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Photo from Becky Heidke

Last year's Neenah-Menasha Intertribal Powwow was held at Shattuck Park in Neenah.

## Inter-Tribal Powwow will be returning to Shattuck

By Patti Lee  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When the drums and bells of the record-breaking 2023 Neenah-Menasha Intertribal Powwow faded into the skies last September, its future was also up in the air. Community response to the indigenous event was striking last year and Shattuck was filled to overflowing with crowd participation at an all-time high.

By all standards the powwow was a huge success. But it was not created to be a money-making endeavor. As in the past, sponsorship funds had gone directly to the costs of putting on the event. The powwow found itself without a sponsoring partner and finding the resources to produce another event was looking bleak. A lot of folks sadly believed that 2023 would be the last powwow.

Fortunately, a lot has happened since then. A partnership with First Nations Outreach, a seasoned nonprofit that works from within to support the indigenous community, has resulted in a matching grant. The powwow is well on the way to meeting that match. Powered by founder and director Barbara Wisneski and daughter Jessica, executive director and chief executive, First Nations Outreach is opening doors.

Highly skilled at grant writing (Barbara) and marketing (Jessica), First Nations is fulfilling its mission "to provide resources to our American Indian and Alaskan Native families." Its expertise is working in concert with a newly configured and diverse powwow committee. Together

SEE **Powwow returns** ON PAGE 9

## City revisits gas station beer sales

### End to longstanding ban will get airing by council

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

In a potential shake-up to local regulations, the Neenah Common Council is considering an ordinance that would permit the sale of beer and other malt beverages at convenience stores within its jurisdiction.

It will be the fourth time the council has taken up the issue in the past six years, with similar attempts to loosen the historically tight restrictions on the sale and consumption of alcohol repeatedly failing.

Neenah stands out among Wisconsin communities by maintaining a prohibition on alcohol sales at gas stations, a policy in place for nearly 50 years and shared by only a few other municipalities statewide.

It was in the mid-1970s that the city banned alcohol sales at businesses dispensing gasoline, with the current ordinance adopted in 1986 after a convenience store threatened to sue the city when its liquor license request was rejected.

Neenah municipal code states that the Common Council recognized an increase in alcohol-related problems in the city and determined that Class A fermented malt (beer) or liquor (beer, wine and distilled spirits) licenses will not be issued to businesses having a major part of their revenue related to non-alcohol sales.

The topic of attracting a convenience store to the Doty Island area has repeatedly come up in city meetings in recent

SEE **Beer sales** ON PAGE 13

## INSIDE



**Search launched**  
High school supporters look for new rocket  
Page 4

**Boating rules**  
Wake restrictions get airing in county  
Page 3

**Clean cause**  
Ed the Diver keys on water trash in region  
Page 6

## Olympic rower pumped to participate in Paris games

By Tim Froberg  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

It's more than just an old folk song to Maddie Wanamaker. It's what she does against the best competition on the planet.

The Neenah native is a world-class rower who will compete for the United States in the upcoming 2024 Paris Summer Olympics.

Paris will mark Wanamaker's second and likely final Olympics. She was a prominent part of a U.S. team that placed

seventh in the women's four event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

She's been there and done that in terms of competition, but Wanamaker couldn't be more stoked about Paris where an entirely new Olympic experience awaits.

The world was a much different place when Wanamaker



Wanamaker

competed in Tokyo – still fighting through the devastating pandemic that had an enormous impact on the sports world and society in general.

The global pandemic put a tight grip on the joy, thrills and pageantry of competing in the Olympics. The Tokyo Olympics were eventually pushed back a year and held July 23-Aug. 8 of 2021. All events were held behind closed doors with no spectators. Meanwhile, Olympic athletes like Wanamaker were tested around the clock to ensure they were not infected

with COVID-19.

### A new experience

Wanamaker is currently training at the national rowing team's training site in Princeton, N.J., and will arrive in Paris a week or two before the start of the Summer Olympics. She's expecting a whole new ballgame.

"I think it's going to be a really, really different experience," said Wanamaker in

SEE **Olympic rower** ON PAGE 14



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### Corrections

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### About the newspaper

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# New information systems director named

Neenah News

The city of Neenah has hired 17-year Information Systems department veteran Matt Schroeder as its new director, replacing Joe Wenninger, who recently retired after 39 years of service.



Schroeder

The IS department oversees all electronic information systems across the city and provides technological support for internal city departments, the consolidated Menasha-Neenah Municipal Court and Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue departments.

Schroeder is a Neenah native and long-time resident who worked closely with Wenninger.

“He helped usher staff here through a lot of new technology over the years, as well as a lot of big changes, and his vision and leadership has put our department in a great position,” Schroeder said.

Wenninger was given a standing ovation at a council meeting in May where he was honored for his city service and retirement. He told the council that when he started with the city in 1985 it was “the simple days.”

“The city had five computer terminals connected to a midrange computer,” he said. “It was only operational from 7:30 to 4 Monday through Friday, which has grown with the help of my staff of employees and elected officials here, to what is managed now is over 3,000 devices and user profiles, and it’s a 24/7, 365 operation now.”

He said younger generations would be

shocked to know that when he started with Neenah there was no internet.

“But along with that, there were no cyber-security issues either,” he said.

He thanked the community for a great 39 years.

“The relationships forged by co-workers, elected officials, members of the community – they’re treasured and they won’t be quickly forgotten,” he said.

Now that Schroeder has taken over the helm, he said he will continue to focus on the two main goals of the department: delivering secure systems and devices to city staff and ensuring staff are using available technology to maximize their efficiency.

“We have a number of upgrades and new software we’re working on implementing to modernize our systems, which will help to drive staff efficiency up,” he said. “We are working on rolling out new security policies and procedures to enhance our cyber defenses. We are continuing to expand our fiber network to bring more city-owned facilities and locations online.”

He added that staff also plans to evalu-

ate the city’s entire software and hardware portfolio to streamline operations and make sure the department is as efficient and up to date as possible.

The IS department has a staff of four and will soon be adding a new member to the team.

“The four of us have been with the city of Neenah now for over 17 years each, two over 20 years, and that’s a longevity that’s almost unheard of nowadays and a true testament to former director Wenninger’s leadership,” he said. “There are three outstanding IT professionals I have the privilege of working with here, and I’m excited to continue working with them, along with our new staff, in the years ahead.”

Mayor Jane Lang wrote in the city newsletter that Schroeder brings experience, knowledge and passion to the role.

“We look forward to his guidance and direction as he will be leading the team that oversees all the city’s internal Information Services functions and operations,” she said. “He has big shoes to fill, but we’re very confident he will do an excellent job.”

## Fox Cities Roller Derby brings back home teams

For the first time since 2016, Neenah-based Fox Cities Roller Derby (FCRD) is split into two teams competing against each other this Saturday, July 20 and Aug. 10 at Skaters Edge in Appleton.

Two skaters, Nikity Split and Mi-kill-ya, drafted players to create Nikity’s Knockouts and the Kill-ya Bees.

“I’m really excited for the return of home teams,” said Niki Raabe, aka Nikity Split. “These events provide skaters of all skill levels the opportunity to learn from one another in a supportive and low-pres-

sure environment. It’s a great chance for everyone to grow and improve together.”

Each event will start at 5 p.m. before open skate at Skaters Edge.

Tickets are \$10 for ages 18 and above, \$5 for children ages 5-17, and free for children under 5.

FCRD has another five-game home event called Rock, Paper Valley Scissors on Aug. 24 at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center.

League information is at foxcitiesrollerderby.com or by following on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

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# Wake boating restrictions discussed in Winnebago County

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

In a move making waves and stirring debate across local waters, Winnebago County supervisors took up a resolution last week aimed at curtailing wake boating in the county.

