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INSIDE



ForeverWell
YMCA program keeps participants active
Page 7

Daily living supplies lift those in need

Jake's Network of Hope has expanded mission

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A local nonprofit organization is working to provide diapers, menstrual products and other essential daily living supplies to communities throughout northeast Wisconsin.

With a warehouse and Hope Hub resource center on Industrial Drive, Jake's Network of Hope partners with nonprofits, schools and faith-based organizations to provide resources to those in need.

Development director Jenn Harper recently spoke with Neenah News to share what makes Jake's Network special.

The organization was started about 11 years ago by Stephanie Bowers after returning from a mission trip to Peru where she witnessed workers at a child

SEE **Jake's Network** ON PAGE 11

Sign ordinance lawsuit dismissed

Federal judge rules for city in challenge

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the city of Neenah's sign ordinance was dismissed by a federal judge last week.

The lawsuit was filed by the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty (WILL) in January 2023 on behalf of residents Tim and Megan Florek in response to the city's

efforts to have signs removed from yards in the Shattuck Middle School neighborhood protesting rezoning efforts.

The signs read, "Don't Rezone Shattuck Middle School Leave R-1 Alone" in reference to a potential rezoning of the former school site so that Northpointe Development of Oshkosh could turn the building into apartments and construct single-family homes.

The Common Council voted against rezoning the Shattuck site and the school district voted in August to sell it to Investment Creations of Neenah for \$500,001 – one

dollar more than the Northpointe offer – to be turned into apartments and homes.

WILL argued the city targeted the Shattuck sign based on its message and challenged the constitutionality of the sign ordinance. Judge William Griesbach issued an injunction in April prohibiting the city from enforcing the ordinance during the duration of the lawsuit.

The council voted to change the ordinance in October, correcting portions considered unlawful and creating a con-

SEE **Sign ordinance** ON PAGE 7



Neenah News

The Neenah High School girls celebrate after beating Hortonville in a WIAA Division 1 sectional final Saturday at Appleton East. The win secured the program's first trip to the state tournament since 2009.

Rockets ready for state showdown

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Senior Rachel Dietrich, just after getting through the final paces of a Monday practice, grabbed a gulp of water and put into perspective the feeling surrounding the Neenah High School girls basketball team's trip to the WIAA State Tournament.

"It's still not really real yet," Dietrich said. "But to be able to still play with our seniors and everyone else and to continue our season is awesome."

The next step in the Rockets season will

come Friday night at the Resch Center in



Braunel

Green Bay when Neenah faces off against Hartford in a Division 1 state semifinal at the WIAA State Girls Basketball Tournament. The game is the second of the two Division 1 semifinals and will tipoff at approximately 8:15 p.m.

It is Neenah's first trip to the state tournament since 2009 – when eight Divi-

sion 1 teams made the state field and the tournament was held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. It's an experience head coach Andy Braunel remembers well as he was also leading the Rockets program then. This time, though, he believes he is taking a better approach.

"I was a stress ball that week. I let the pressure, the stress all of those extra things we had to do get to me. I fretted and I worried and I was wound tight. I don't think I relaxed until pre-game warmups start-

SEE **State hoops** ON PAGE 13



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Corrections

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

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City evicting squatter at project site

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is evicting a person from a city-owned parcel on S. Commercial Street to make way for redevelopment.

The property at 1345 S. Commercial included three buildings, two that were habitable and a garage on the south side. It's situated near a closed car wash to the north and an active car wash on an adjacent property to the south.

The city acquired the parcel in November with the intention of demolishing the buildings and clearing the site to make it appealing for redevelopment. With asbestos investigation and mitigation completed, the council in January approved awarding a contract for demolition to Go Green Recycling at a cost of \$23,800.

Deputy director of community development Brad Schmidt said all the buildings were demolished on schedule and all that remains is the hard-surface parking areas.

The same month the city acquired it, Daniel Miller began trespassing at the site, according to a summons and complaint for eviction filed in Winnebago County Circuit Court. Miller is living in an RV travel trailer and has a box truck at the site.

Documents say Miller was notified on



Neenah News

The city is in the process of evicting a man living in an RV at the site on South Commercial Street that was recently cleared for redevelopment.

various dates that he was unlawfully entering the premises and has not established tenancy or paid rent. He "refuses to leave despite numerous requests by city employees and police to do so."

The legal term for squatting is adverse possession. In Wisconsin, squatting isn't considered trespassing and is a civil matter requiring the property owner to go through the judicial eviction process. That includes issuing a notice requiring the

occupant to vacate the property within a certain timeframe. If the occupant doesn't vacate the property, the case goes to court where a judge may issue an eviction.

Miller was served with a five-day notice to quit Feb. 20 and on Feb. 28 the city filed for eviction, with a court date set for March 20.

City attorney David Rashid said the city is hopeful Miller will vacate the property voluntarily before the court date.

We Heart You event keys on recovery

Neenah News

Winnebago County partners are hosting the second We Heart You: Recovery in Our Community event from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Culver Center.

The free event seeks to bridge the recovery community with the broader community by educating people about addiction and sharing resources that can save lives. Former Milwaukee Bucks player and assistant coach Vin Baker will be this year's keynote speaker along with other presentations from local subject matter experts.

More information and registration can be found at solutionsrecovery.org/we-heart-you-registration.

As of last week, there were 275 community leaders, medical providers, law enforcement, people in recovery, faith leaders, city and county providers, and elected officials and others from around the state who have signed up.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Ice of March

In 1938, ice shoves from Lake Winnebago pushed up onto the roadway of County A near Adella Beach.



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Edward Jones

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County limits health mandate oversight

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for the second time in three months approved a resolution that will restrict the county's authority to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

Referred to by Oshkosh resident Mallo-ry Schneider Birschbach as the "anti-community health resolutions," the board Feb. 27 voted to approve one health-related resolution and to send a second back to committee.

"These resolutions are a slap in the face to those that have died or become disabled by COVID, anyone working in the medical field, researchers, scientists and the general public," Schneider Birschbach told the board. "People choosing individualism over community health are selfish, uncaring people, and the wording in these resolutions allows for potentially deadly and de-

bilitating situations in future pandemics."

The approved resolution was introduced by the Legislative Committee and establishes that the county does not intend to support nor impose its own lockdowns, vaccine or mask mandates related to COVID-19 or its variants.

