30pm
May 7	@ Xavier	4:30pm
May 9	Manitowoc Lutheran	4:30pm
May 14	Howards Grove	4:00pm (DH)

Home games in bold. All home games played at St. Mary Catholic High School Softball Diamond.



NEENAH

Mar 22	@ West Bend East	7:00pm
Mar 28	@ Marinette	4:30pm
Apr 2	@ Oshkosh West	4:30pm
Apr 4	Kimberly	5:00pm
Apr 9	@ Oshkosh North	4:30pm
Apr 11	Hortonville	5:00pm
Apr 16	@ Appleton West	5:00pm
Apr 18	@ Kaukauna	4:30pm
Apr 19	Appleton East	5:00pm
Apr 23	@ Appleton North	4:30pm
Apr 25	Fond du Lac	5:00pm
Apr 26	Oshkosh West	5:00pm
Apr 30	@ Kimberly	4:30pm
May 2	Oshkosh North	5:00pm
May 3	@ Hortonville	4:30pm
May 7	Appleton West	5:00pm
May 9	Kaukauna	4:30pm
May 10	@ Appleton East	4:30pm
May 11	Invitational @ Oakfield Village Park	10:00am
May 14	Appleton North	5:00pm
May 16	@ Fond du Lac	5:00pm
May 17	Stevens Point Area Senior High Schools	5:00pm

Home games in bold. All home games played at Neenah High School Varsity Softball Diamond.

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All-conference roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rockets' Ziebell repeats as FVA's top player

Neenah's Allie Ziebell went out on top on the all-Fox Valley Association girls basketball lists.

The three-time first-team selection was named Player of the Year in the conference for the second straight season. The senior was one of four unanimous selections on the eight-member first team.

Ziebell was the conference's leading scorer at 27.5 points per game and ranked second among the league's rebounders at nearly nine rebounds a contest. She shot 45 percent from 3-point range this season, hitting 122-of-272 attempts, while finishing 168-of-192 free throws for 87 percent.

She also led the Rockets in assists (90) and steals (48) and was one of seven players named to the all-defensive team.

Joining Ziebell as unanimous first-team selections were senior Kayla Werner and junior Rainey Welson of Hortonville and junior Kate McGinnis of Kimberly. The rest of the first team consisted of seniors Ava Hanson of Oshkosh North, Paige Seckar of Oshkosh West and Kallie Peeper of Hortonville along with junior Torie Neubauer of Appleton East.

Neenah also had a pair of sophomores garner all-conference recognition.

Rowan Klesmit was named to the second team, while Ellie Buss earned honorable mention honors. Klesmit averaged 14.9 points per contest, while Buss finished second on the team with 64 3-pointers and averaged nearly 10 points per game.

Hortonville's AC Cloutier was named Coach of the Year.

Four Zephyrs recognized by Big East North

Four members of St. Mary Catholic's Big East North championship were honored by the conference.

Senior Audrey Norville and junior Emily Vogel led the way as each was a unanimous first-team selection.

Norville, a Black Hills State University recruit, averaged 14.3 points per game, while also chipping in 6.0 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.9 steals per game. Vogel led St. Mary Catholic at 15.1 points per game, while also picking up 4.7 rebounds per contest.

Both Norville and Vogel were second-team all-conference selections.

Joining the first team duo on the all-conference lists was senior Sienna Anderson, who was named to the second team, and junior Nolie Anderson, an honorable mention honoree. Sienna Anderson averaged 7.6 points per game, while leading the team in 3-pointers (50), assists (93) and steals (89). Nolie Anderson scored 12 points per game this season, while leading

the team in rebounding at 7.8 rebounds per game.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Corso leads Neenah's all-FVA selections

A quartet of Neenah Rockets were honored by the Fox Valley Association.

Heading the list is senior Brady Corso, who finished fourth in the conference in scoring, averaging 22 points per game. He also led the Rockets in 3-pointers (61), free-throw percentage (91%), rebounds per game (5.0), assists (122) and steals (66).

Corso, who helped lead the Rockets to a third straight WIAA State Tournament, was one of four unanimous selections to the first team along with seniors Stevie Clark of Oshkosh North, Joey LaChapelle of Appleton East and junior Xzavion Mitchell of Oshkosh North. The rest of the first team consisted of senior Thomas Meyers of Kimberly, junior Keegan Van Kauwenberg of Kaukauna and sophomore Ethan Joling of Hortonville.