Twenty-four municipalities throughout the state have passed ordinances restricting wake boating, with Winnebago joining Sawyer County in asking the state Legislature to allow local governments to set their own standards beyond state minimums.

Wake boats are motorboats designed to create waves for wakeboarding, a watersport similar to water skiing. The boats have a ballast system engineered to intake water, adding weight to the stern and thereby amplifying the size of the wake – the trail left behind as a boat moves through the water.

The use of wake boats raises environmental concerns, with critics saying the boats contribute to shoreline erosion, damage docks and waterfront property, disturb wildlife, pose safety risks to other boaters and may transport invasive species.

District 21 Supervisor John Hinz told the board that the power and downward force that the boats use to create a wake disturbs water down to 25 or 30 feet below the surface.

“We don’t need all of that mud and all of that fertilizer and the phosphorus churned up on the bottom of our lake just to create more algae blooms all over the lake, and that’s what we’re trying to defend against with this,” he said.

Advocates for wake boating say restrictions could have adverse economic consequences and infringe on recreational

freedoms.

District 24 Supervisor Andy Buck said he’s been wakeboarding and waterskiing on Lake Winnebago for more than 25 years.

“Wakeboarding does not throw out any more wake than waterskiing does and so if we’re going to limit wakeboarding we should limit waterskiing,” he said. “I understand the sentiment of this but I hope we’re not trying to limit people’s recreational ability out on our great resource of Lake Winnebago, Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Poygan.”

In April, Vermont passed what is considered the nation’s most comprehensive legislation that restricts wake boating to a “wakesport zone,” an area of 50 acres with a depth of more than 20 feet, at least 200 feet wide and more than 500 feet from shore. Thirty lakes within the state were approved for wake boating, while wake boats were banned from 770 other lakes deemed either too small or unable to meet the wakesport zone requirement.

Also in April, the Wisconsin Depart-

ment of Natural Resources (DNR) held public comment sessions in every county on three proposed resolutions that would limit and restrict wake boating.

One resolution would require that all wake boats’ ballast systems be able to drain or be inspected and a second would ban any boats that can’t, with the DNR noting it would deal with the concern of carrying invasive species from lake to lake. The third resolution would only allow wake boating on lakes that are no smaller than 1,500 acres and 700 feet away from shore in 20 feet of water.

A bill introduced in Wisconsin that failed earlier this year had similar restrictions to the DNR’s proposed resolutions and would also preempt the county and municipalities from more restrictive ordinances.

At last week’s meeting, county supervisors discussed endorsing a resolution passed by Sawyer County last year that recommended the Legislature engage in discussions affirming that “local governments deserve local control to set their

own standards beyond state minimums” and prohibit wake creations in waters with a depth of less than 30 feet.

District 14 Supervisor Thomas Swan noted that prohibiting wake boating in lakes of less than 30 feet would effectively ban the boats from all county lakes, as Lake Winnebago is the county’s largest lake and has a maximum depth of 21 feet.

Corporation counsel Mary Anne Mueller told the board that the resolution is not an ordinance; it is a directive to the Legislature. But she noted that under state law, municipalities may not enact any ordinance or local regulation that excludes any boat from the free use of the waters of the state.

The supervisors voted to approve the endorsement of the Sawyer County resolution and ask the state to reserve control over lakes for local government.

As the county discussions continue, supervisors face the task of finding common ground on a topic poised to have lasting recreational and environmental implications.

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**Our offices will be closed on July 4th**

## Calendar of events

**Friday, June 28**  
Barefoot Americans, 6 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing

**Saturday, June 29**  
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park  
Udderly Euro Car Show, 1 p.m., Shattuck Park  
Author meet-and-greet: “Ultrasound” by Conor Stechschulte, noon, Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Melissa Chakar with Grey Fedora, 3 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing

**Wednesday, July 3**  
Parade of Lights, 9 p.m., Riverside Park in Neenah to Main Street in Menasha

**Thursday, July 4**  
CommunityFest, 11:30 a.m., Riverside Park

**Saturday, July 6**  
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

**Sunday, July 7**  
Neenah Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

**Wednesday, July 10**  
Evening Concert Series: FBI & the Untouchable Horns, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

**Thursday, July 11**  
Out to Lunch Concert Series: Hai-ley James “Swiftie” concert, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

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# High school launches search for another rocket

By Jenny Grunwald  
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah High School is on the waiting list for a retired rocket through the U.S. Army Donations Program that will serve as an outdoor monument to the public school body's nickname.

The new high school resides on 500 Rocket Way for a reason. Neenah's sports teams carry the Rockets moniker and it's something the community takes pride in.

The year-old sprawling campus has just about everything a school needs for its students to be successful. That was until alumni and 2014 graduate Jonny Glassco pointed out to Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer that the new school is lacking a rocket similar to the one fronting the former high school at 1275 Tullar Road, now the new Neenah Middle School.

Pfeiffer said that if Glassco could find one, they would put it up. When he ran into high school science teacher Emily Bennett, the rocket mission started to take shape. Bennett noted that freshman Myles Kelch wanted to 3D print a rocket for a school project. From there, the three started their quest for a retired rocket.

Moving the rocket from the middle school was initially considered but middle schoolers are Rockets just as much as those in the upper grades. Bennett also noted the existing rocket holds a piece of nostalgia to those in the community who were a part of bringing it to Neenah.

"When I come across people in the community that were part of the first rocket installation, they remember everything they did to get it all set up. I think they honestly would want to keep it there because that's where they put it when they got it, so there's



Neenah News

The rocket at Neenah Middle School was placed there in 1988 when the campus was the home of Neil A. Armstrong Senior High School.

a little bit of sentimental (value) with that, too," Bennett said.

There are different donation programs where a new rocket could come from, and finding one depends on the organization and their waiting list of those looking to find a retired one. Bennett's understanding is that if there is an organization or museum that doesn't need their rocket anymore, it goes on an availability list.

With Neenah now on the waiting list, they'll be able to approve or deny whatever becomes available. Glassco said the three went with the Army Donation Program, which keeps track of donated artifacts.

Rules and regulations for that program would put ownership with the village of Fox Crossing, but maintained by the school on the campus grounds. The village also has a part in determining whether they want to

accept a rocket when one is made available, which is based on its size and any cost factors.

Bennett said costs should remain low because it would be based on transportation and installation, painting the outer shell and mounting it on a concrete slab. Bennett and Glassco have heard from residents already willing to donate money once the rocket is procured.

"When people hear about the project (they) want to be part of it because it's such a cool thing for our community that they want to help," Bennett said. "We're hoping that once we get a rocket approved and have one available that we can utilize this community and the awesome businesses we have here to help us get everything in place."

Besides having the school symbol complement the campus grounds, there are oth-

er added benefits that can make the retired artifact stand out, such as incorporating it into live sporting events in some way. Bennett mentioned integrating some special effects to the rocket when Neenah scores a touchdown or makes a goal. She said the whole process of finding and obtaining one will create special memories for the community.

Bennett said people she spoke to who were part of getting the first rocket to the Tullar Road school talked about it with excitement and nostalgia.

"They just talk about it with such joy because it was such a cool thing for them to be a part of and they want to continue that," she said. "Not many schools can say that they have an actual artifact that's their mascot, but we have an actual rocket. We are the Rockets. We definitely want to keep that pride going."

On Oct. 5, 1988, a disarmed Honest John rocket arrived on an Azco Hennes flatbed truck at Neil A. Armstrong Senior High School, built in 1972 and named for the first man on the moon. The Honest John was the nation's first surface-to-surface nuclear-capable rocket.