The resolution sent back to committee was submitted by District 26 Supervisor Conley Hanson and District 6 Supervisor Brian Defferding and sought to limit the county's ability to take steps to prevent the spread of any communicable disease. The county would no longer create or enforce any blanket or universal mandates and would encourage residents to make their own health care decisions.

The resolutions follow similar resolutions introduced by Defferding, Hanson and District 16 Supervisor Jacob Floam that were approved by the board in December.

Those resolutions limited the county's

individual health orders to one person only, eliminating applicability for groups of people or gathering spots and limiting duration to seven days unless otherwise authorized by the county board. A second resolution passed by the board removed time limits for voting requirements, meaning a health order could be strung along for weeks without a vote.

Defferding wrote on social media at the time that the ordinances were intentionally written to make it challenging for the Health Department to issue a general order such as the Safer at Home order issued in May 2020.

Health director Doug Gieryn issued a statement after the December vote that the department's goal is to work together with communities to assure conditions where everyone has the opportunity to be healthy in the face of diseases like measles, hepatitis A, whooping cough or other outbreaks.

Stabbing suspect found not competent for trial

Neenah News

A man accused of stabbing his brother 18 times in a Neenah apartment has been found not competent to stand trial.

Winnebago County Circuit Judge Bryan Keberlein issued the ruling Tuesday and ordered Darnell McCauley, 26, committed for inpatient psychiatric treatment.

The ruling means McCauley lacks the mental capacity to understand the proceedings or assist in his own defense. If McCauley regains competency he will be discharged from commitment and the criminal proceedings would resume.

McCauley is facing a charge of attempted first-degree intentional homicide for the

Dec. 18 incident. A witness told police she was drinking with McCauley and his brother that evening and he repeatedly made comments about killing her and his brother.

The two men got into an argument over a cigar and the woman said they were able to defuse the situation but a short time later she returned to the living room where she observed McCauley holding two knives and stabbing his brother.

At some point after the stabbing McCauley exited the apartment and the witness was able to lock the glass patio door, preventing him from returning inside. Documents say McCauley ran into the glass door three times in an attempt to regain entry

and told the woman she was next.

McCauley's brother was transported to the hospital and treated for stab wounds to his head, neck, face, arms, shoulders and one wound puncturing his lung.

McCauley made a statement to police that the parties were drinking and smoking crack cocaine before the incident and he stabbed his brother in self-defense.

The complaint references a Nov. 26 incident where McCauley walked into the lobby of the police department with a knife and scissors in his pockets and asked to be arrested, stating he was going to kill his brother. The report notes that crisis services were contacted.

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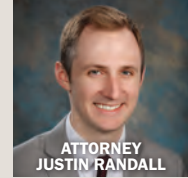
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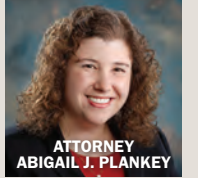
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Pet cemetery move being arranged

Animal shelter makes plans for site relocation

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Animal Shelter is moving forward on plans to excavate and relocate the remains of about 1,000 animals laid to rest in an on-site pet cemetery as the shelter prepares to move to a new location.

Although a final decision hasn't been made, the shelter is working with a contractor to come up with a plan and estimates for relocating the remains and sacred dirt to Forrest Run Pet Cemetery in Sherwood.

About 338 marked graves and an estimated 700 unmarked plots hold the remains of family pets including dogs, cats, two guinea pigs, a rabbit, a parakeet and a monkey named Charlie Brown in the nearly 60-year-old Memorial Pet Cemetery.

The fate of the pet cemetery was called into question late last year with the shelter breaking ground on a new location less than a mile away at 2475 Progress Court and the current location at 951 County G slated for sale.

Some residents whose pets' remains are in the cemetery expressed concerns about what would happen to them and if the remains would be abandoned with the land sale.

During two listening sessions, shelter officials presented options such as maintaining the property and cemetery at the shelter's expense, selling the building and an adjacent pond but keeping the cemetery parcel separating them, or relocating just the headstones to a memorial at the new shelter and leaving the remains in place

with cemetery ownership turned over to the buyer.

The more favorable option for many in attendance at the listening sessions was to accept an offer from Patrick Fahrenkrug, who owns Forrest Run and Kessler-Fahrenkrug Funeral Home in Neenah. Fahrenkrug has two family pets buried in the Neenah pet cemetery and offered to donate a one-acre section of Forrest Run's pet cemetery for the remains.

Fahrenkrug noted the process would be extensive and likely wouldn't be possible to individually disinter every pet due to the large amount of unmarked plots and natural decomposition. Instead, the area would be excavated and the "sacred ground" would be transferred to Forrest Run.

Shelter board treasurer Craig Fisher said the planning process is taking longer than expected because the contractors who have been approached aren't experienced in this type of project and although it isn't a big job, it's precise.

Fisher said if relocating the remains is the selected plan, it will be at no cost to those who have pets buried there unless they choose to relocate their pet's remains and headstones themselves.

"In the past, people have removed remains and we did have a couple people call and want to, but unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate when they wanted to do it," he said. "It's still an option for anybody who wants to remove remains or headstones or both."

At Forrest Run, pet owners are assured that it would be a final resting place as the location is protected and deeded as a pet cemetery so it can never be used for anything else and a perpetual care fund is in place to maintain it.

"Nobody has to worry about anything forever," Fisher said. "The funds are there to always keep up the property."

The final plans for the pet cemetery are expected to be decided in the next few months.

Calendar of events

Friday, March 8

B.D. Greer and Mike Kubicki, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing
Joe Guerra, 6:30 p.m., Faith Global Methodist Church, 1025 Tullar Road
Meet-and-greet with author Vivian Probst with Anne Wondra, 4:30 p.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Jake Deringer Project with Modern Joey, 9 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

Saturday, March 9

Jim Hart Scholarship Fund Concert, 7 p.m., The Ballroom at the Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.
Noah James Hittner, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing
Driftless Revelers, The Gentlemen Grifters and Wyatt Thomson, 9 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.
Magic: The Gathering for Beginners, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Monday, March 11

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

Tuesday, March 12

Downtown Neenah Blood Drive, 8 a.m., DoubleTree Hotel, 123 E. Wisconsin Ave.

