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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12

Menasha Corp. legacy about values

Neenah company marks 175th year in business

By MaryBeth Matzek News contributor

Innovation lies at the heart of the Menasha Corp.

Founded a year after Wisconsin became a state, the Menasha Corp. transformed from making wooden pails to state-of-theart digital printing and providing customers with reusable packaging products.

Founded in 1849 and purchased by Elisha P. Smith in 1852, Menasha Corp. is on its seventh generation of family ownership, surviving the Civil War, the Great Depression, two World Wars, major fires including one that destroyed its corporate headquarters, a few near bankruptcies, major market shifts and a global pandemic.

"If you've been in business for 175 years, you are doing something right," said chief executive and president Chris Drees. He added it's the third oldest business in Wisconsin.

In February, Menasha Corp. was named the Manufacturer of the Year in the Mega Category.

"It was great to receive that in our 175th year of operation," Drees said.

Menasha Corp. is split into two divisions: Menasha Packaging and Orbis. The Neenah-based company employs 8,000 people at its locations throughout the United States and Canada.

Menasha Packaging is the nation's largest independent provider of retail-focused corrugated packaging and display solu-

SEE Menasha Corp. ON PAGE 6

Lakeview Elementary School fourth-graders took part in Arbor Day activities in Conservancy Park last Friday, which included planting trees.

Cultivating green thumbs

Arbor Day plantings key on environment

Lakeview Elementary students participated in Arbor Day events last Friday in both the city and town of Neenah, which included planting trees and learning about the environment.

In the town, fourth-graders cycled through four stations at Conservancy Park, learning about the pond, prairie, woodland and trees. The interactive sessions included facts about trees and their daily use including for cellulose, used in toothpaste and shampoo to make it thicker.

The event was spearheaded by Parks and Trails Committee chair Tom Jankowski. Volunteer educators at the stations included Jankowski's wife, Carri, committee member Tony Stanton, DNR forest health specialist Bill McNee and McMahon Engineers senior ecologist Stuart Boerst.

Boerst, who took part in designing the park, said the land had been a strawberry farm. Its prairie has more than 100 species of grasses and wildflowers that bloom from mid-May through November. The area is subject to a prescribed burn by the Town of Neenah Fire Department annually.

Boerst said the oak trees in Conservancy Park are a keystone species that will grow

SEE Arbor plantings ON PAGE 7

Native American artifacts unearthed along city lakeshore

Remains will shed light on ancient cultures By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS



Seth Schneider, principal investigator with University of Wisconsin Cultural Restretch that triggered the archaeological component of the project.

In a half-mile area, researchers uncovered an extensive village beneath the street, estimated to have between 500-1,000 people during each given time period. The artifacts indicate occupation from 250 BC to AD 1650, representing the early, middle and late Woodland and Oneota occupations. Schneider said the location was previously used for agriculture and had a road going through it. When the city constructed a new road on Lakeshore Avenue, they built on top of it.

"So what they did is basically just put down a layer of gravel, and then put the asphalt on top of it and then they just kept building up from there," he said. "So literally, this just encapsulated all the cultural materials underneath the roadbed. So they were undisturbed when we came through and did our investigations." He added that in city landscapes, it's unusual to have cultural deposits preserved in such a way.

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

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NSIDE

Senior Standout Neenah High's **Dietrich profiled** Page 8

Postal thefts

One sentenced, another sought in mailbox cases Page 4

Ethics cases

State judicial panel reviews complaints

More than 1,000 Native American cultural features - arrowheads, pottery pieces, stone tools and fishing lures carved out of bone - were found by archaeologists along the western shore of Lake Winnebago during the Lakeshore Avenue trail extension project.

Archaeologists also unearthed an ancient Native American burial site, shedding light



source Management, gave a presentation last week on the findings excavated between August and November

That year the city began preparing for road work and trail construc-

tion in Kimberly Point Park along Lakeshore to Wisconsin Avenue, a one-acre

"Usually they've been disturbed pretty significantly," he said. "So this was a very

SEE Lakeshore dig on Page 7



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Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407

City attorney charged with sexual assault

NEENAH NEWS

Neenah city attorney David Rashid was charged in Winnebago County this week with sexually assaulting his ex-wife while they were married.

Rashid, 61, is facing two felony counts of third-degree sexual assault and a misdemeanor count of fourth-degree sexual assault, all with domestic abuse assessments.

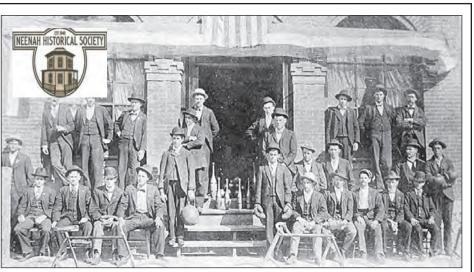
According to the criminal complaint, the investigation began in August after the Neenah police chief and other local officials received an anonymous email accusing Rashid of abusing his ex-wife, who is not named in the complaint but referred to as Victim 1.

Documents say the case was referred to

the Appleton Police Department, who interviewed the victim. The victim said she was unaware of who sent the email and did not consent to her personal information being shared. She initially refused to disclose information.

About a month later the victim contacted the investigator and accused Rashid of sexually assaulting her during incidents in 2017, 2020 and 2022. The couple were married in 2016 and the victim filed for divorce in July, which was finalized in January.

During one incident, documents say the victim told Rashid "I am not consenting to this" and he allegedly responded by stating he doesn't need consent because



Neenah Historical Society photo

Doty Island club

The Doty Island Athletic Club was founded in 1898 with 38 members. Located on Commercial Street, the club promoted physical development in addition to social events. Dances, excursions, picnics, a basketball team and even an annual ball featuring an orchestra were put on by the club.



she gave consent on their wedding date.

Neenah Mayor Jane Lang issued a press release Wednesday that the city was made aware of the criminal complaint and Rashid has been placed on administrative leave pending a full review of the facts of the case.

Rashid began his employment with the city in August 2022, replacing Adam Westbrook, who resigned. Westbrook was recently charged in federal court with distribution of child pornography.

Rashid was a Winnebago County assistant district attorney when he was hired as Neenah's attorney. His criminal case has been assigned to a special prosecutor in Portage County.