According to a Post Crescent article by Bill Knutson, U.S. Sen. Robert Kasten persuaded the Center for Military History in Washington D.C., to donate its retired rocket to the high school. The senator was aided in the search by high school Student Congress member Robert Malinoski.

As for the origin of the Rockets name, a 1928 contest among Neenah students selected Ruth Nelson and Maragaret Blenker's entry, "Red Rockets," and were awarded season passes to the basketball games. "Red" would be dropped from the name years later.



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Neenah Historical Society photo

## Yacht club team

The Neenah-Nodaway Yacht Club committee boat is shown in the Venetian parade at Riverside Park in this undated photo.



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# Indigenous walkers honor local waters

By Patti Lee  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Folks traveling on the lake road between Oshkosh and Neenah may have noticed some interesting people along the way earlier this month.

June 14 was the second day of the Brothertown Indian Nation Water Walk, an annual spiritual journey of walkers starting out in Malone in Fond du Lac County. Some tribal members traveled from as far as Minneapolis.

Mother and son Jenny and Jayce Bender made that trek and spent a little time talking about the sacred steps.

"We do this annually to give thanks to water and Mother Earth, to show our appreciation and to protect her," Jenny explained.

Since both women and water give life, women carry a traditional copper vessel that holds the nupi (water) and are the keepers of the water. Walkers also carry inpawok (tobacco) to offer to any rivers or streams they cross and also to honor animals along the roads or trails as they travel.

Before the walk begins, participants are smudged to clear negative energy and promote good thoughts. The water carriers are reverent, immersed in spiritual thoughts and saying prayers of gratitude to the water. There is also a water song: "Nibi, Gizaagi'ogo" (Water, we love you) "Gimiigwechiwenimigo" (We thank you) "Gizhawenimigo" (We respect you.)

Men follow behind carrying the eagle staff to honor the tribe and serve as a protector.

"We're always supposed to look ahead, never looking back, to make sure we're protecting the water," Jenny said. "The man following behind is the protector and also a car check because sometimes traffic can be an issue."

That eagle staff carrier was Jenny's son Jayce who explained a car was just up the street where two other walkers waited.

"Once the water is passed to these next two, we will take the car and drive it to the



Photo by Patti Lee

Jayce and Jenny Bender took part in the annual Water Walk as members of the Brothertown Indian Nation.

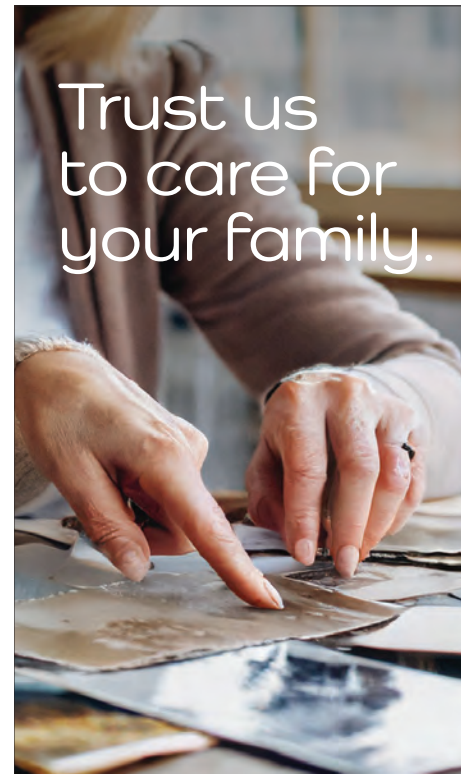
farthest distance to get a little rest. It's like a leapfrog with groups of us traveling. And that's how it goes, with walking and rest."

The water will travel in the hands of women up to 30 miles a day during the spiritual journey. Water Walks are indigenous-led, extended ceremonies to pray for the water, which is the source of life. Because it is about duration and following the water's flow, the relay allows participants to maintain strength through walk and rest. It is a physical and spiritual embodiment of the tribe's mission statement.

The Brothertown Indian Nation's heritage builds from the history and culture of their parent tribes on the Northeastern shores of the United States, including the Mohegan, Pequot (Eastern and Western), Tunxis, Niantic, Connecticut, Narragan-

sett and Montauk (Montaukett).

Brothertown Indian Nation has a shared history with the Oneida and the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans, as the three tribes were forced to relocate from New York to this area of what is now Wisconsin in the early 1800s. There were a variety of treaties entered between the United States government and the Brothertown, Oneida and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans.



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# Diver makes a splash cleaning up local waterways

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A diver who gained a social media following by posting videos of his efforts to clean up trash, untangle wildlife and recover lost property from waterways in the Midwest recently made stops in the Lake Winnebago area.

Ed Bieber, known on social media as “Ed the Diver,” visited Menominee Park in Oshkosh, Kimberly Point Park in Neenah and Jefferson Park in Menasha last week where he and about a dozen volunteers removed a bicycle, fishing lures, cans, cigarette butts and other debris from lakes and shorelines. He also visited waterways in Fremont and New London.

Equipped with diving gear, Bieber rescued a smallmouth bass that was stuck on a line and lure underwater in Kimberly Point Park.

“I get to save him; he won’t be hooked up anymore,” Bieber said in a video that quickly amassed more than 8,000 views.

Bieber has a following of more than 300,000 among his Ed the Diver social media channels. Millions of viewers have watched him recover fishing lures from waterways which he untangles, cleans and sells. One year, Bieber and diving partner Jason Younk (who goes by “Silent J”) recovered more than 16,000 fishing lures.

Recycling is at the forefront of Bieber’s



Submitted photo

Ed Bieber is shown in Kimberly Point Park where he rescued a fish that was stuck on a line.



Submitted photo

Ed Bieber and Christie Barlament are shown in Menominee Park with items they removed from Lake Winnebago with the help of volunteers.

mission, with salvageable items listed for sale on eBay and edthediver.com. He works with local municipalities to dispose of the garbage he removes.

Bieber got his start by teaching his children how to fish, losing lures and wanting the lures back. While searching for the lures, he also began collecting trash. In 2020 he became scuba certified and obtained two kayaks to bring to shore the anchors, tires and other items he’d recover while diving “and it just kept growing.”

As the owner of Bieber’s Underwater Recovery, traveling the Midwest, cleaning waterways, recovering lost property and creating social media content depicting his dives and the items he finds has become his full time job.

The 42-year-old lives in Marinette and is currently on an 11-week tour of the Midwest that brought him to the Lake Winnebago area last week. Along the way he receives support from businesses, organizations and individuals that share his passion for aquatic conservation.

One of his biggest supporters is Nicolet Law, which is collaborating to provide hundreds of mesh bags that will be available for sale on Bieber’s website to engage the public in cleanup efforts.

“Everywhere we go, people want to come out and help,” he said. “They want to meet me because they love my content, my videos, what I’m trying to do to inspire, educate and bring people hope if

they have lost property that I find.”

In Oshkosh, Paul and Kathy Williams of Coot’s Lures opened their home for Bieber and his girlfriend last week and helped with onshore cleanup efforts. A \$500 donation from the Sheboygan Walleye Club provided financial support.

Some of Bieber’s more unique underwater finds include toilets, sewing machines and a rifle wrapped in plastic and electrical tape. He turned the rifle over to police but said they returned it when they couldn’t find any crimes connected to it.

So far this year, Bieber has recovered more than 20 Apple watches.

“People call me to find cellphones, car keys, boat motors, jewelry, wedding rings, earrings,” he said.

Diving also led him to love. Earlier this year he listed a 1990s Barbie for sale on eBay that he recovered from the Wolf River. Though the Barbie was discolored and looked about how you’d expect a doll to look after being buried in river muck for decades, it sparked a bidding war and sold for \$1,225.