Wednesday, March 13

Katie Reed from Fox-Wolf Watershed

Alliance: Phosphorus in Our Waterways, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, March 14

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

Friday, March 15

Stuck on Blue, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing
"Shrek the Musical," 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School, 1050 Zephyr Drive

Saturday, March 16

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

Sunday, March 17

"Shrek the Musical," 2 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School, 1050 Zephyr Drive

Wednesday, March 20

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

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22

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

Saturday, March 23

Kurt Gunn, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W American Drive, Fox Crossing

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Submitted photo

The pharmacy at ThedaCare will now be open 24 hours.

ThedaCare pharmacy now open at all times

Neenah News

ThedaCare has expanded access to pharmacy services by offering a 24-hour option at its Neenah medical center-Neenah.

The pharmacy initially opened in December as part of an overall modernization project at the hospital. The location features onsite services and curbside pick-up for patients, community members and ThedaCare members.

The pharmacy will be closed from 2 to 2:30 a.m. daily and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on major holidays.

The on-site pharmacy provides patients

with medications and/or a wound care kit at discharge. The pharmacy will also be delivering medications to the bedside when patients are discharging from the hospital.

Two curbside parking spots are situated on the north side of the hospital between the main entrance and Emergency Department entrance. Patients can pull up to one of the designated parking spots, call the pharmacy (phone number on parking spot sign), and the team will bring the medications. A MyChart appointment is strongly preferred.

Lions Club selling roses to boost local charities

Neenah Lions Club is selling roses for spring at \$16 per dozen. All proceeds go to local charities.

Orders are being taken through March 28 with free delivery April 19-20 by area clubs.

Contact a club member or look for rose sale posters at Shellattes, Culvers, MI Place, Community First Credit Union, The Dome, Neenah City Hall or on the club's Facebook page.

Business news roundup

J. J. Keller & Associates has appointed **Tony Wheel** as the company's new executive vice president of manufacturing and supply chain. He joined the organization March 1, succeeding Tim Little, who will retire July 1. Wheel brings more than 16 years of leadership experience from his previous role at Oshkosh Corp. In his new position, Wheel will oversee a team of more than 130 associates across global sourcing, manufacturing and distribution operations.



Wheel

been underway for about three months and are expected to wrap up by the end of March.

The **Fox Valley Workforce Development Board** will lead rapid response efforts for the recently announced layoff of 339 workers Lakeside Book Co. in Menasha and 90 workers from a Del Monte Foods plant in Markesan. Both facilities announced their closures through the required notice defined in the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Act (WARN). Workers who are impacted by these or any closures or layoffs can reach out to the Fox Cities Job Center, 1802 Appleton Road, Menasha, to schedule an appointment with a career planner either by completing an information form at www.foxvalleyjobcenters.com or calling 920-997-3272.

Renewed and Reclaimed at 224 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Neenah is having a closeout sale ahead of its store closing scheduled for March 27. The home decor business offering gifts, clothing and workshops will continue to work on furniture and custom items.

Pet Supplies Plus is expanding into the space next door that was formerly occupied by Karate America. The expansion will include a larger dog grooming area and additional product selection. Owner **Dave Heather** said when he opened the business in 2020 the space at 872 Fox Point Plaza was all that was available so when additional space opened up he decided to take advantage. Renovations have

Downtown bingo card promotion offered

Downtown Neenah Luck o' the Irish bingo cards are available at participating businesses through March 31 with stamps that can be collected at the businesses. Cards can be found at Neenah.org, picked up at the Future Neenah office, 135 W. Wisconsin Ave., or participating businesses.

\$100 gift certificate drawing and the single bingo drawing. Single bingo (diagonal, horizontal or vertical) entries can win a prize from a downtown business.

Participants can turn cards into the Future Neenah office or email it to downtown@neenah.org by March 31 for a chance to win. One card allowed per person ages 18 and over.

A black-out bingo card qualifies for a



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Collaboration on home for disabled nears completion

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

Fox Valley Technical College's residential construction program last week showed its steady progress on a four-bedroom, fully accessible home for adults with disabilities in Neenah being built in partnership with Winnebago County and the Covey organization.

Project planning began a few years ago when Covey, which focuses on disability services in the Fox Valley, was being asked by many of their families if they would offer residential programs for loved ones. Covey approached FVTC, which typically builds three-bedroom ranch homes without a buyer in mind as part of its regular school curriculum, and the county signed on with money from a federal grant to make it happen.

Ground was broken May 10 for the home at Woodhaven Lane and County CB and is scheduled for an April 23 grand opening during the WHBA Parade of Homes. FVTC expects the final handoff to Covey by June.

FVTC instructor Ben Fouts has 17 students in the program, of which nine were working at the home last Wednesday with the rest in the classroom and work lab at the S.C. Spanbauer Center in Oshkosh. The split groups change places when they are ready to move onto a new phase of the build.

"We practice there and the real thing happens here," said Andrew Podgorski, a student from Wrightstown who was working at the home site and graduates in August. Students rotate in and out of the project as their semesters and studies end, learning and mentoring through the



Neenah News

FVTC residential construction students work on a home at Woodhaven Lane and County CB through their partnership with Covey and Winnebago County.

process.

With a growing demand for independent, accessible housing for adults with disabilities, students became part of a specialized home project. Hallways and doorways are wider than those of a traditional home, with zero clearance entries, lever doorknobs, toggle switches and higher outlets.

Cabinets being built by FVTC's woods program with lower, accessible countertops are coming later this month while students work on the base trim and finish the graded ceiling design that FVTC proj-

ects commonly use.

Fouts said that similar to FVTC's other spec home projects, the outside work was finished by Thanksgiving, inside drywalling was completed by Christmas and inside work commences through the winter months.

"The students build the house but they use my brain when they're doing it," said Fouts, who took over the FVTC instructor role in September. "They learn in the classroom but then I'm here giving them tips and making sure everything looks good."

Covey chief executive Pam Schutz said

the collaboration, made possible after Winnebago County was awarded a \$10.3 million Neighborhood Investment Fund grant aimed at housing continuum services, creates momentum on future housing opportunities for the people they assist.