Stamp Out Hunger effort set to deliver

Neenah News

Local mail carriers are preparing for the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive May 11 in a national effort to restock area food banks.

Conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), it is the largest one-day food drive in the country. Since 1991, mail carriers have been picking up and delivering nonperishable food items that residents place by their mailboxes.

Neenah mail carrier and NALC Branch 700 union president Dustin Clark said the Neenah Post Office serves about 30,000 customers.

Stamp Out Hunger and the Boy Scouts drive in March make up significant sources for food banks each year. Among the many local volunteer groups that help are the United Way, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, National Guard units, veterans groups, Boy/Girl Scouts, Rotary clubs and AARP groups.

Clark, said co-workers take a personal interest in the food collection that serves customers they see every day.

The NALC's national effort to help fight hunger in America started with a pilot drive in 10 cities in 1991 that immediately expanded. In 2010, the drive surpassed the 1 billion pound mark in food collected over its history.

Contact a local letter carrier representative, email fooddrivesocial@nacl.org or Stamp Out Hunger on social media for more information.

Edward **Jones**

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Corrections

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About the newspaper

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Friday, May 3

Jeff Pockat, Gaelic harpist, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday night jazz, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing

Saturday, May 4

Beaming's Day at the Derby, 4 p.m., 2692 County GG

Wednesday, May 8

Touch-A-Truck, 10 a.m., Memorial Park

Saturday, May 11

Junk in the Trunk rummage sale, 8 a.m., Neenah Pool parking lot

Vintage Show Choir finale, 7:30 p.m., Pickard Auditorium, 1275 Tullar Road

Monday, May 13

Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing, 111 S. Commercial St.

Tuesday, May 14

Neenah High School Choir concert, 7:30 p.m., NHS Performing Arts Center

Thursday, May 16

Neighborhood rummage sale, 8 a.m., Castle Oak Drive, Neenah

Touch of Class jazz/choir concert, 7:30 p.m., NHS Performing Arts Center

Friday, May 17

Campfire with Cops, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

Saturday, May 18

Plant and Garden Sale, 9 a.m., Neenah Animal Shelter

Neenah Street Party, 2 p.m., 134 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Sunday, May 19

Sunday Concert Series: The Chalk Down Trio, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, May 25

Neenah Menasha Emergency Society Kitchen Tour, 10 a.m., five locations

Center Stage cites two St. Mary students

Neenah News

Two St. Mary Catholic High School students have been recognized for their performances in the school's spring production of "Shrek, the Musical."

Jonah DeWitt received a nod in the Outstanding Performance in a Lead Role category from the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center's Center Stage High School Musical Theater Program for portraying Shrek.

Nominated for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role is sophomore Mary McCurdy for her portrayal of

Gingy/Sugar Plum Fairy.

DeWitt and McCurdy, along with freshman Gibson Rause, will have the opportunity to perform May 18 at the Center Stage showcase at the PAC. DeWitt will also have the chance to represent northeast Wisconsin at the Jimmy Awards competition in New York City.

The program began in 2016 as an educational initiative to celebrate high school students' outstanding achievements in theater arts and help build confidence and collaboration skills among northeast Wisconsin high school students.

County II interstate ramp to close until September

Neenah News

The northbound Interstate 41 on-ramp from County II will be closed beginning at 6 a.m. Monday until mid-September to replace the bridge deck over Green Bay Road.

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) Northeast Region said traffic impacts from the closure, which is part of the I-41 Rehabilitation Project, include: • Detour: County II west to County CB, follow County CB north to U.S. 10 and take U.S. 10 east to northbound I-41.

• Green Bay Road under I-41 will be closed from just north of Ehlers Road to American Drive.

• Northbound I-41 will be reduced full time from three lanes to two in the vicinity of Green Bay Road.

Business news roundup

Kundinger, a company specializing in fluid power, automation and process control solutions to industries, has promoted Stacey Burns to purchasing team leader at its Neenah location and added team members John Blahnik, Herman Mohr and Kenneth Root. Burns, who has been part of the Kundinger team for more than a decade and previously served as a purchasing assistant, has been promoted to the role of purchasing team leader. Blahnik will serve as a customer service representative where he will work with customers on service, order processing and problem-solving. Mohr will serve as a warehouse team leader. Root, with a background in manufacturing roles such as assembler, tester and extrusion work, will join Kundinger as a warehouse associate.

Plexus Corp. announced financial results for its fiscal second quarter ended March 30 with revenue of \$967 million, operating margin of 3% and diluted earnings per share of 58 cents. Fiscal

third-quarter revenue guidance was put at \$960 million to \$1 billion with diluted EPS of 80 to 95 cents. "For the fiscal second quarter, our team won 32 new manufacturing programs worth \$255 million in annualized revenue," stated Todd Kelsey, chief executive officer. "Capitalizing on the value created by our differentiated service offering and superior execution, our go-to-market organization is winning significant new outsourcing opportunities and capturing market share in support of sustaining our industry-leading revenue growth."

Di Renzo and Bomier announced that **John H. Healy** has joined the firm as a shareholder effective immediately. The 2014 University of Wisconsin Law School graduate brings experience and expertise in personal injury (plaintiff), worker's compensation (applicant), business and commercial law, employment law, administrative law, municipal law, and general civil litigation.

<image>

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This graphic shows the expanded flag memorial proposed for Shattuck Park.

Flag memorial sought for Shattuck Park

American Legion Post 33 is fundraising to install a military service flag memorial in downtown Shattuck Park to honor veterans.

The proposed memorial will include an additional five flags behind the existing three flags, and two granite donor recognition monuments. The flags will be lit and not lowered.

Shattuck currently has the U.S. flag, Wisconsin flag and a POW/MIA flag on display

with a granite monument in front with an inscription reading: "In commemoration of those who have or will pay the supreme sacrifice to help keep our democracy safe."

The memorial is estimated to cost just over \$139,000 and will be installed next year in partnership with the Veterans Association, the city and community.

Donations can be sent to American Legion Post 33, PO Box 632, Neenah, WI 54956.

Mail theft ring brings prison sentence, bench warrant

Neenah News

One of two Chicago men charged in a string of mail thefts across northeast Wisconsin was sentenced Monday and the other is wanted on a bench warrant.