The buyer was 40-year-old Christie Barlament of Green Bay – and the couple have been together ever since.

“My coolest find was that Barbie because it led me to Christie and she’s my biggest supporter and she really loves what I do,” he said.

On a recent trip to Florida, the couple

got tattoos together. Bieber’s forearm now sports a mermaid with her name; Barlament’s wrist showcases the Ed the Diver logo.

“He’s just a phenomenal person and very selfless and humble,” Barlament said of Bieber. “He’s doing a really good thing for everybody. I hope it makes a huge difference.”

Barlament is in the process of becoming scuba certified so she can join in on Bieber’s dives. But Bieber noted that scuba diving isn’t required to help clean waterways.

“You know, it’s not hard at all to get out there and start picking up,” he said. “You’re going to see stuff. Usually the fishing line, you don’t really notice it at first but once you have a trained eye, you notice it everywhere and getting it off the banks is really important to save wildlife. Like waterfowl, birds, all the little animals that crawl around the shores get tangled up in that line.”

Diving and recovering debris from waterways have changed Bieber’s views on conservation.

“I just don’t really want to fish anymore,” he said. “I’d rather be in the water seeing the fish face to face, setting them free, making their home safer.”

His determination is changing the tide for Wisconsin’s water resources and shows a cleaner planet is within reach – one dive at a time.

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# Choose your music wisely to enhance your beer drinking

Few things satisfy like the right combination of beer and music. They seem to be made for each other, especially during the warm weather months that we've begun to enjoy.

Yet, the question remains: Should the music actually be about beer or just feel right when drinking our favorite beverage? Let's discuss!

Note: We created a 30-song beer-drinking playlist on Spotify just for you, our wonderful readers. Hey – listening to it may make this column a bit easier to swallow, so check it out now and enjoy the musical journey with us: [tinyurl.com/3hshuujj](https://tinyurl.com/3hshuujj)

Husband: I hate to begin on a down note, but Hank Williams' "My Bucket's Got a Hole in It" may be the saddest song ever for beer lovers. I feel his unmet thirst; it just hurts, ya know?

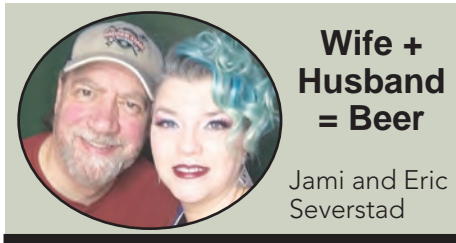
Wife: Speaking of Hank Williams, the bar owner shut down the Blues Brothers because he was expecting Hank covers. Luckily, a version of the "Theme from Rawhide" saved the day in that movie. But, what a waste of beer smashing against that chicken wire.

Husband: Another Hank – Thompson – sang a sad one in 1950, "A Broken Heart and a Glass of Beer." Country singers have always loved beer. And sad, sappy songs.

Wife: Although I do respect the passion, country isn't my thing, unless it's Cash.

Husband: Fair enough; one of his made the playlist, which starts out with mostly old-school country.

Wife: I'm sure that many of our readers would prefer to drink one while



**Wife + Husband = Beer**

Jami and Eric Severstad

enjoying some polka music.

Husband: How can you not love the lyrics: "Roll out the barrel. We'll have a barrel of fun"?

Wife: Frankie Yankovic, who once collaborated with another Yankovic, "Weird Al."

Husband: There's a rumor that Weird Al turned down \$5 million to be in a beer commercial because many of his fans were young and impressionable, and he didn't feel right about it.

Wife: Good for him. Love that guy. Hey, what about some German Beer Hall classics? "In Heaven There Is No Beer" helps you appreciate having a cold one in hand, doesn't it?

Husband: Indeed. Hearing those instantly makes me thirsty.

Wife: "One Bourbon, One Scotch, and One Beer" sticks with me. Tells a great story, too.

Husband: I do like that one. Should we include the George Thorogood version or the original by John Lee Hooker?

Wife: What's wrong with both?

Husband: Done! So, another song that reminds me of beer drinking – but isn't about beer – is the version of "Jockamo" by Mama Digdown's Brass Band. We heard that many times at The Great Taste of the Midwest beer fest in Madison, and the band is from that fine city, too.



Photo by Eric Severstad

What music pairs best with beer drinking? Try the authors' playlist and hear for yourself.

Wife: I'll add "One Toké Over the Line," which I know is about a different drug, but one of the duo is named "Brewer" (the other is Shipley), so that works.

Husband: To get a bit more up-tempo, I'd recommend "More Beer" by Fear or "Let's Drink Some Beer" by Gang Green, both appreciated by punk rockers.

Wife: Similarly, I say "Six Pack" by Black Flag would scratch that itch. Henry Rollins version, please.

Husband: Well played. Wife: No beer-inspired list is complete without Jim Morrison, so I insist "Roadhouse Blues" be included because of the classic line: "Well, I woke up this morning, and I got myself a beer."

Husband: Ah, for that time of the day, may I suggest "Beer for Breakfast" by The Replacements? And, for great lyrics, I'll pick "Warm Beer and Cold Women"

by Tom Waits.

Wife: What about pairing music genres with beer styles? Some naturally go together.

Husband: That's an awesome idea. Yet, it could require much more space than what we have (and some research).

Wife: There's nothing like watching live music, so we encourage you to have a beer while attending a show. There are many opportunities throughout the Fox Cities this summer, from outdoor festivals to club shows.

Husband: Support local music and enjoy getting out!

Don't forget the invitation to listen to our Spotify playlist. You don't need premium or anything special to listen, but you may need to create a free account. Just enter this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/3hshuujj>. It's not close to a comprehensive list of great drinking songs, just our combined brains having some fun. Please be aware that the songs include some ... colorful lyrics. Discretion is advised, as they say.

No machines were used in the making of this playlist. Of course, we could have Googled "great beer drinking songs" or asked AI for help, but we went with our guts and experience alone. Humans for the win.

Enjoy the warm weather, cool brews and great tunes this summer. Cheers!

What beer-related music is missing from our playlist? Email us at [wife.husband.beer@gmail.com](mailto:wife.husband.beer@gmail.com), and we'll add it!

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# Neenah High's class of '54 stays connected

Neenah News

A Neenah High School class that has been holding reunions every five years since 1959 marked 70 years since graduating when 16 of its original 171 classmates met earlier this month for cocktails and dinner.

Jim Larsen, Jeanette Prey and Donna Knorr made up the organizing committee that drew alumni from Virginia, Colorado and various parts of Wisconsin from among the 60 classmates left.

The group gave special recognition to Carl and Joyce Jankowski for heading up previous reunions and holding a monthly lunch for whoever could attend. Carl passed away in December and Joyce lives in Utah near family.

The Class of 1954 from Shattuck Neenah High School was the first to have an outdoor commencement. The group also



Class of 1954 photo

Members of the Neenah High School Class of 1954 met earlier this month at Batley's Grill & Bar.

noted that many of the boys enlisted in different branches of the military after graduation and there were seven married couples who were classmates.

They also recalled the class motto: "When a task is once begun, never leave it till it's done; be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all."

## Powwow returns

FROM PAGE 1

they are finding new avenues to funding, resources and creative collaboration.

Two meetings in, the partnership is laying the groundwork for this year's event with plans in the works for a new time, more vendors and an engaging, impactful community event.

The powwow's return to Shattuck Park is slated for 2 to 5 p.m. Sept. 14. Donations from the community in any amount are always accepted. For more information, visit the Neenah Menasha Intertribal Powwow Facebook Page; to connect with First Nations Outreach, go to [firstnation-soutreachinc.org](http://firstnation-soutreachinc.org).