"The objectives for this home extend beyond its mere physical presence," Schutz said. "Covey seeks to further expand accessible housing options in the Fox Cities while remaining steadfast in our mission to continue creating opportunities that foster personal growth for our participants and their families. We envision this house as the inaugural step toward a future of inclusive living spaces for all who need it."

Schutz said they are working on plans for a new adult family home in Oshkosh supported by the grant program but not involving FVTC to be situated next to its respite house on Eastman Street, with groundbreaking by early summer and completed by 2025.

"Research indicated that safe affordable and supportive housing was in very short supply and very high demand," Schutz said when the project started, "not only for our families that we currently serve but for many families in Winnebago County caring for someone with a disability."

Student home-building projects are normally done through the FVTC Foundation, which funds the work and takes in the proceeds from the sale.

"With Covey, they are paying the bills but they have been great about it," Fouts said. "There haven't been any issues with any delays."

For more information about Covey's respite care services and volunteer opportunities, visit covey.org.



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YMCA program keeps seniors active and healthy

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah-Menasha YMCA is bridging the gap in seniors' personal and social health with its ForeverWell program for ages 55 and older.

ForeverWell program director Kate Yates said the need for resources and activities for seniors has increased post-pandemic. While the city of Neenah doesn't have its own senior center, the Neenah-Menasha YMCA serves in that capacity.

Last May, the surgeon general issued an advisory calling loneliness, isolation and lack of connection a public health crisis. The physical health consequences include a 29% increased risk of heart disease, a 32% increased risk of stroke, a 50% increased risk of developing dementia for older adults and a 60% increase in the risk of premature death.

A study published by the CDC last November found that between 2001 and 2021 the largest percent increase in suicide rates was among men ages 55-64 and women ages 65-74.

Yates said participating in YMCA programming can help prevent seniors from becoming part of those statistics, with the organization offering classes, trips, clubs, physical activities, music, dance and an abundance of opportunities for social interaction.

"So we're offering films theory, educational speakers on topics of Medicare and financial resources," she said. "Lots of different businesses will come in (from) the area and put on presentations. We do historical presentations and talks. We offer art programs."

Recent adventure-based activities include trips to Costa Rica, the Dominican



Submitted photo

YMCA members rode horses on the beach during a trip to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic in January.

Republic and the Grand Canyon. The YMCA also hosts day trips throughout the state.

Some of the programming comes with an added fee to cover costs and supplies. The YMCA offers a discounted membership for seniors and financial assistance. Most residents age 65 or older that are eligible for Medicare benefits are likely eligible for a free YMCA membership.

"Full access to our whole facility, all of our fitness classes, our wellness rooms, our locker rooms and so on," Yates said. "So it's a pretty awesome perk of their insurance that people just aren't taking advantage of."

One Neenah-Menasha YMCA member began weightlifting in her 70s and is now

82 and still works out every day. Another member in her early 90s visits the YMCA every morning to swim.

"Her doctor always attributes her good health to her dedication of getting up and coming to the YMCA every day," Yates said.

She added that some retired seniors may feel that they don't have a purpose.

"It's so essential to still have that vibrancy for life and being excited to get up the next day and do something new and talk to so many people, and come up with a brand-new hobby and start doing art at the age of 70," she said.

Yates wants residents to know that there's much more to life after retirement and it's a great opportunity for seniors to



Neenah News

Kate Yates directs the ForeverWell program at the Neenah-Menasha YMCA that gives seniors a vibrant set of healthy options.

focus on their overall well-being.

"They should really take the opportunity to truly just walk through the door because even if the idea of going up to the wellness room or hitting up a fitness class is not something that interests them, they can be working on their social fitness, their mental fitness, their educational fitness, there's so many different things," she said. "And we hear so often from the seniors that they found family here."

For more information, visit ymcaofcities.org/foreverwell.

Sign ordinance

FROM PAGE 1

tent-neutral category of Portable Yard Signs, which are allowed to be displayed for no more than 30 days in a 90-day period.

Additional portable yard signs are allowed during an election campaign and when a property is actively marketed for sale. In changing the ordinance, it was noted the city plans to fully rewrite it this year.

The city argued in court that the changes made the lawsuit moot, while WILL contended it was necessary for the judge to issue a declaration that the current sign code violates the First Amendment so that the city does not return to it when revising the ordinance.

Griesbach sided with the city, dismissing the lawsuit as moot and writing in his decision that WILL ignored the presumption of good faith.

"That a full rewrite of the sign code is expected in 2024 does not, without more, constitute evidence that the city plans to reenact the challenged ordinance," he wrote. "There is no indication that the city intends to do so. Even if the city expects to rewrite its code, the fact remains that the city is always free to return to its old ways, and yet their self-correcting actions are assumed to be in good faith absent evidence of the contrary."

Griesbach also ruled against awarding nominal damages to WILL because he noted the Floreks never suffered a completed injury because they never removed the sign from their front yard and there-

fore no violation of their First Amendment rights occurred.

City attorney David Rashid said the city is pleased with the decision and while WILL can appeal within 14 days, "We are hopeful that they'll agree that enough of the citizens' tax dollars have already been spent on the sign in their yard."

WILL attorney Lucas Vebber said attorneys are still considering the next steps, "but this case was won early last year when the court issued an injunction against the City of Neenah's unconstitutional ordinance and protected our clients from the city's repeated threats of enforcement. Since then, faced with the prospect of continued litigation, the City finally amended their unlawful ordinance."

A separate lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the sign ordinance filed in

circuit court by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) litigation center on behalf of residents Gail and Margaret Minks and Gary and Kim Novak is scheduled for a ruling May 13.

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'Shrek the Musical' takes Zephyr Community Theater stage

Neenah News

"Shrek the Musical," a humorous stage adaptation of the beloved DreamWorks animated film, will be staged for multiple performances March 14-17 by the Zephyr Community Theater at St. Mary Catholic High School, including a special Make-A-Wish showing.

The story follows the ogre Shrek, who embarks on a quest to rescue Princess Fiona from a tower guarded by a fire-breathing dragon to regain control of his swamp from the villainous Lord Farquaad.

Along the way, Shrek is accompanied by his talkative and comedic companion, Donkey, as they navigate through a series of challenges and encounters with fairy tale creatures. The musical explores themes of self-acceptance, friendship and power of love.