Seniors Charlie Wunderlich and Justin Janssen also garnered all-conference recognition. Wunderlich was named to the second team after averaging 13.9 points per game, while Janssen was an honorable mention honoree after putting up nearly seven points per game.

Junior Luke Jung also was recognized by

the league, landing one of six spots on the league's all-defensive team.

Mitchell was named Player of the Year in the conference, while Oshkosh North's Brad Weber was named Coach of the Year.

Brenn, Mackenzie earn top league honors

A pair of St. Mary Catholic seniors earned first-team all-league honors in the Big East North.

Braeden Brenn was a unanimous choice to the first team, while Fisher Mackenzie also garnered the nod on the five-member group. Brenn, who missed six games due to injury, averaged a double-double this season for the Zephyrs, putting up 21 points and 10.2 rebounds per game. Mackenzie was the Zephyrs second-leading scorer at 17.6 points per game, while leading the team in 3-pointers (68) and steals (46), while ranking second in rebounds per game (9.0).

Brenn and Mackenzie were the only two seniors on the first team, while joining Brenn as a unanimous first-team choice was Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah junior Brody Feldman, Howards Grove junior Trent Grunewald and Reedsville sophomore Ben Prochnow.

Grunewald was named Player of the Year in the conference.

SEE **All-conference** ON PAGE 15

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All-conference

FROM PAGE 14

The Zephyrs' Preston Fields also was recognized by the conference landing on the second team, after averaging 10.3 points and a team-best 7.5 assists per game.

WRESTLING

Koch, Herm lead Neenah honorees

State finalists Declan Koch and Jacob Herm were Neenah's representatives on the all-Fox Valley Association wrestling team's top squad.

Koch, who earned first-team honors for the second straight season, was the conference's top wrestler at 138 pounds. Herm, who earned his first state championship and posted an undefeated season, earned the spot at 144 pounds.

Kaukauna senior Lucas Peters was named the Wrestler of the Year in the conference.

The Rockets had three wrestlers collect second-team honors in seniors Eli Armatti (120) and Logan Tessier (126) and freshman Landen Sheppard (132). Earning honorable mention honors for the Rockets was senior heavyweight Nate Cleveland.

BOYS SWIMMING

Gaerthofner garners top honors on all-FVA teams

Junior Drew Gaerthofner earned first-team all-FVA honors in four events to lead the list of Rockets to earn recognition.

Gaerthofner earned individual honors in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard

breaststroke, while also earning the honors for Neenah's 200-yard medley relay and 200-yard freestyle relay. Junior Julian Kuehn and sophomore Tanner Trustem were on both relays, while senior Braden Loudon filled out the 200-yard medley relay and junior Josh Youngwerth completed the 200-yard freestyle relay squad.

Trustem joined Gaerthofner in earning first-team all-conference honors in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Garthofner was named the Swimmer of the Year in the conference.

Earning second-team honors for the Rockets were Trustem in the 200-yard individual medley, Loudon in the 100-yard butterfly, Kuehn in the 100-yard freestyle, senior Kyle Joneson in diving and freshman Ryker Zarda in the 100-yard backstroke.

The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Youngwerth, Loudon, sophomore Liam Sieck and freshman Burke Wendell also earned second-team honors.

Rounding out the Neenah swimmers earning recognition were honorable mention honorees Kuehn in the 200-yard freestyle, Youngwerth in the 200-yard individual medley and sophomore Gideon Benner in the 500-yard freestyle.

Neenah's Carrie Raeth was named Coach of the Year in the conference.

BOYS HOCKEY

Rockets land pair of players on first team

Senior forward Ben Carey and junior defenseman Cal Zinda were named to the all-Badgerland Conference first team to lead the list of Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha players to receive all-league recognition.

Carey led the Rockets in goals (20), assists (18) and points (38), while Zinda tallied five goals and 17 assists from the

blue line.

Carey was joined at forward with Fond du Lac's Blake Spies and St. Mary's Springs' Austin Westergaard, while Fond du Lac's Aiden Heffner was tabbed at the other defenseman spot.

Spencer Shober of Fond du Lac was named to the first team at goalkeeper, while also garnering Player of the Year honors in the conference.

Nick Tank of Waupun was named

Coach of the Year.