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**We need your help to provide backpacks, school supplies and school appropriate clothing for the coming school year.**

NMES members collaborate with both the Neenah and Menasha school districts to reach out to children in need. Children are identified by schools, social service agencies and other sources.

The Fair is held in August of each year. Each child receives a backpack containing supplies for them to start the school year prepared to achieve academic success and a certificate for a pair of shoes redeemable at Rogan's.

Please donate by completing and mailing your donations by July 21, 2024 to:

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# Checker Logistics breaks ground on distribution facility



Photo by Fox Cities Chamber

RGL Logistics owner and chief executive Bob Johnson spoke last week during a groundbreaking ceremony for a Checker Logistics facility on Dixie Road.

## Neenah News

RGL Logistics broke ground last week on a new distribution facility on a 32-acre parcel on Dixie Road.

The facility will be the site of Checker Logistics, a trucking transportation services company that is a subsidiary of RGL and has a site across the street at 1725 Dixie Road.

The \$24 million development will be aided by Tax Incremental Financing Dis-

trict 13, which will provide a maximum total of \$1.6 million in annual assistance over 12 years.

The first phase of development includes a 300,000-square-foot building estimated to bring \$12 million in value. The second phase of development will begin by 2026 and will expand the building to 600,000 square feet.

The project is expected to bring more than 50 jobs to the area.

## Business news roundup

Froedtert ThedaCare Health has named **Dr. Robert Cavagnol** as president of its North Region, responsible for its overall leadership, management and strategic direction. Cavagnol has been with St. Luke's Health System in Boise, Idaho, where he has held various leadership positions, including clinic president. He also held leadership roles with Mercy Health System in Missouri. Cavagnol was a surgeon in the U.S. Navy from 2005-2008 as a lieutenant commander. He begins his new role July 29.



Cavnogol

sion of Milliken & Co. Before Encapsys, Goggans spent more than 25 years at Kimberly-Clark, holding roles in marketing, sales, research and development, and operations, before moving to Appvion to become vice president of Encapsys and innovation.

**Inner Haven Wellness**, an eating disorder treatment provider that offers partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programming, has announced new in-network contracts with Group Health Cooperative. Inner Haven Wellness offers intensive outpatient programming for adolescents in Neenah and Madison as well as for adults at its Madison facility.

A Germany-based company will acquire **Shopko Optical** from Monarch Alternative Capital by the end of the third quarter of this year, it was announced. The Fielmann Group's U.S. subsidiary, Fielmann USA, will acquire equity ownership from Green Bay-based Shopko Optical, which operates more than 140 stores in 13 states, including a Neenah location. Fielmann USA said it intends to integrate Shopko Optical into its omnichannel platform that would serve customers through digital sales channels and more than 220 retail practices mostly in the Midwest. Fielmann entered the U.S. market last year by acquiring eyewear retailer Befitting as well as SVS Vision.

**St. Croix Hospice** announced it has opened a Neenah branch at 1158 Westowne Drive to deliver hospice care to local patients and families. The company serves six counties in the Fox Valley region. The team provides in-person care for end-of-life patients at private residences, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

**Mary Goggans** has been named as a new co-chair of New North Inc., the economic development corporation for the 18 counties of northeast Wisconsin, joining Sachin Shivaram of Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry. She replaces Michelle Schuler of Microsoft, who will remain as a member of the board of directors and executive committee. Goggans is the retired president of Encapsys LLC, a divi-

**Editor & Publisher's** 2024 class of "15 Over 50," which recognizes business owners in legacy media, digital news media, broadcast and public media organizations, includes Oshkosh Herald and Neenah News publisher **Karen Schneider**. The magazine's June issue notes that those selected were nominated "for their strong leadership skills, transformational mindsets, commitment to journalistic and publishing excellence and ability to lead during challenging times."

Insight magazine's 40 Under 40 recognition of impressive young professionals across northeast Wisconsin includes **Tracy Nikolai**, director of marketing and development at Valley VNA Senior Care in Neenah. Also recognized was **Dan Brosman**, a Neenah native who started a new position with the Universities of Wisconsin's Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship, the parent organization of the UW Oshkosh's Small Business Development Center in which he was executive director of its Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

**First Business Bank** has promoted **Travis Froze** to president of its Northeast Wisconsin market. Froze has more than 20 years of commercial banking experience in the Fox Valley area, and serves on the Volunteer Fox Cities Board and Bay Lakes Council Boy Scouts of America executive board of directors. He has a bachelor's degree in marketing and economics from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

# Neenah News

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Questions! Questions! Let us introduce ourselves!

## Who owns the Neenah News?

Neenah News is family-supported by Jeff and Karen Schneider of Oshkosh. Karen is the sole owner of Oshkosh Herald LLC, parent company for both the Oshkosh Herald and Neenah News. She has worked at several newspapers since the mid-1980s where she got her start in the A/R department of the Arizona Republic.

We are locally owned and operated and not affiliated with any other media organization, nor are we a rebranded News-Record.

## Why Neenah?

Schneider likes to say that after receiving many requests to expand the Herald, which debuted in January 2018, in different communities over the years one writer from Neenah/Fox Crossing "caught me at a weak moment" and the expansion to Neenah began in February 2022.

## Why did I start receiving it every week in the mail?

Our mission began as a quest to have better-informed communities by filling the void of local news.

Originally launched as a subscription model, Neenah News increased its distribution using bulk mail to every address in ZIP code 54956 in August 2023 with a special issue featuring the new Neenah High School.

Nearly 1,000 families and several local businesses supported Neenah News from the beginning, knowing community news is vital for a healthy community. What the businesses learned is that "print is not dead" as an advertising vehicle and requested Neenah News to follow the bulk mail model of the Herald.

## How many newspapers get mailed every week?

We now mail just over 21,300 copies in ZIP code 54956 of the Neenah News. The Herald has a mailing of 32,000. Together we reach more than 53,000 homes and 88,000 readers in Winnebago County.

## Is a weekly newspaper sustainable?

Great question! One thing to understand is the Schneiders' investment is in paper and postage. Unlike brick-and-mortar stores that may put their capital in equipment and inventory, our investment's value is in the information we share - which isn't something you can take to the bank.

The newspaper is a "community" product. Its sustainability is based on the support of advertisers and community members who support our mission. The advertising will be sustainable if we "shop local." We often hear how a reader shops at XYZ because they advertise in the News or Herald. We receive donations from readers and we have a Membership program where readers join for \$50 annually. Members and supporters receive offers throughout the year as a Thank You for their support.

If you have questions, please email karen at [karen@oshkoshherald.com](mailto:karen@oshkoshherald.com). To become a member visit [www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe](http://www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe) or call our office at 920-486-1616.

**OUTSIDE THE BOX**  
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# New district maps in place for upcoming 2024 elections

## Assembly, Senate will be impacted by new boundaries

Neenah News

State Senate and Assembly districts have been redrawn after a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision ruling the maps used for the 2022 were considered gerrymandering to favor Republican candidates.

Gov. Tony Evers signed 2023 Wisconsin Act 94 on Feb. 19, which altered legislative maps for the upcoming 2024 election. This came after the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled against the state's heavily gerrymandered maps that were in place following the last redistricting.

The Fox Cities had been composed of Senate districts 1, 2 and 19 but now will also include parts of District 18. This area will be mostly split between the 18th District north of Oshkosh and the 19th District just south of Neenah — both held by Republican senators.

Now, the district covering the lakeside communities could potentially bring the first Democratic senator back to the Fox Valley since 2012.