The cast includes Jonah DeWitt (Shrek), Paige Danen (Fiona), Ian Albino (Donkey), Tessa Rutchik (Dragon), Gibson Rause (Lord Farquaad), Nathan Bekkers (Pinocchio), and Mary McCurdy (Sugar Plum Fairy/Gingy). Eric Conner is the director, Lindsay Dahlberg is music director and Andrew Dillenburg is orchestra director.

"Shrek the Musical stands out for being so true to itself, from its humor to the



Ian Albino (from left), Jonah DeWitt and Paige Danen lead the cast of "Shrek the Musical" being staged at St. Mary Catholic High School.

themes it explores," Albino said about the production. "In a world that feels increasingly clouded by facades and manufactured appearances, being a part of this production has been not only an amazing

and educational theater experience full of laughs but also an opportunity to ground and reflect with a silly, brutally honest character and his community."

Performances are set for 7 p.m. March

14, 15 and 16, and 2 p.m. March 17 in the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center at 1050 Zephyr Drive. Doors will open a half-hour before the performance. More information is at smcatholicschools.org.

Another performance at 2 p.m. March 16 will treat some Make-A-Wish Wisconsin children and their families through its 23-year partnership with Bergstrom Automotive.

Bergstrom team members raise funds through their annual Drive for Dreams campaign to help make more than 500 life-changing wishes come true for children and families battling critical illnesses.

"The Bergstrom team has had the opportunity to meet many local wish kids and they have seen the power that a wish come true has on a child whose life is consumed by scary procedures, treatments, hospital stays and more," said Kris Teofilo, senior regional director for Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.

There also will be a relaxed or sensory-friendly performance at 2 p.m. Sunday to accommodate patrons' sensory sensitivity with reduced sound and lighting levels, and for families with young children who would like a shorter, hourlong performance at their first live theater performance.

Local UW system graduates

At the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, the following students from Neenah earned degrees in December:

Caleb Feavel, Bachelor of Arts, Arts and Sciences

Lauren Hodge, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Public Health, Arts and Sciences

Students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Dec. 17, including these students from Neenah:

Emily Setton, College of Letters and Science, Doctor of Philosophy, Integrative Biology

Claire Tipton, School of Education, Master of Science-Curriculum and Instruction, Curriculum and Instruction

Emerald ash borer signs visible during winter

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages property owners to watch for woodpecker damage to their ash trees this winter. If damage is found, property owners should make plans to take action in the spring.

Woodpecker damage, often called "flecking," happens when birds peck away some of a tree's bark to access the larvae underneath. Flecking is a common early sign that an ash tree might be infested with emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive insect.

EAB is a common insect in the southern half of the state and woodpecker damage to ash trees is already widespread.

Landowners who spot woodpecker damage in their woodlot ash trees are encouraged to consult a DNR or consulting forester for management advice.

Property owners who detect an EAB infestation in its early stages can take steps to protect their high-value ash trees by treating them with insecticide between mid-April and mid-May. Insecticide treatments are seldom practical or economical for woodlot ash trees.



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Neenah News

Development director Jenn Harper shows the Easter items available for partnering organizations at the Jake's Network Hope Hub.

Jake's Network

FROM PAGE 1

care facility reusing disposable diapers due to a lack of supplies.

Originally named Jake's Diapers, the organization got its start sending reusable cloth diapers to babies in Peru. It's named after Bowers' first son, born shortly after she returned from the trip and whose secondhand cloth diapers were some of those that were originally sent overseas.

A study by the National Diaper Bank Network found that about 47% of U.S. households with young children can't afford diapers. Jake's cloth diapers are still sent out globally and also locally through its Eastern Wisconsin Diaper Bank that supplies diapers to 22 counties. The organization also ships cloth diaper kits directly to the homes of those in need.

In recent years the organization rebranded to Jake's Network and primarily provides resources throughout the state, offering cloth and disposable diapers, adult incontinence supplies, feminine hygiene products and daily living supplies.

Jake's Network doesn't receive any federal or state funding and has an annual budget of about \$800,000. The nonprofit has three full time employees and about 30 volunteers.

This year in Winnebago County, Jake's Network will supply diapers to 6,228 people, feminine hygiene products to 5,464 girls and women, and adult care essentials to another 1,080. That amounts to about \$450,000 in supplies locally.

The Hope Hub located in the Jake's Network warehouse in the Southpark Industrial Center is a shopping area where pallets of items are purchased at wholesale prices and then sold for a fraction of the original cost – about 20 cents on the dollar – to Jake's Network partners.

Multiple rooms contain shelves stocked with daily living supplies such as soap and personal care items, kitchen and household items, school and office supplies, appliances, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and home decor.

Harper shared a story about a teacher who came to the Hope Hub last year to ask about a local child who was excited to be invited to a birthday party but wasn't able to attend because his parents didn't have money to purchase a present. Harper told the teacher to pick out an item for the child to give as a gift.

"So they now have a cupboard full of games and random toys, wrapping paper



Neenah News

Development director Jenn Harper (right) speaks with volunteer Tina Rooyakker, who is packaging adult incontinence supplies to be given to Jake's Network partners.

and that kind of stuff so when they have an instance like that the kid is able to pick something out, wrap it and pick out one of the many birthday cards they have," she said. "They're able to have some of those things that really are your childhood."

The Hope Hub supplied more than a million items throughout Wisconsin last year, amounting to about \$900,000 in value. Of that, Jake's Network made about \$200,000, which is used to pay rent and utilities.

Organizations who want to become a partner with Jake's Network can fill out an application at jakesnoh.org. For residents, Jake's Network is always seeking individual and group volunteers for warehouse operations, fundraising, admin support and at its Hope Hub. Residents can also get involved by hosting a diaper or period product drive.

Harper said that all resources offered at Jake's are designed to support local communities.

"We're here to make the world a better place," she said.



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Neenah Joint School District photo

The Neenah High School Fishing Team took home the Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association (WIFA) title last week by scoring 554.75 points, edging out Appleton North, to lead the 59-team field.

Neenah High Fishing Team captures state title

Neenah News

Neenah High School's fishing team captured its second Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association state championship Feb. 25 and its first since 2018.

Neenah totaled 554.75 inches of fish to edge second-place Appleton North by 4.25 inches. A total of 59 Wisconsin high schools participated in a virtual format this year as ice conditions at the scheduled site near La Crosse were not capable of hosting all teams simultaneously.