The Rockets also had a pair of players named to the second team in forwards Mark Sutton, a sophomore, and Ty Laabs, a junior, while freshman forward Cartyr Simonson and sophomore defenseman Cooper Zinda were named to the honorable mention list.

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha had three players named on the scholar/athlete list in Ryan Johnson, John Horneck and Evan Hans.

Calendar of events

Friday, March 29

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

Saturday, March 30

Easter Bunny at The Plaza, 10 a.m., 229 W. Wisconsin Ave.

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

Tuesday, April 2

Spring Break Open Art, noon, Neenah Public Library

ah Public Library

Wednesday, April 3

Spring Break Open Art, noon, Neenah Public Library

Thursday, April 4

Spring Break Open Art, noon, Neenah Public Library

Friday, April 5

Daddio, 7 p.m., 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing

Rockin' Psalms, 7 p.m., Faith Global Methodist, 1025 Tullar Road

Saturday, April 13

Brews with the Bunny, 5 p.m., Fritsch Park, Fox Crossing

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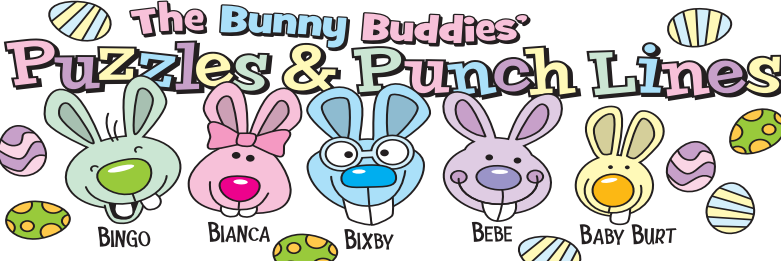
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WAIT!
 Don't do this page alone. If this page looks **TOO HARD**, find an older buddy to help you. If it looks **EASY**, find a younger buddy and help them!



Bingo's Boxes
 Use the clues to fill in the missing letters. The letters in the center vertical row reveal the answer to Bingo's riddle:

What do you need if your chocolate eggs disappear?

1.			E	
2.		A		
3.				M
4.			S	
5.				N
6.		L		
7.			A	
8.	C			
9.				P
10.		E		
11.				E
12.				P
13.	T			

- CLUES**
1. A tasty baked dessert
 2. To grow older
 3. Something you chew
 4. Fuel for a car
 5. You can fry eggs in this
 6. Sick, not well
 7. A baseball player's hat
 8. Metal food container
 9. A gorilla is one kind
 10. An animal in your home
 11. Frozen water
 12. How bunnies move
 13. One more than nine

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

Extra! Extra!
Say What?
 Cut out a comic strip from the newspaper. Carefully remove the words from the word bubbles, and then paste the strip onto a sheet of paper. Write a new joke in the bubbles.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions.

What is Long and Stylish and Full of Cats?
 The code on Baby Burt's blocks reveals the answer to this riddle, but he's too little to figure it out. Can you help him before he starts to cry?

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□

▲=A ■=D ▣=E ▼=H ◆=P ◼=R ▽=S ◻=T ▹=U

Bunny Bathtime
 While Bixby is enjoying his bubble bath, pop two bubbles at a time by crossing them out. Leave one letter, then cross the next two out. Keep going and you'll reveal the punch line to this riddle:

Who delivers Treats To ocean fish at Easter?

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

Bebe's Garden
 Bebe planted some tasty veggies in her garden. But they grew so big that now she can't find her way through it! The letters on the correct path will solve this riddle:

How do you send a Letter To The Easter Bunny?

W M G H S
 J D
 Y
 T A E A R
 Y H L P K O
 B

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Hidden Egg Hunt
 Bianca hid three egg designs all over this page. How many of each can you and your buddy find?

Me My Buddy

FIT & FUN

Eggs-ercises
 These exercises use your muscles and imagination! Try them with your buddy.

Slow Melt
 Pretend you are a chocolate bunny melting on a hot day. Start by standing nice and tall, then slowly ooze to the floor.

Basket Balance
 Try balancing an empty Easter basket (or a plastic bowl) on your head as you walk across your yard.

Rabbit Racers
 Give a younger buddy a head start and race across the park. Try racing three times. Is your younger buddy getting faster?

Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Why do people dye Easter eggs?
 Bee + cause Rabbits - rabb EZR

Than Wall + Paper + King - K
Them!

ANSWER: Because it's easier than wallpapering them.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

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