The most noticeable change in the area is the redrawn Senate District 18, which now covers the Oshkosh-to-Appleton corridor.

State Sen. Dan Feyen, R-Fond du Lac, has been drawn into District 20.

In the state Assembly, District 53 for-

merly encompassed Omro and Nekimi surrounding Oshkosh. It now covers Neenah and Menasha. Rep. Michael Schraa no longer lives in the district and is now running for District 55.

In District 53, former Neenah Mayor Dean Kaufert, R-Neenah, is running against Duane Shukoski, D-Neenah.

Assembly District 54 remains primarily in Oshkosh and incumbent Lori Palmeri is running for a second term.

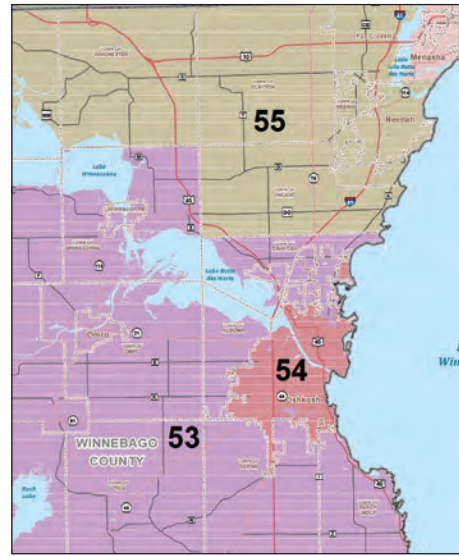
"While it appeared there would be a court ruling to determine legislative maps for the 2024 election cycle, the Legislature eventually came together and passed Wisconsin Act 94," stated Palmeri.

"While the 54th still encompasses much of the previous district lines, there are some important changes to note for current constituents. The 54th Assembly District now extends up into the Town of Vinland and no longer extends down past West 20th Avenue."

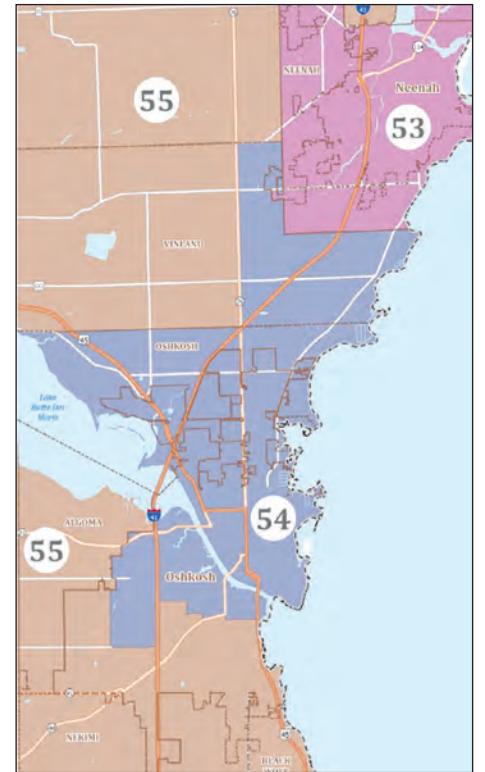
Residents can go to Palmeri's website and under the "find your legislator" link can confirm their corresponding district for the 2024 election cycle.

Legislators will represent anyone who had previously resided in their district until Jan. 3, even if they will be voting in a different district in November.

Palmeri is running against Tim Paterson, a Republican from Oshkosh, who currently serves on the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors and served more than 30 years in the Army National



State Senate and Assembly district maps have been redrawn following the 2022 election and will be in place for the upcoming 2024 elections. The above map shows the 2022 Assembly district map, while at right is the new map.



Guard and Army Reserves.

State Rep. Nate Gustafson, R-Fox Crossing, who has said Evers drew his home 15 feet outside of the 55th Assembly District's new lines, is running for a second term and will be challenged by Schraa in a Republican primary in August.

"I'm the incumbent of the 55th District and am running for re-election in that district," Gustafson said.

Gustafson made a brief appearance at an Oshkosh Common Council meeting in May announcing his candidacy. The new lines for the 55th District include portions of south and southwest Oshkosh.

The district covers Fox Crossing,

Grand Chute, Omro and Winneconne.

Kyle Kehoe announced his candidacy as the Democratic nominee for the Assembly's 55th District. Kehoe is a real estate agent with previous work experience in law enforcement and management. He lists housing affordability, women's reproductive freedoms and workers' rights as top priorities.

Kehoe volunteers on the housing advocacy committee with the Wisconsin Realtors Association and the Planning and Zoning commission with the Town of Algoma.

The fall primary election will be held Aug. 13 and the general election will be Nov. 5. For what will be on your ballot, go to myvote.wi.gov.

## Updated districts are topic of meeting

Information about new state Assembly and Senate districts and who will be on the ballot in the Aug. 13 primary and Nov. 5 general election will be discussed at a nonpartisan informational meeting July 11 at the Neenah Public Library.

The meeting will be in the Shattuck Room from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and is jointly sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities, Winnebago County and Wisconsin.

League leaders and members of the Fair Maps coalition will explain the changes in local legislative districts with maps available.

Information on the next steps toward a permanent nonpartisan process for redistricting will also be discussed.

State legislative candidates in the Fox Valley area will be invited to attend and asked to make a short statement introducing themselves to voters.

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FCCVB photo

Amanda Geiser, Fox Crossing director of Parks & Recreation (left), holds a check with Pam Seidl, executive director of the Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau, that will go toward a kayak rental station at Fritse Park.

### Kayak rental stations funded by chamber

Neenah News

The Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau (FCCVB) has awarded five tourism development grants to help fund kayak rental stations at area parks and lakes, including in Neenah and Fox Crossing. A total of \$70,000 in grant funds was awarded for the acquisition and installation of kayak equipment and storage facilities.

"The popularity of outdoor recreation in tourism, coupled with the visitor interest in experiencing our beautiful water assets, were the foundation of this grant

program," said Pam Seidl, executive director of the Fox Cities CVCB.

Kayak rental stations are now found at Fritse Park in Fox Crossing, Herb & Dolly Smith Park and Doty parks in Neenah, Telulah Park in Appleton, Sunset Park in Kimberly and Black Otter Lake in Hortonville.

The FCCVB has awarded nearly \$12 million in grants through its Tourism Development Grant program for costs related to development of visitor attractions, amenities, traveling exhibitions and certain types of signage.

# Stay safe around the water during summer outings

ThedaCare Communications

Pools, lakes and waterways are staples of fun during summer months in Wisconsin. From swimming to tubing to canoeing and boating, kids and families have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the water.

To help keep children and families safe, it's important to follow safety tips.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning poses a big risk for children. For kids ages 1 to 4, it's the leading cause of death. For children ages 5 to 14, drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional injury and death, after motor vehicle crashes.

"Staying safe with aquatic adventures requires awareness, preparedness and vigilance," said Dr. Angie Amos, a family medicine physician with ThedaCare Physicians-Waupaca, who is offering a splash of timely tips.



Amos

Amos recommends taking advantage of that summer free time and sign up kids for swimming lessons.

"Learning to swim is a fundamental skill that can save lives," Amos said. "It instills confidence in the water, and also equips people with essential survival skills."

To further minimize the risk of drowning, parents and other supervising adults should keep a close eye on young children near water, even if young ones know how to swim. Drowning can happen quickly and silently, so constant supervision is key.

"In addition, don't overestimate swimming abilities or push yourself or others beyond their comfort zone," Amos said. "Be sure to stick to designated swimming areas and avoid waters with strong currents or hazards."