Each school could pick a day over the past two weekends to compete at any state location. The 12-member teams could register 40 total fish with 10 crappies, 10 bluegills, 10 perch, five northern pikes and five largemouth or smallmouth bass. The teams had 12 hours to register the most cumulative inches among their 40 fish and

then submit photos through an app.

Final results were tallied after all of the teams had completed their competition. Neenah fished on Sunday – the final day of competition – and found out Monday evening it had recorded the highest total.

The Neenah team split into three groups, finding locations with at least 11 inches of ice on Lake Winnebago for perch, Lake Butte des Morts for pike and lakes in Vilas County for crappie, bass and bluegill.

Neenah was 2018 state champion and runner-up in 2017. Neenah caught the largest fish of this year's tournament with a 20.5-inch northern pike and had the highest total of bass caught with 97.5 inches.

There will be a public recognition ceremony for the team at 6:30 p.m. Sunday in the Neenah High School atrium.

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Third time proves charming for Neenah girls

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

The last two seasons, the Neenah High School girls basketball team has seen its season come to an end in a WIAA Division 1 sectional final.

The first two times the Rockets faced fellow Fox Valley Association member Hortonville, they were saddled with losses.

Last Saturday, inside a jam-packed Appleton East High School gym, Neenah put an end to both trends.

Allie Ziebell scored 31 points to lead four players in double figures and the Rockets seized control of the game on a 21-7 run to end the first half as Neenah upended top-seeded Hortonville, 82-72, to earn its first trip to the WIAA State Tournament since 2009.

“This group deserves it all. They are my best friends and I love this group,” an emotional Ziebell said in the moments after the win. “Everybody played a huge role. Everyone rebounded like crazy and played defense and that’s why we were in the game.”

Neenah head coach Andy Braunel said there weren’t any specific schematic changes to the Rockets’ approach after losing to the Polar Bears by two points in January and by 14 on February 9 – the first of back-to-back losses to close the regular season.

Instead it was more an attitude adjustment that the Rockets brought to the court.

“We kind of limped to the end of the regular season and that was a gut-check for us. There were some heart-to-heart conversations with every girl on the team,” Braunel said. “Coming in I felt pretty good about our defensive intensity being where it needed to be to be able to get this result. We made a few changes on offense that we sort of ran organically last time and liked what we saw so we made that a new wrinkle in the offense.”

Rowan Klesmit, who added 23 points in



Neenah News

Neenah senior Allie Ziebell drives to the basket between three Hortonville defenders in last Saturday’s Division 1 sectional final at Appleton East. Ziebell finished with 31 points to lead four players in double figures in the Rockets’ victory.

the win chipped in another thought.

“I just think it shows how bad we wanted it,” said Klesmit, who joins older brothers Max and Cal as state basketball qualifiers. “We came out today ready to win.”

Both teams took turns leading in the opening half as both team’s standouts – Neenah’s Ziebell and Hortonville’s Rainey Welson – had hot hands from the outset.

But with about six-and-a-half minutes to play in the first half and the Rockets trailing 20-19, Neenah got things rolling and it was a 3-pointer by Klesmit – who opened the game by drilling a shot from behind the arc – that ignited the outburst.

“It helps a lot when I can make my first shot,” Klesmit said. “It shows the ball can go in. It makes me confident, and I just have to keep shooting.”

Ellie Buss and Abbie Fischer followed with 3-pointers as the Rockets rattled off

nine straight points to take a 28-20 lead. Then, after a Hortonville basket, Neenah scored seven straight points, capped by a Fischer basket for a 35-22 lead.

Fischer, who came in averaging less than four points per game, scored 10 of her 12 points in the first half to give the Rockets a boost.

“We know Abbie can do that. We have been on her so much. We tell her that she can’t just shoot twice a game,” Braunel said. “We need that. You know they are going to score so you have to maximize every possession on offense.”

Fischer, who knocked down two 3-pointers early in the half, said that making her first shot gave her the confidence.

“If I make the first one, I feel like I can just keep shooting and they will go in,” said Fischer, who finished the game with gauze stuffed up a nostril after she was drilled in the nose. “We talked in the locker room beforehand that it is a team game and we can’t always be relying on Allie. A bunch of us have to step up and take those shots and we did that today.”

In fact, Ziebell contributed only the final two points in the lead-building run that pushed the Rockets in front 40-27 at halftime.

Yet, in the second half, with Hortonville clawing to get back into the game, it was Ziebell who led the way with 21 of her 31 points, including a stretch of 10 straight points.

“I think it was a personal thing that I



Neenah News

Rowan Klesmit drives the baseline against a Hortonville defender last Saturday.

wanted to bring this group because I felt we fell a little bit short last year,” Ziebell said. “The seniors in this group, we really wanted to do it for them.”

The Rockets led by as many as 20 points in the second half but saw the Polar Bears pull to within 76-70 with just less than two minutes to play.

SEE **Neenah girls** ON PAGE 14

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State hoops

FROM PAGE 1

ed,” Braunel said. “(This year) I busted tail (Sunday) to get everything done, get as many as those details taken care of, so when we came in here (Monday) everything’s done. Now it’s just game planning, practice planning and getting ready for Friday.”

The opponent that the Rockets will be preparing for is definitely a good one.

The Orioles, the co-champions of the North Shore Conference, enter the state tournament with a 26-2 record after beating Brookfield East, 70-55, in last Saturday’s sectional final. Hartford enters the game on a 16-game winning streak, a run that includes downing FVA member Kimberly in the sectional semifinal.

The Orioles are led by Makena Christian, who averages more than 25 points per game, while Rita Kuepper and Bella Klages also average in double figures. Those three, along with Alexis Sheista, have combined for 173 3-pointers this season.

“They have a lot of really good shooters,” said senior Amaya Jones. “We do have to play like we did against Hortonville and Hudson these past two games. Just keep that high intensity and keep believing in each other and just keep our heads up.”

Braunel said that as good as the supporting cast is, it’s Christian who makes the Orioles click.

“(Christian) is a stud. She’s a great inside, outside player, very athletic and has super deep range,” Braunel said. “Everything starts with her and that’s going to be a tough matchup for us. We have to take care of her.”