Dionta Bratcher, 29, was sentenced in

Bratcher

Edwards

County Winnebago to 18 months initial confinement and two years of extended supervision for a felony count of theft of 10 to 29 pieces of mail. He will serve the sentence concurrently with a Brown County sentence in two cases amounting to a total of two years in prison and three years of ex-

and three years of extended supervision. He was also sentenced in Manitowoc County last year to six months in jail.

A Winnebago County judge issued a bench warrant in January for

Derrell Edwards, 29, after he failed to appear for a sentencing hearing on a felony count of theft of 10 to 29 pieces of mail. He was sentenced last year in Manitowoc County to 90 days in jail and in Brown County to a combined total of two years in jail in two separate cases, with Huber work release.

His Huber privileges were revoked in December after escaping from the elec-

tronic monitoring program.

Bratcher and Edwards were convicted of stealing incoming and outgoing checks from mailboxes, which they altered, duplicated and fraudulently cashed using various bank accounts throughout the United States.

The total amount of stolen checks was more than \$500,000.

The two men were arrested in Manitowoc County in February 2023 during a traffic stop that uncovered a significant amount of mail not addressed to them, including 61 checks written to businesses in Brown County with a total value of more than \$120,000.

The vehicle's license plate matched that of a vehicle photographed stealing mail from businesses in Little Chute, and was believed to be connected to 16 pieces of mail taken from eight businesses in Fox Crossing that were recovered from a dumpster in Little Chute.

Both men are also accused of targeting businesses in the industrial park in Greenville in late 2022 but have not been charged in Outagamie County.

The Outagamie County Sheriff's Office said mail thefts continue to be an ongoing challenge and encouraged businesses to take extra steps to avoid falling victim.

Suggestions include taking checks directly to USPS collection locations, signing up for informed delivery through USPS, requesting that mail not be delivered on weekends, installing a USPS approved lockable mailbox and installing surveillance systems to deter criminal activity.

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State judicial ethics panel rarely acts on complaints

Winnebago misconduct claims from 2023 pending

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

When an attorney put a "LaKeisha Haase for Judge" campaign sign on his land in Omro last year, newly re-elected Winnebago County Circuit Judge Scott Woldt allegedly threatened to retaliate for supporting Woldt's opponent, according to a complaint to the Wisconsin Judicial Ethics Commission (WJC).

2 bench in 2004 and subsequently elected to six-year terms in 2005, 2011, 2017 and

most recently defeating Haase to retain his seat in a contentious election in 2023.



It wasn't his first time being accused of misconduct. In 2021,

the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued him a seven-day unpaid suspension for six incidents of misconduct from 2009-2016. Last year's election was his first after being issued the sanction.

The WJC recently released its annual report detailing judicial misconduct investigation results, which may provide some insight into whether the commission found the newest allegations credible.

The report demonstrates that the majority of judges, justices and court commissioners accused of misconduct in Wisconsin rarely face serious repercussions.

Complaint process

Allegations of judicial misconduct are reviewed by the WJC panel, consisting of nine appointed members. It includes one judge from the Court of Appeals, a circuit court judge, two lawyers and five nonlawyer laypeople.

Complaints found to be within the WJC's jurisdiction and "not patently frivolous or unfounded" are evaluated to determine whether they will be referred for investigation. Allegations not meeting the criteria are dismissed.

Once WJC concludes an investigation, it may dismiss the matter with no action, dismiss with expression of concern or warning, or file a complaint with the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court uses civil procedure to evaluate judicial misconduct and issue a final decision. Sanctions include reprimand, censure, suspension and removal from office. A judicial misconduct suspension is uncommon, with only 15 judges suspended in the state in the past 45 years. Woldt is the only judge in Wisconsin suspended in the past three years.

displayed a gun to a visiting group of high school students.

The Supreme Court wrote that five of the incidents occurred in just under a year and showed an "aggravating pattern of misconduct" requiring an unpaid suspension "to impress upon Judge Woldt the seriousness of his misconduct and the need for him to change how he treats the jurors, lawyers, litigants, witnesses, victims and staff with whom he interacts."

Attorney complaints

Matthew Goldin has been a practicing attorney for 33 years and has an office in Oshkosh. He filed a formal request for investigation with the WJC last year, accusing Woldt of misconduct.

Goldin wrote that a week after Woldt was re-elected he was on the bench speaking to a group of students visiting his courtroom when he made comments "essentially scolding" the attorney for supporting Haase in the election.

The more serious incident took place two weeks later during a social event at an Oshkosh establishment and was witnessed by two other attorneys, including one who confirmed to media she was first accosted by Woldt before he accosted Goldin.

Goldin wrote that during the event Woldt pulled him over and said the attorney was "dead to him" for putting a Haase campaign sign on his property and threatened to use his judicial power to punish the attorney, his clients and practice "for some sort of perceived entitlement to loyalty" unless Goldin paid him \$28,000 for the contested election.

Campaign finance records show Woldt's

re-election committee dispersed \$27,218 in last year's spring election. Under Wisconsin law, a judicial candidate may not personally solicit or accept campaign contributions and judges are prohibited from accepting gifts, favors or loans from attorneys if they have come or are likely to come before the judge.

The code of judicial conduct also states that a judge, candidate for judicial office, or judge-elect "should not manifest bias or prejudice inappropriate to the judicial office. Every judge, candidate for judicial office, or judge-elect should always bear in mind the need for scrupulous adherence to the rules of fair play while engaged in a campaign for judicial office."

Judicial complaints are not released publicly until the commission has found probable cause to make a recommendation to the Supreme Court. The complaint against Woldt became a public record last April when it was filed as an exhibit in a motion to have him substituted in a case he was presiding over, where Goldin was representing the defendant.

The WJC in its yearly report wrote "the mere filing of a request for investigation does not entitle a complainant to the assignment of a different judicial official to hear a case." Woldt recused himself from the case one day after the misconduct complaint was filed.

A review of Winnebago County Circuit Court records indicate Woldt is no longer presiding over cases where Goldin is the attorney of record, with all Goldin's cases referred to other circuit court branches.

WJC 2023 annual report

Goldin's complaint was one of 664 ini-

tial inquiries WJC received last year, of which it evaluated 42 requests for investigation and authorized eight investigations - about 1% of the total inquiries received.