Slips and falls can pose a significant risk,

particularly on wet surfaces like pool decks or boat docks.

"Wearing appropriate footwear with good traction can help prevent slips and falls, reducing the risk of injuries," Amos said.

Common injuries include ankle and wrist sprains and strains. Falls can even result in more serious injuries such as torn ligaments in the knee, back, or shoulder. Staying cautious and avoiding running and reckless behavior near water can help reduce the risk of accidents.

Understanding boating safety is vital. Amos underscores the importance of following boating regulations and using proper safety equipment.

"Life jackets are a critical piece of boating safety equipment that can mean the difference between life and death in an emergency," she said. "Everyone on board any watercraft should wear a properly fitted life jacket."

Before embarking on a boating excursion, ensure that your watercraft is equipped with essential gear. This includes life jackets, navigation lights and a first aid kit.

It's also best to avoid consuming alcohol while boating. Alcohol use can affect judgment, vision, balance and coordination.

Swimmer's ear and swimmer's itch are common complaints associated with recreational water activities.

Swimmer's ear is a bacterial infection typically caused by water that stays in the outer ear canal for a long period of time, providing a moist environment for bacteria to grow. Anyone can get swimmer's ear, but it's more common in children.

"After swimming, gently dry your ears with a towel, and avoid inserting objects like cotton swabs into the ear canal," Amos said. "This can damage the eardrum or promote infection by breaking down the delicate skin of the ear canal."

If you suspect swimmer's ear, contact your doctor's office. Prompt treatment can help prevent complications and more serious infections.

Swimmer's itch is a rash that can occur after spending time in water outdoors. It's most common to develop swimmer's itch after swimming in freshwater lakes or ponds, but it can occur after swimming in saltwater as well.

Showering after swimming can help remove any parasites or bacteria that may linger on the skin, reducing the risk of swimmer's itch. If you or child do develop swimmer's itch, and it doesn't resolve within a week, contact your doctor's office.

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# Beer sales

FROM PAGE 1

years, with staff noting the first step is to change city code to allow alcohol sales at gas stations.

Over the years the city's strict regulations have been modified. In the 1990s, the city changed the ordinance to allow grocery stores to sell alcohol, though only from a "store within a store." Then in 2012, the city began allowing alcohol sales to be made at all registers within a grocery store.

Though previously the consumption of alcohol was prohibited in city parks, public property, streets, alleys, sidewalks or parking lots, last June the city voted to allow outdoor drinking in a temporary designated outdoor refreshment area (DORA) downtown Neenah during specific approved and permitted events.

On Tuesday, the Public Services and Safety Committee discussed expanding the DORA to allow outdoor drinking weekly from 5 to 10 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays from April 1 through Nov. 30. A vote on the proposal was tabled until the next meeting. If it passes, it will go to council for a final vote.

But the ban on alcohol sales at gas stations has remained, limiting business growth according to a 2019 memo from Community Development director Chris Haese who noted that some development projects did not move forward because of the inability to sell alcoholic beverages at the establishment.

Haese wrote that the discussion to change the policy has been met with debate and concern that issues would arise because of the change. He said the benefits to the consumer, often city residents, have exceeded any negative outcome from changing the ordinance.

Neenah Police Chief Aaron Olson previously told Neenah News that police are not opposed to a change in the ordinance and see it as no different than Walgreens and Dollar General stores that sell alcohol.

"Whether it passes or not, that's up to the city council and we enforce the laws that the state and city provides," he said.

The latest initiative to reconsider gas station alcohol sales was spearheaded by District 1 Alderman Mark Ellis and District 2 Alderman Dan Steiner. Ellis and District 3 aldermen Scott Weber and William Pollnow Jr. were not on the council at the time of the most recent vote on the policy in 2021. A majority of the nine council members must vote in favor of an ordinance for it to pass.

Ellis told the council that many things have changed from when the ban was

put in place such as a higher level of education and more cooperation, including from the Tavern League.

"There's a myriad of things that have altered from those days," he said, adding that convenience stores have become the new neighborhood grocery stores in a sense.

From a business standpoint, he said other communities that allow gas stations to sell alcohol have an unfair advantage over Neenah businesses.

If approved, the ordinance would only allow malt beverage sales, with staff previously noting there are potential loopholes in restricting liquor sales at convenience stores to beer and wine.

During previous consideration, the city recommended ordinance provisions include that gas stations obtain a special use permit and Class A fermented malt license and only sell alcohol from a lockable area such as a cooler, cage or similar fixture.

Other requirements included that the fixture the alcohol is displayed in be locked and inaccessible to the public between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., that there be no single serve malt beverages of under 60 ounces sold and malt beverages must be sold in no less than a six-pack of 12-ounce bottles or cans.

In addition, cashiers selling alcohol would need to be at least 18, with two employees on duty when alcohol is sold and one having a bartender's license. Stores selling alcohol would need to have a video system in place recording sales activity.

At last week's meeting, the council voted unanimously 8-0, with one alderman absent, to revisit the city's policy on selling beer at gas stations.

At the next council meeting scheduled for July 17, Haese will provide the history of the ordinance and a bullet-point list of potential ordinance provisions that the council can strike at will. The policy will then be put into ordinance form with the guidance of the city attorney. The draft ordinance will be sent to committee before going back to council for a final vote.

# Stabbing suspect ruled competent to stand trial

Neenah News

A judge on Tuesday ruled that a man accused of stabbing his brother 18 times in a Neenah apartment in December is competent to proceed with a criminal trial.

Darnell McCauley, 26, has been committed for inpatient psychiatric treatment since March.

This week, Winnebago Circuit Court Judge Bryan Keberlein accepted a doctor's report indicating McCauley has the mental capacity to understand the proceedings and assist in his own defense and reinstated a \$500,000 cash bond.

McCauley is facing a charge of attempted first-degree intentional homicide for the Dec. 18 incident at an address on Marathon Avenue where he's accused of stabbing his brother in the head, neck, face, arms, shoulders and lung.

The victim was transported by ambulance to the hospital and survived.

Documents say McCauley made a statement to police that the parties were drinking and doing drugs before the incident and he stabbed his brother in self-defense. He's due back in court July 11 for a preliminary appearance.

# Lead pipe identification focus of collaboration

Neenah News

Lead water pipes account for about 20 percent of all lead poisoning in the United States.

The Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin has created a partnership with Jacobs Engineering and University of Wisconsin Oshkosh that trains students and helps Wisconsin meet an Oct. 16 federal deadline for public water systems to submit their initial inventory of those pipelines that need to be replaced.

Jacobs Engineering was contracted by the state Department of Natural Resources last fall to identify the location and material of service lines across the state. Just under 2,000 public water systems in Wisconsin are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Agency's Lead and Copper Rule and Jacobs needed additional staffing to inventory service lines

in up to 435 of those community water systems.

The company recruited 22 students from 10 campuses, including UW Oshkosh, to work on the project in 2023 and 2024 with municipal water systems while gaining job skills. The service line data will be used to create and implement a comprehensive plan to remove the lead service lines.

The Freshwater Collaborative is a partnership of Wisconsin's 13 public universities to provide programs, internships and research opportunities that teach real-world skills.

Exposure to lead in drinking water through plumbing materials can cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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# Olympic rower

FROM PAGE 1

a phone interview. “There is going to be so much more pomp and circumstance.”

She continued, “I mean, Tokyo was really different. It was cool to be there, but there were no people watching your event and every day you did your COVID testing. We saw people getting pulled halfway through their events and put in isolation because they had COVID.”

“It was a scary time and there was a lot less closure because you would finish your event and had like 24 hours to get out of the (Olympic) village.”