One thing working in the Rockets’ favor is that they just played a very similar oppo-

State tourney

WIAA Division 1 State Semifinals

at Resch Center, Green Bay

Friday’s games

Arrowhead (25-3) vs. Franklin (20-8), 6:35 p.m.

Hartford (26-2) vs. Neenah (23-5), approx. 8:15 p.m.

ment in Hortonville in the sectional final.

The Polar Bears feature an elite player in Rainey Welson and surround her with a bevy of shooters and scorers that made Hortonville a high-powered offense, so Neenah has an idea of what they need to do on the defensive side.

“I think we are more prepared. We know what our rotations in transition have to be and what we have to look out for,” senior Allie Ziebell said. “We need to close out on shooters and get in those gaps. Our defensive rotations, transition defense has to be sharp and crashing the glass is huge.”

Ziebell and Dietrich spearheaded the coverage on Welson during the sectional final and could likely share the assignment on Christian again.

“Our defense is what gets us going. Especially when our offense isn’t knocking down shots,” Dietrich said. “When we can get stops and stuff, it really fuels our offense.”

Ziebell leads the Rocket offense scoring nearly 27 points per game, while sophomores Rowan Klesmit (15.1) and Ellie Buss (10.6) also average in double figures.

All three will likely need to be clicking on Friday night for the Rockets to get rolling, but they could also be sporting a couple of X factors.



Neenah News

Allie Ziebell cuts down the net following last Saturday’s sectional final win over Hortonville.

Senior Abbie Fischer is coming off a career-high 12-point effort in the win over Hortonville and has reached double figures in two of her last three games.

Jones also provides an inside presence that could be an advantage for Neenah, a weapon the Rockets were missing last year when they fell one win short of making the state tournament last season.

“Last year was really rough for me suffering my ACL injury and knowing we still had all of postseason to go,” Jones said. “Now being able to play and help my team reach the state tournament, I’m really, really happy about it.”

Prior to making it to the state tournament in 2009 – when the Rockets lost to eventual champion Milwaukee Vincent in the quarterfinals – Neenah’s last trip to the

state tournament was in 1981 when the team posted its last state tournament win.

The only state title to the Rockets’ credit came in 1978 but this year’s group wasn’t ready to talk about ending that drought yet.

“You can’t really think about Saturday before you take care of Friday. We just have to focus on Friday first,” Dietrich said. “It’s all about our energy and intensity and playing for each other. If we’re in it for each other then everything else will fall into place.”

Braunel also believes the Rockets’ approach to facing Hartford will be key and he hopes to keep things simple and straightforward.

“Just stay loose. Have fun,” Braunel said. “Keep being us and keep doing what we do.”



Neenah Joint School District photo

Bowling finalist

Neenah High School senior Zach Olson placed second in the boys singles competition at the Wisconsin High School Bowling Club state championships last weekend in Ashwaubenon. He was Neenah’s lone representative among the 107 competitors. After advancing to Saturday’s second round, where he bowled a 690 series that tied for best among the 27 second-round competitors, he was seeded second among the five finalists. Olson defeated fifth-seeded Dalton Zeman of Sheboygan Lutheran 219-217 in the semifinals to reach the championship match where he lost to Dayden Koback of Stevens Point, 209-184.



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Streaking Rockets aim to keep on winning

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Ten games into the 2023-24 boys basketball season, Neenah found itself riding a three-game losing streak and with a 4-6 record – certainly not what the program that had two straight WIAA State Tournament trips was used to.

Since those first 10 games, though, the Rockets have been nearly perfect.

Neenah had won 11 straight games and 15 of their last 16, heading into Thursday's WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal against Stevens Point. If the Rockets were able to extend their win streak, they would face either Marshfield or Kaukauna in a sectional final slated to be held at Stevens Point on Saturday night.

"I think a big part of it is coming together as a team. Our chemistry was there at the beginning of the season, but I feel like we just got that much closer and started to know each other more," senior Brady Corso said. "We just took it one day at a time and focused on one team and being better than them on that night."



Neenah News
The Rockets' Brady Corso draws contact as he goes up for a layup against Eau Claire North last week.

One of the big factors in the Rockets' winning streak was the return of Luke Jung.

The junior forward is averaging about nine points per game since his return, but it's on the other end of the court where Jung has had the biggest impact.

"Getting Luke Jung back was big," head coach Lee Rabas said. "He helps us have more of a defensive mentality and he takes care of some of the intangible things we were missing early in the year."

Although senior-laden, the Rockets roster was also lacking of varsity experience at a lot of spots.

Corso was the only player who saw a wealth of varsity minutes a year ago, while Jung and Charlie Wunderlich were the only other two that saw regular court time a season ago.

"I feel like a big part of it was getting some experience under their belt for the young guys," Corso said. "The speed of varsity basketball is a whole different game to get used to. I do feel like getting experience on the court was a huge part and I feel like all the guys handled it to perfection."

Neenah's win streak helped them climb to third place in the final Fox Valley Association standings, while the last two notches on the belt came in the WIAA Tournament.

Wunderlich went 12-of-13 from the floor and finished with 24 points, while Corso added 19 in an 82-39 dismantling of Eau Claire North in a regional semifinal last week. A total of 12 players scored in that win for the Rockets.

Neenah followed that up with a 64-58 victory over Hortonville on Saturday to claim the Division 1 regional title. Corso finished with 30 points to lead the Rockets, while Wunderlich had 17 and Jung finished with 15.

"It's just been our effort. Every night we have been coming out with a lot more effort and have been working hard every day. That's helped us in the long run," Wunderlich said. "You go out every night and it's



Neenah News

The return of Luke Jung (5) to the Neenah lineup has helped spark the Rockets' 11-game winning streak.

like, let's keep this going. It does mean you go out there with a target on your back and teams will be looking to break the hot streak. But that's what we like. We like to play with that target."

Now, the Rockets are closing in on familiar territory.

Neenah entered Thursday 4-0 in its four

sectional-level games and were hoping to keep things rolling.

"It does feel like last year. We're ready to make a run again," Wunderlich said. "We just have to keep showing up every night, working hard and sharing the ball. Any one of these games could be our last so we just want to give it our all."