Of the 42 requests evaluated, about 76% were involving circuit court judges. The vast majority were submitted by litigants, with only seven attorney complaints reviewed.

Allegations included demeanor/injudicious temperament, partiality/bias/ prejudice, abuse of power, improper extra-judicial activity, improper political or campaign activity and misuse of prestige of judicial office, among others.

WJC concluded its eight investigations last year without filing any complaints with the Supreme Court. Two cases were dismissed with no action and six were dismissed with expression of concern or warning.

While it's uncertain whether the complaint against Woldt was one of those dismissed with concern or warning, his conduct matches some of the behavior that the commission wrote was exhibited by judicial officials who were the subjects of dismissal.

WJC dismissed, with concern or warning, complaints including improper courtroom demeanor, bias, improper campaign activity and improper political activity.

Over the past five years, about 1% of the 4,211 initial misconduct inquiries WJC received were authorized for investigations and two complaints were filed in the Supreme Court, amounting to half of a percent of the five-year inquiry total.

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Past misconduct

The Supreme Court sanctioned Woldt in 2021 for crude, sarcastic and undignified comments, intemperate remarks and twice displaying a handgun in the courtroom as a "prop."

Among the incidents: calling a 13-yearold sexual assault survivor a "so-called victim," while referring to her assailant as a "very smart man" with a low probability of re-offending, and chastising a domestic violence victim for requesting that her assailant be issued a fine and telling her not to contact police.

During a 2015 sentencing hearing for a developmentally disabled man, Woldt held up a handgun. The following year, he

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Menasha Corp.

from Page 1

tions that sell everything from cookies and crackers to dish soap and cold medicine for grocery stores, big box stores, drug stores and warehouse club stores in the United States and Canada. It works with many of the top 100 consumer good companies in the nation, including Nestle, Procter & Gamble, PepsiCo, Unilever, Kimberly-Clark and General Mills.

Orbis provides reusable packaging products throughout the supply chain. With its repurposed plastics, Orbis diverts nearly 1 million pounds of single-use plastic from the world's oceans. Its top customers include Toyota, Ford, Bimbo Bakeries USA, Coca-Cola and Amazon.

Drees said the company's success is tied directly to its values: meeting commitments; excellence in servicing its customers; neighborhood involvement and improvement; ability to see and embrace change to continually improve ourselves; sincerity and candor in everything they do; honesty, integrity and respect; and accountability to customers, employees, shareholders and suppliers.

From pails to printing

Menasha Corp. started as The Pail Factory in 1849, which Smith purchased in 1852. For the first few years, he was the business' only employee, operating the lathe himself and then delivering his barrels and buckets by horse-drawn wagon.

As business grew, Smith added employees and the company's name was changed to the Menasha Wooden Ware Company in 1872. Eventually, it became the largest woodenware manufacturer in the Midwest. Manufacturers began shifting to consumer-sized packaging made of pa-



Neenah-based Menasha Corp. marks its 175th anniversary.

perboard, glass and other materials in the early 1900s and in 1927, Menasha entered the corrugated box business. A few years later, it acquired a New Jersey-based company specializing in pressure-sensitive and heat-seal labels, creating new markets for the company.

In 1955, Menasha invested in the plastics sector by acquiring G.B. Lewis, a manufacturer of plastics. The company opened the only industry plant dedicated to making plastic pallets in 1973.

Menasha moved its corporate headquarters to Neenah just off U.S. 41 in 1967.

Through acquisitions in the early 2000s, Menasha entered the food market with folding cartons for in-store bakeries and delis and modular display cartons used in the confectionery industry.

During the 2010s, multiple acquisitions took Menasha into new sectors and markets, including contract packaging fulfillment and promotional print services. It also purchased a company in Ontario as the company entered the Canadian market.

In 2022, Menasha launched the Menasha Omnihub Network to help brands connect their omnichannel experience with seamless, multichannel execution for stores and online from one facility so its clients can meet its customers where they are.

Community giving

Smith wanted to give back to the community that allowed his business to succeed and donated a 25-acre parcel to create Smith Park in 1897 on Doty Island and also donated funds to build Menasha's library, the Elisha D. Smith Public Library, which celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2021.

His giving spirit reverberates in the company today, which has its own foundation – Menasha Corporation Foundation. The company donates at least \$300,000 each year to the foundation.

The foundation makes grants in four areas: basic needs for safe living, food and health care; education; arts and cultural activities; and environmental sustainability. The company also encourages its employees to volunteer and also makes matching donations to nonprofits that its employees support.

"We support charitable organizations in every community we do business in. It's something that is very important to us," Drees said.

The Smith family remains at the heart of Menasha Corp. – Elisha's descendants remain majority owners and involved with the company. Earlier this year, Michael K. Waite, married to Julia Shepard Waite, a fifth-generation descendant of Elisha, was named board chairman.

Looking forward

Menasha is currently investing in updating equipment for both Menasha Packaging and Orbis. At Menasha Packaging, new digital die-cutting machines and digital printers are being installed while Orbis' injectable molding equipment is being updated.

"Innovation is essential for us and we are investing in exciting innovations," Drees said. "We are fortunate to have excellent shareholders who believe in what we're doing and willing to invest in us."

The company is already using AI in several areas, including crowdsourcing design information, and continues to look for other ways to use the technology, Drees said.

"We continue to pay attention to the latest technology and trends to make sure we stay on the cutting edge of what is out there," he said.

Menasha Corp.'s people-first culture can be traced back to founder Smith, who was interested in getting to know his employees and often had multiple generations of the same family employed.

"We have great people at Menasha and we keep the focus on them," Drees said. "People make the company. For Menasha to be successful, our employees need to be successful."

Besides taking care of its employees, Menasha is also committed to taking care of the world around them through its sustainability initiatives. This year, Menasha Packaging hopes to produce 99% recyclable materials.

"We're relentless when it comes to delivering sustainable solutions that embody reuse, recyclability and waste reduction," Drees said.

Menasha Packaging and Orbis have committed to reducing its water use by 10%, landfill waste by 10% and total emissions by 10% by 2030 as part of its 30 by 30 goal initiative.

"We drive sustainability every day in what we do," Drees said. "It's an essential part of our business. Sustainable initiatives will help us be here for the next 175 years."