Neenah girls

FROM PAGE 12

Neenah, however, tightened up its defense and sealed the win at the free-line as Klesmit, Buss and Amaya Jones combined to hit 6-of-8 free throws in the final 1:29.

Hortonville scored the final basket of the game, but Ziebell was able to break their defensive pressure on the final possession and dribbled out the final 20 seconds before the final horn sounded the Rockets' trip to state.

"I accomplished some of my goals in high school but the thing that was missing was the state accomplishment," Ziebell said. "So to do it with these girls is a really special thing."

Fischer pointed out that the group of eight seniors on the roster have had state success before – just prior to having a chance to play at the WIAA State Tournament.

"We have eight seniors and we won state in seventh grade so to be going back to state feels awesome and it is just amazing," Fischer said. "It's a dream come true."

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Photo by David Hall

Neenah High School's Liam Rennert competes at the inaugural Powerlifting America WHSPA state championships last weekend at the Fox Cities Convention Center, where he took home a state title.

Powerlifting team brings home state titles

Neenah News

Neenah High School's powerlifting teams placed in the top three in all six divisions and captured two state titles at the Wisconsin High School Powerlifting Association state meet last weekend in Appleton.

The inaugural Powerlifting America WHSPA state championships drew more than 130 participants, out of which the Rockets had seven individual state champions.

The girls' equipped and combined equipped teams both won state titles, giving Neenah 25 state titles all-time in powerlifting. The boys' equipped, girls' raw and combined raw teams were runner-up, while the boys' raw team placed third.

Five girls captured state titles in their

divisions: Rylee Ehlke (97-row), Bri Anderson (114-equipped), Ava Meyer (165-equipped), Carson Harwood (181-row) and Myah Wenzel (198-row).

Evan Cardoza (123-equipped) and Liam Rennert (123-row) took home boys' state titles. Meyer, Anderson and Cardoza also won best lifter awards.

Maddy Janichuk (148-row) and Aubrie Vanevenhoven (132-row) were runner-up in their divisions, while Emma Donahue (123-row) and Carly Keesler (148-row) each recorded third-place finishes. Wenzel, Ehlke and Shane Jacoy each registered state record deadlifts in their divisions.

The Rockets also had several lifters qualify for the USA Powerlifting High School Nationals April 4-7 in Baton Rouge, La.

Prep sports roundup

WIAA Basketball

Zephyr teams ousted

Both the St. Mary Catholic girls and boys basketball teams were ousted from the WIAA Tournament in games last week.

The girls dropped a 71-53 decision to No. 1 ranked Laconia in a Division 4 sectional semifinal at Hortonville.

St. Mary Catholic trimmed a 17-point halftime deficit to single digits in the second half but couldn't overtake the powerhouse Spartans. The Zephyrs played nearly even in the second half with Laconia.

Lauren Ripley finished with 13 points to lead the Zephyrs, while Nolie Anderson added 12. Emily Vogel also reached double figures with 10 points, while Audrey Norville totaled nine points and nine rebounds.

The Zephyrs finished 25-2 this season and are 76-6 over the past three seasons.

The St. Mary Catholic boys came up short against Weyauwega-Fremont in a WIAA Division 4 regional semifinal, 85-62, despite outscoring the Warhawks 42-38 in the second half.

Fisher Mackenzie scored 27 points to lead the Zephyrs, while Preston Fields added 15 and Mason Uhlenbrauck added 10.

Registration now open for baseball, softball, and t-ball. Registration ends March 25th. REGISTER AT SUBURBANATHLETICS.COM



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St. Patrick's Day Exclusive!

"Leprechaun Lips" Tells All!

NEWS FLASH! We found a leprechaun to answer questions about these mysterious little people! He wouldn't really show himself to us. Mostly what we saw during the interview were his lips, oversized sunglasses and his hat.

Q: How do leprechauns get all that gold?

A: We make shoes for the fairies. Silly fairies wear out their shoes quickly because they dance all night. We are always busy making new shoes for them. They pay us with gold. Lots of gold!



Q: How big are leprechauns?

A: Wee folk are we. Three feet tall at most.

Can you read inches of the newspaper columns that are equal to 3 feet?

How many shamrocks can you find on this page?

Standards Link: Measurement: Use standard measurement. Reading Comprehension: Read grade-level appropriate materials.

Q: How do you catch a leprechaun?

A: It isn't easy. If you should see a leprechaun, get as close as you can without him seeing you.

Follow the path to the leprechaun's pot of gold.

Quickly take him in your grasp and don't take your eyes off of him. Then ask where his pot of gold is hidden.

He will try to talk you into looking away. If you do look the other way, he will be gone when you look back.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade appropriate words correctly in context.



Extra! Extra!

What's green? Look through the newspaper for words and pictures of things that can be green. List them here.

Bonus Challenge: Can you list them in ABC order?

Standards Link: Spelling: Put words in alphabetical order.

Q: Why do leprechauns play tricks on people?

A: We play tricks on people who don't believe in us. We especially like to bother teachers who try to tell children that we don't exist.

Leprechaun Lips Tricky Story

Ask your teacher or a friend for verbs, nouns and adjectives. Use these words to fill in the blanks of this story.

One fine morning, I went for a walk in the woods. I tripped on a _____ NOUN. When I looked down, I saw a _____ ADJECTIVE little _____ NOUN with a green _____ NOUN.

"_____ GREETING," he said. "My name is _____ NOUN. I'm a leprechaun. If you want my _____ NOUN of _____ NOUN, you'll have to _____ VERB me first!"

I tried to _____ VERB him, but he was too _____ ADJECTIVE for me.

He just laughed and called out to me, "_____ ADJECTIVE St. Patrick's Day!"

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify and use nouns, verbs and adjectives in writing.

St. Paddy's Patterns

Which leprechaun comes next in each row? Circle it.



Standards Link: Writing Applications: Relate ideas of an experience.

Double Double Word Search

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

- LAUGHED
- LOOKING
- LIPS
- GOLD
- PAY
- SHOE
- DANCE
- GREEN
- GRASP
- WOODS
- EYES
- EASY
- GONE
- ASK

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

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

Kid Scoop Together: Lookalike Leprechauns

Each leprechaun below has a twin. Draw a line between each twin but remember: Leprechauns can be VERY tricky! Look closely.



Standards Link: Research: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

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