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Lakeshore dig

from Page 1

good opportunity to learn about pre-contact Native American village sites along Lake Winnebago in this area."

Archaeologists documented, photographed, cleaned and cleared cultural features in areas along the site. The artifacts, notes and documentation from the archaeological recovery efforts are curated at the Oshkosh Public Museum.

From the north end of the project area to Wheeler Street, seven potential housing structures were identified. A report on the findings notes there are likely additional structures at the site, especially near the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum and at the south end by Wisconsin Avenue.

Hearths, fire-cracked rock and limestone platforms used for roasting and boiling water were among the deposits. Kernels, corn cobs and husks were preserved between rocks in storage refuse pits. An antler tine from a deer that may have been used for digging, a serrated clam shell that was possibly a comb, bone pendants, bone and copper awls and projectile points were among the items uncovered.

At one point during the mitigation process human remains were encountered and a burial was identified, which triggered Wisconsin's burial sites law.

Native American ancestral remains of 28 people including adults, young adults, juveniles and young children were found in 23 locations. The remains of 17 people were interred in place and the others were carefully disinterred and reinterred between Lakeshore Avenue and Lake Winnebago.

Archaeologists previously uncovered other Native American artifacts and remains along Lake Winnebago including in Davis Point, Winnebago Rapids, the site of Neenah Waterworks and on the southern shore of Doty Island. A similar archaeological excavation is currently underway in Oshkosh after artifacts were discovered while constructing Pratt Trail in Menominee Park.

For centuries, indigenous burial sites



Archaeologists excavated Native American artifacts and discovered a burial site along the shore of Lake Winnebago during construction of the Lakeshore Avenue trail.

have been subject to looting, desecration and destruction. Under state law, the designation of Lakeshore Avenue as a burial site prohibits metal detector use and digging. The city also enacted an ordinance prohibiting the use of metal detectors at Kimberly Point Park or along Lakeshore Avenue, preserving and protecting the sacred site.

A report noted Wisconsin archaeologists have long recognized the difficulty of connecting cultures to known Native American nations and tribes. The interments are "almost certainly" related to the original inhabitants of Wisconsin, according to the report. The area falls within the territory known historically as Ho-Chunk, but a relationship to the Menominee could not be discounted.

Historically, the area looked quite different than it does today. Schneider said before European contact was made and dams put





in, Lake Winnebago was 2 to 3 feet higher. He said it would be a wild rice patch as far as the eye could see, with an open channel in the middle.

Schneider said that given the previous investigations of the Kimberly Point peninsula, the entire stretch from both sides of Lake Winnebago to the Fox River shoreline may be one large pre-contact site, meaning it was inhabited by Native Americans in the time before indigenous people had contact with an outside culture.

Arbor plantings

from Page 1

to have a 60-foot span with roots as wide as the crown and support 600 species of caterpillars, moths and butterflies, which serve as food for birds.

McNee said that up until two years ago the park supported ash trees but due to the invasive emerald ash borer, many were removed. He told the students that Arbor Day is intended to celebrate trees and their benefits.

The students donated about 40 trees that will go into parks in the Town of Neenah and another 40 trees were sent home with students. Each class planted one tree during the event.

In the city, Lakeview third-graders read poems and took part in planting a bur oak tree in Kimberly Point Park, with superintendent of parks Trevor Fink, Mayor Jane Lang and McNee participating.

The Parks & Recreation Commission wrote on social media that the planting was of special significance as it was in honor of Lee Hillstrom who has been a member of the commission for 20 years.



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Rockets' Dietrich aims for third state trip this school year



Neenah High School senior Rachel Dietrich has already competed at the state cross country meet and state basketball tournament this school year and now looks to make a return trip to the state track and field meet.



By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

The dream for high school athletes is to finish their seasons at the state-level of competition.

To finish a season – or for seniors, their high school careers – competing against the best the state has to offer in that given sport is something pretty special.

Neenah's Rachel Dietrich hopes that's the case for all three seasons this year.

After having already competed at the state cross country meet on a Rocket team that took second and being a starter on the state runner-up girls basketball team, Dietrich hopes to complete the trifecta later this month and return to the state track and field meet in La Crosse.

"I wasn't really thinking about it before the year but it's a crazy feeling," Dietrich said. "For both cross country and basketball, it is such a great team atmosphere and the same with track. We're a team and we push each other every day and it's great to see results like that."

Dietrich ran on the Rockets' state-qualifying 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relay teams last season and is part of strong foursomes in those events this year.

She is also looking to qualify in the 800 meters, an event that she won a regional title in last year but was disqualified at the sectional race.

"Hopefully getting to state in all of our relays and getting to state in the open 800 as well. Winning conference, that would be cool as well," Dietrich said. "I wouldn't say I feel any pressure this year. I think I am more confident going into this year that our relays can get back there and do well this year."

If she is able to advance to the state meet, it will only be her second time competing in La Crosse. She didn't qualify as a fresh-

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Senior Standout



man or a sophomore because she wasn't even running track in those years.

Dietrich opted to play soccer her first two years of high school before making the switch to track and field.

"I just thought it would be fun and I thought I had some potential to do well in track. I like running and I wanted to try it out," Dietrich said. "I feel like there was always people making jokes about coming to do track, but it was more (my decision). I wanted to try something new."

Upon her arrival, it didn't take long to find her a race she liked either.

"The 800 just seemed like a good distance for me and ever since I tried it it's been a good race for me," Dietrich said. "The 800 is fun. I like it. It's two quick laps so it's like a sprint and I like sprinting. It's the perfect distance. It's not too long, not too short."

It didn't take Dietrich long to adjust to feel comfortable running and was surprised by the success that followed.

She didn't start the season expecting to make it to the state meet but certainly contributed to both relay teams that advanced.

"I was pretty shocked. It went better than I thought it would," Dietrich said. "But we put together some good relays and I started to think we might make it out of sectionals."

As much as she likes running, Dietrich's love of running cross country is a bit tempered.

Although she was a varsity runner all

SEE Senior Standout ON PAGE 11

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Saringer fuels key victory for Zephyrs

By Dustin Riese News contributor

Nevaeh Saringer the hitter provided Nevaeh Saringer the pitcher a little boost for St. Mary Catholic on Monday night.

Saringer went 2-for-3 and opened the scoring with a solo home run in the second inning while pitching six strong innings to lead the Zephyrs to a 4-1 win over Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah in a key Big East North matchup.

Both teams are part of a logjam in a battle for second place behind league-leading Mishicot. The St. Mary Catholic win brought the two teams even at 3-4 in conference play, tied with Hilbert for third place in the standings with all three teams trailing Reedsville by a game.

"I think the girls came out very strong and were ready to attack right away," head coach Jennifer Rodman said. "We knew this was a big conference game for us and the girls were ready to go right from the jump."

After taking a 1-0 lead on Saringer's blast in the second inning, the Zephyrs added another run in the third.

Adel Schneider's single up the middle was followed by an RBI-triple to center field by Rhiannon Reichenbacher and St. Mary Catholic had a 2-0 lead.

"Early on, we did a lot of popping up on the first pitch," Rodman said. "We talked about that a little bit and discussed making sure you swing at your pitch. As the game went on, the girls did a better job of seeing



Nevaeh Saringer (blue helmet) is congratulated by her teammates after belting a secondinning home run on Monday.

more pitches, making better contact and just driving the ball all over the field."

Reichenbacher added another RBI with a groundout in the fifth inning, while Emily Vogel drove in a run with a double later in the frame for a 4-0 lead.

The Resorters answered in the top of the sixth with their lone run, but that was all Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah could manage.

Saringer scattered five hits and a walk while striking out three in her six innings of work. Reichenbacher struck out two in pitching a scoreless seventh inning to close out the win.

Schneider also finished with two hits in

the game for the Zephyrs and scored two runs.

"Our main focus right now is to keep improving from one game to the next," Rodman said. "We had a great weekend against a D2 team in Monroe that seems to have us trending in the right direction. I feel we are starting to peak at the right time, but we need to continue making the plays in the field that we need to make and staying aggressive in the box. The best part of where we are right now is that I feel we still have some growth still coming and that only bodes well for the rest of the season."

Neenah tops Kimberly to stay perfect

By Dustin Riese News contributor

The beat goes on for the Neenah boys lacrosse team as they pushed their record to 7-0 Tuesday night.

Entering the game ranked No. 2 in the Wisconsin state lacrosse rankings, the Rockets wasted no time sending a message to Kimberly as they struck for five first-period goals before cruising to the 10-6 victory.

"We fought through some poor officiating and some bad decisions to pick up this win," head coach Eric Marsh said. "We never felt that this game was in jeopardy, but if we want to make a run at the state title late this season we need to clean up some small details."

It took just over one minute for the Rockets to break through with Jack Meixl connecting for the first of his two goals in the game. The Rockets scored three times in the first five minutes to take a commanding lead.

Owen Grotenhuis contributed to the fast start with a pair of goals and led the Rocket offense with four goals on the night.

The Rockets added another goal before halftime to take a 6-2 lead, with Marsh crediting the defense for stifling the Papermakers.

"I thought our defense played tough

SEE **Rockets win** on Page 11



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Prep sports roundup

BASEBALL

Big inning lifts Neenah past Fond du Lac

Neenah scored all of its runs in the third inning to beat Fond du Lac, 4-2, on Tuesday for the team's seventh win in the last eight games.

Isaac Verbruggen went 3-for-3, while Andrew Carlson drove in a pair of runs in the win. The Rockets also got hits from AJ Price and Will St. Clair as they rallied from a 1-0 deficit.

Gus Weinholzer got the win on the mound, allowing six hits and two earned runs in six innings. He struck out six in the win. Verbruggen pitched a scoreless seventh to round out the win.

The Rockets picked up a wild 12-11 win over fourth-ranked Kimberly on Friday, erupting for eight runs in the bottom of the sixth to take an 11-10 lead and then scoring a run in the bottom of the seventh to win it after the Papermakers had evened the score in the top of the frame.

Trevor Stitchman, Mack Krause and Payton Miller each finished with two hits in the game, while Ethan Van Dyke drove in three runs as the Rockets also took advantage of seven walks and seven Kimberly errors to earn the win.

Andrew Lorrig allowed just one earned run over the final five innings to collect the win on the mound.

The day before, the Rockets lost 8-5 to Appleton North as the Lightning rallied for four runs in the bottom of the sixth to

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earn the win.

Price and Miller each had two hits in the game for Neenah, while Price and Stitchman each drove in runs.

Zephyrs kick off week with back-to-back wins

St. Mary Catholic snapped a six-game losing streak with two wins earlier this week.

The Zephyrs snapped the skid with an 11-1 thumping of Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah on Monday and followed it up with an 8-1 win over Reedsville on Tuesday.

St. Mary Catholic scored six runs in the first three to key the win over Reedsville with Colin Nigl, Joseph Pirillo and Jacob Ernsting each had two hits in the win, while Fisher Mackenzie drove in three runs.

Ethan Plutz allowed just two hits and struck out four over six innings to earn the win on the mound.

Against the Resorters, Mackenzie went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs, while Luke Fairweather had a pair of hits and three RBIs to key the win. Ernsting also drove in two runs in the game.

Grant Brazzale struck out three and allowed only two hits in five innings for the win. **SOFTBALL**

Mathe tosses no-hitter in win over Wildcats

Kyleigh Mathe held Oshkosh West without a hit in a 4-0 win in Fox Valley Association action on Friday.

Mathe struck out 13 in the win, while

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walking five and also drove in a run with a sacrifice fly.

Bella Coulman finished 2-for-3, while Carson Harwood was 2-for-2 with an RBI to lead the Rocket offense.

The Rockets were coming off a 4-3 loss to Fond du Lac as Harwood and Parker Zipperer each had two hits in the game, while Marley Koeppel picked up Neenah's lone RBI.

Neenah also beat Kimberly on Tuesday, scoring three runs in the first inning before holding on for the 3-0 victory. Mathe allowed just three hits to get the win.

Mathe and Taelyn Bauer each drove in runs in the victory.

Vogel, Saringer lead Zephyrs past Peshtigo

Emily Vogel went 4-for-4 while Nevaeh Saringer drove in six runs as St. Mary Catholic collected the 8-4 non-conference win over Peshtigo.

Saringer hit a home run for the second straight game and finished with two hits, while Rhiannon Reichenbacher also collected a pair of hits in the win.

Over the weekend, the Zephyrs topped St. Mary's Springs 6-5 behind three hits each from Vogel and Adel Schneider but fell to Monroe, 4-3, with Schneider reaching base three times and scoring two runs.

BOYS LACROSSE

Grotenhuis scored six goals in Rockets' win

Owen Grotenhuis scored six goals and

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finished with seven points as Neenah rolled past visiting Sun Prairie, 19-5, on Saturday.

Evan Hans and Jackson Brown each added three goals, while Keane Sullivan and Jensen Rodrigiuez had two and Brandon Price, Jackson Herres and Drew Green had one.

Brown led the way with three assists, with Hans, Price, Herres, Green and Sullivan each finished with two.

Jack Romsos and Isaac Scholl combined for seven saves in goal.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Blocksom, Schoultz spark Neenah to win

Savannah Blocksom and Rae Schoultz each totaled three goals as Neenah picked up a 12-3 win over Pulaski last week.

Lily Schmear added two goals, while Autumn Utley, Ellie Hammerschmidt, Ella Olson and Ainsley LeClair each finished with one.

Elliott Pershing finished with five saves in goal.

SOCCER

Zephyrs suffer loss to Oostburg

St. Mary Catholic outscored Oostburg in the second half but couldn't rally from a three-goal halftime deficit in a 4-2 loss to the Dutchmen on Tuesday.

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 11



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Prep roundup

from Page 10

Audrey Wanless scored both goals for the Zephyrs, with Audrey Norville registering one assist. Bethany Ruppert made nine saves in goal in the loss.

On Saturday, the Zephyrs racked up a 7-0 win over Sevastopol/Gibraltar with Wanless notching a hat trick in the win. Bitzy McCauley added a pair of goals and Moorea Steckling and Maddy Mittelstaedt each finished with one. Ruppert made one save for the shutout.

McCauley scored two goals, while Norville and Ellie Altfillisch added one in a 4-0 win over Kohler last week. Wanless had two assists in the game and McCauley had one, while Ruppert totaled four saves.

Neenah posts win, tie at De Pere tourney

Neenah scored a 4-0 win over Kenosha Bradford and played to a 2-2 tie with De Pere at the De Pere Tournament on Saturday.

Lillian Romjue, Annabelle Perry, Eliana Stier and Rhyan Brockman all scored goals in the win over Kenosha Bradford, while Kayla White had two assists and Brockman and Lily Kane each had one.

Romjue and Hailie Drawenek netted the goals against De Pere with Brockman and Amaya Jones tallying assists.

Neenah also fell to Kimberly, 5-0, in a Fox Valley Association match on Monday. **GOLF**

Simonson, Zinda lead Rockets past Wildcats

Cartyr Simonson shot a 38 and Calvin Zinda added a 39 as Neenah totaled a 162 at Ridgeway Country Club to finish 35 strokes ahead of Oshkosh West in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

Ryan Geary shot a 42 and Gavin Eaton rounded out the scoring golfers for Neenah with a 43.

Neenah dropped a dual meet to Fond du Lac on Tuesday, 162-178.

Zinda led the way for the Rockets with a 41, followed by Geary with a 44, Simonson with a 46 and Carson Seitz with a 47.

Moschea leads Zephyrs at Big East mini-meet

Ethan Moschea shot a 43 to lead St. Mary Catholic as the Zephyrs finished eighth place among the 11 full teams at the Big East full conference mini-meet at Quit Qui Oc Golf Course on Tuesday.

Moschea finished in a three-way tie for 12th place among the individuals as the Zephyrs totaled 196 as a team.

Dawson Radosevich with a 46, Mason

flight, Yun and Brown at No. 2 and Grassl and Farrell at No. 3 earning a sweep of the doubles matches. Lawatsch earned a singles win at the No. 2 flight.

The Rockets also lost to Marquette with Lawatsch at No. 2 singles and Yun and Brown at No. 2 doubles earning the wins.

Neenah also won a FVA dual meet against Fond du Lac on Tuesday, scoring a 7-0 win.

The Rockets won all six matches – the Cardinals defaulted at No. 3 doubles – in straight sets with Hildreth and Werner at No. 1 doubles and Yun and Brown at No. 2 doubles each posting 6-0, 6-0 wins.

Hein, Lawatsch, Grassl and Tanger earned singles wins for Neenah, with Lawatsch and Tanger each dropping just one game.

TRACK AND FIELD Neenah teams third at FVA relays

Both the Neenah girls and boys track teams finished third at the Fox Valley Association relays held at Kimberly on Tuesday.

The girls won two relay events on the night with the foursome of Lilly Granditzke, Rachel Dietrich, Ava Schalow and Celia Gentile finishing first in the 1,600 meter relay and the team of Lexi Dorner, Dietrich, Eme Olkowski and Mazie Olkowski winning the distance medley relay.

Neenah was also second in the sprint medley relay and third in the 400-meter relay, the throwers 400-meter relay, the 800-meter relay and the 3,200-meter relay.

Individually, Gentile finished first in the long jump, Elsa Gruber took second in the 1,600 meters and Bella Chandik was third in the 100-meter hurdles

The boys also won two relays at the meet. Braden Louden, Matt Machacek, Alex Thayer and Owen Wise won the 1,600-meter relay and the team of Bly Wheeler, Wise, Thayer and Wyatt Armock won the distance medley relay.

Neenah was also third in the throwers 400-meter relay and in the 3,200-meter relay.

In the individual events, Oliver Steiner in the 1,600 meters and Will Radies in the triple jump were each second, while Ben Donaldson took third in the 300-meter hurdles.

On Friday, Neenah participated in the weather-shortened Neenah Invitational. The boys were led by Armock, who took first in the 1,600, while Sam Scheer was second in the discus and Radies was third in both the long jump and triple jump. Neenah also took third in the 3,200-meter relay.

For the girls, Lydia Delene won the shot put and Celia Gentile won the long jump. Eme Olkowski and Natalie Schultz took second and fourth, respectively, in the 1,600 meters, while Bella Chadik was third in the 100-meter hurdles and Myah Wenzel was fifth in the shot put. The Rockets also won the 3,200-meter relay. Also on Friday, Dietrich took second in the 800 meters and Mazie Olkowski was third in the 3,200 meters at the West Allis Hale Distance Night meet.

Senior Standout

from Page 8

season for Neenah – she ended up filling the seventh spot for the state team last fall – bounding through woodlands and across uneven terrain isn't really her cup of tea.

"Cross country is tough. I don't care for running that far," Dietrich said. "The 800, I like it because is fast and you can see the whole course."

Dietrich was a key member of Neenah's basketball team taking on the role as the team's defensive stopper while averaging about five points per game.

Yet, the enjoyment she took from that season wasn't about her statistics or what she did on the court, it was about getting the chance to play with lifelong friends.

"It was awesome. Especially since we had

Rockets win

and fought through a lot of adversity all game," Marsh said. "Even when it looked as if Kimberly was starting to get some momentum going on their side, (goaltender Jack) Romsos stood tall and made some great saves to keep us in front."

Both teams added four goals to their total in the second half as Neenah was able to keep the Papermakers at bay.

Keane Sullivan also scored twice in the

OUTSIDE

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eight seniors on that team and we had been playing together since we were so young. It was awesome to maximize our last season together, playing and lasting as long as we did," Dietrich said. "It was tough (losing in the state finals). I left my jersey on until I got home. I didn't take it off after the game.

Now Dietrich is focused on track and is having another strong season for the Rockets.

She also has set her plans for the future and will run track on scholarship at Northern Illinois next season but first hopes to complete a successful run with the Rockets.

"I wouldn't say getting on the podium would define the success of a state meet but it would obviously be awesome to get on a podium," Dietrich said. "But if I don't and I run a good time, that's still a great success."

game for Neenah, while Ben Carey and Evan Hans had a goal apiece.

"Our boys know this wasn't their best game," Marsh said. "Even then, we are still able to pull out convincing wins, which is a testament to the amount of work these boys put in. Jackson Brown gave me a great quote when we were talking in a timeout as he said, 'I don't care who scores the goals; no one cares.'

"The beauty of this team is that no one cares about the spotlight. All we want to do is bring it home in the end and we want to win as a team."

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Uhlenbrauck with a 53 and Zach Trudeau with a 54 rounded out the Zephyr scoring golfers.

TENNIS

Rockets soar past Ghosts in FVA dual meet

Neenah posted 6-0, 6-0 wins in five of the seven matches against Kaukauna last week and lost a combined three games in earning the 7-0 win over the Ghosts.

Carl Hein at No. 1 singles, Brady Lawatsch at No. 2 singles and Harrison Tanger at No. 4 singles all posted perfect singles wins while Tristan Yun and Hunter Brown at No. 2 doubles and Luke Grassl and Henry Farrell at No. 3 doubles each won 6-0, 6-0 in doubles.

Over the weekend, the Rockets hosted the Neenah Invitational.

Neenah beat Badger, 4-3, with Brady Hildreth and Andrew Werner at the No. 1

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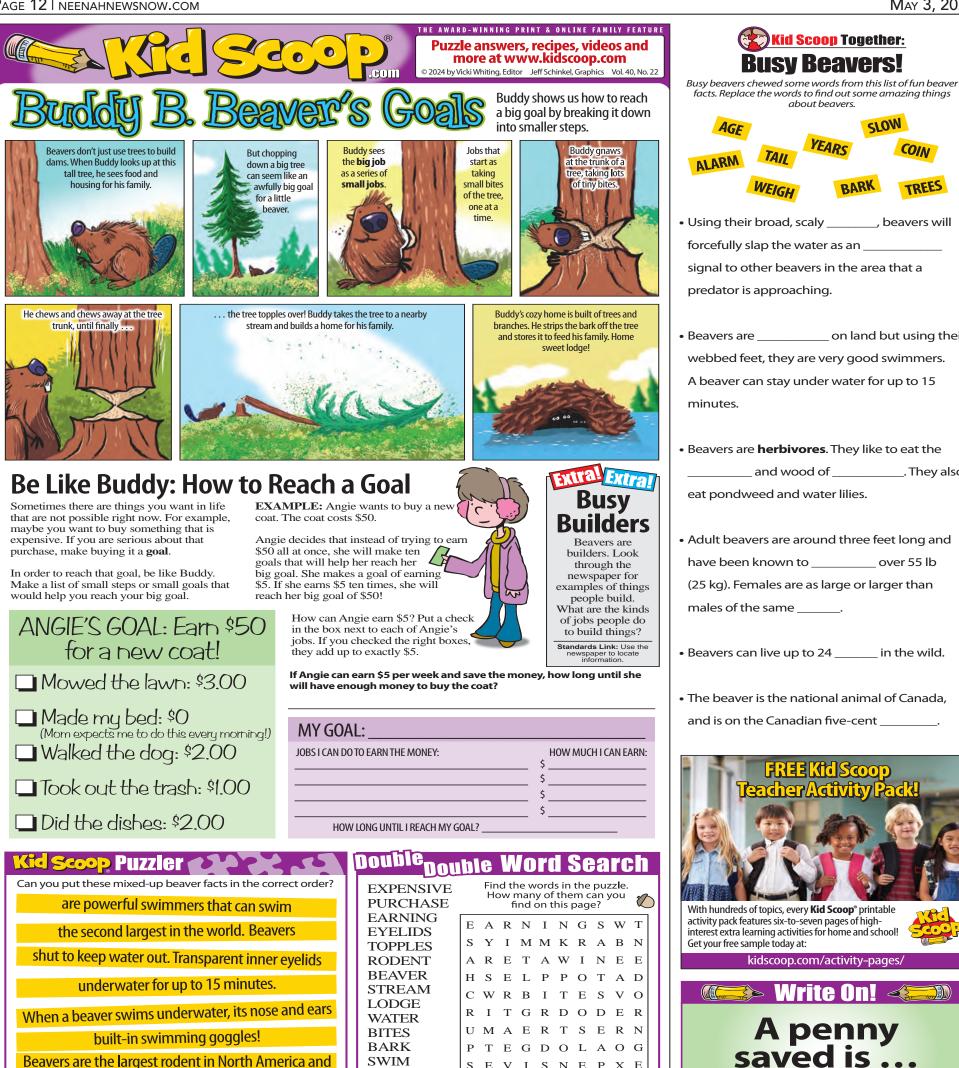
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