The Paris Summer Olympics are scheduled for July 26-Aug. 11. Four years have passed since the start of the pandemic and a sense of normalcy has returned to the planet. That means world-class athletes like Wanamaker can soak in all the special sights and sounds and truly enjoy the Olympic experience. This will be Wanamaker’s first visit to Paris and she plans to make it a good one.

“This time, we’ll have our families there cheering us on, we’ll be able to see the city a little bit and just take in the celebratory atmosphere of everything,” Wanamaker said. “We don’t normally get huge crowds for rowing, but this time there will actually be people there and I think the crowds are going to be kind of rowdy, which will add to the fun.”

## Family support

Maddie’s parents, Tom and Janet Wanamaker of Neenah, will travel to Paris to watch her compete along with Maddie’s brother, Dan, and various friends and relatives.

“As a consolation prize, NBC flew us out to Orlando in 2020 to this convention center to be part of this staged family group, so they could get family reactions for the broadcast,” said Tom Wanamaker. “This is going to be a lot more fun. My wife and I have both studied French, so I hope the language comes back to us.”

Maddie, a 2013 Neenah High School

graduate, is scheduled to race in the women’s eight rowing event. Wanamaker gives her team a skilled, experienced rower.

Wanamaker’s eight-person team tuned up for Paris by winning a bronze medal in the women’s eight at the 2024 World Rowing Cup II competition May 24-26 in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Wanamaker didn’t hesitate when asked what she hoped to accomplish in Paris.

“The gold – you gotta go for the gold,” she said. “We have a lot of experience and talent in our boat, so I’m excited to see what we can do. We did well in Switzerland and that was a great experience because it was such a beautiful course – one of the best in the world.”

## A major scare

Wanamaker has been resilient in battling her way through injuries during her distinguished rowing career. One was a major health scare that threatened to keep her out of the boat for good. Wanamaker was training in Colorado Springs in February 2023 when a blood clot was discovered on her arm. She was diagnosed with thoracic outlet syndrome – an ailment characterized by pressure on the blood vessels or nerves in an area between the neck and shoulder.

The ensuing surgery involved cutting out a portion of a rib and surrounding muscle between the collarbone and first rib.

“The nerves and blood vessels kind of pinched due to all that rowing – where you’re spending so much with your arms straight out,” Wanamaker said. “I ended up with a blood clot. Woke up one morning and my arm was just purple and red. They had to remove my first rib.”

“It was scary, but the same thing happened to one of my teammates a few years back. I knew what the symptoms were and that even though it was a serious thing, once you have the surgery you can get back to rowing.”

Wanamaker missed just a few months before returning to training.

“I was just hitting my stride, so it was really frustrating to have that kind of a setback,” she said. “But I think it made

me appreciate rowing more and spending time with my teammates. I kind of needed a mental reset I needed to feel some gratitude for my health.”

So, what type of training schedule does an Olympian rower like Wanamaker tackle? Intense may be the best word to describe it.

“We do about 18 practices per week,” she said. “There’s rowing on the water in the morning and sometimes in the afternoon. Sometimes we’ll be on the rowing machines. Sometimes it will be cycling, a stationary bike or running, a cross-training type of thing. Then we have weights twice a week and maybe a PT (physical therapy) session. And then, you have to do all your stretching and your fueling, make sure you are eating properly. It’s like a 40-hour work week for everything.”

## How it all started

Wanamaker played soccer, ran cross country and competed in track and field in high school. Her rowing experience was limited but she participated in a summer rowing camp before starting college at UW-Madison and became intrigued with the sport.

She made the Badgers rowing team as a freshman walk-on in 2013 and was a four-year letter winner who was part of UW teams that had a pair of consecutive top-10 NCAA finishes in her junior and senior years.

“I knew I was never going to be good enough (for the next level) in soccer or cross country,” Wanamaker said. “I started thinking about rowing late in high school, but when I started, it wasn’t like, ‘I’m going to go to the Olympics someday in this event.’ I was getting ready for college and just wanted to make friends, have good experiences and be part of a community.”

## Rowing background

Wanamaker’s willingness to initially give rowing a shot should come as no surprise, considering that both Tom and Janet were collegiate rowers at UW.

“When she first got to college, I knew she had the physical attributes you need to

be a rower,” Tom said. “But physical attributes get you only so far. The mental end of things – that’s what really counts.”

“I remember telling her, ‘You better like this because when you really get into this as a college rower, it’s a lot of dedication and hard work.’ And she did that. She put in the hard work to reach this point. It’s basically sacrificing your life when you should be getting out of college and starting on with the rest of your life.”

Wanamaker received her bachelor’s degree in 2017 from Wisconsin in environmental studies and science communication, while receiving second-team all-region and all-conference honors in rowing. She made the U.S. National U23 rowing team in 2016 and has been rowing with U.S. national squads since then.

“Mentally, Maddie is just so tough,” Tom said. “There have been some tough times she’s gone through: injuries, getting a rib removed, the competition she’s faced to make the Olympic team.”

“All that stuff – the mental end of things – that these people go through is just really intense. I’m proud of how much work she has put in and the fortitude she has showed.”

## A new chapter

Wanamaker, 29, recently received a master’s degree in sports leadership from Wisconsin and is preparing to start the next phase of her life. She hopes to land a full-time job as a college rowing coach and admits the Paris Olympics will probably be her last competition as a competitive rower.

“I don’t see myself coming back, but you never say never, because it limits you,” Wanamaker said. “But yeah, this is likely my last hurrah. I just feel there are other things that I have commitments to do. I want to develop my career, see my friends and family and spend time with them. I want to have a life.”

“I’ve been at this for a while now and I think it’s been such a big part of my life. But I just think it’s time to try something new and experience more of a normal way of life.”

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# Spring sports all-conference

## GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

### Rockets rake in all-conference honors

Three individuals and two relays earned first-team all-conference honors in the Fox Valley Association based on the results of the conference meet.

Junior Mazie Olkowski led the way by earning first-team honors in both the 1,600 meters and 3,200 meters, while senior Rachel Dietrich in the 800 meters and freshman Celia Gentile in the long jump rounded out the first-team individuals.

In the relays, Gentile, Dietrich and seniors Julia Rangel and Ava Schalow earned first-team honors in the 1,600-meter relay, while Gentile, seniors Lilly Ganditzke and Abbie Fischer and sophomore Brynn Fox were the top FVA team in the 400-meter relay.

Dietrich in the 1,600 meters and Gentile in the 100 meters added second-team honors, along with junior Avery Gentile in the high jump and senior Lydia Delene in the shot put. Delene was also honorable mention in the discus.

The Rockets' 800-meter and 3,200-meter relay teams also earned honorable mention honors.

### Ripley leads St. Mary Catholic honorees

Junior Lauren Ripley earned all-conference recognition in three individual events to lead the honorees for the Zephyrs, who claimed the Big East Conference title.

Ripley was first team in the 800 meters, second team in the 1,600 meters and honorable mention in the long jump.

Junior Nolie Anderson was second team in the discus and third team in the shot put, while freshman Claire Higgins

was second team in the 400 meters and honorable mention in the 3,200 meters. Freshman Moorea Steckling also picked up honorable mention honors in the 300-meter relays.

The Zephyrs' 3,200-meter relay team of Addison Dinka, Maria Marti, Norah Lee and Higgins also claimed second-team honors, while the 1,600-meter relay team of Ripley, Dinka, Lee and Marti was on the honorable mention list.

## BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

### Dean, Armock, relays earn top FVA honors

Senior Wyatt Armock and junior Grant Dean each earned first-team all-Fox Valley Association honors, while the Rockets also had a pair of relays earn top honors on the all-conference teams, which were based on the conference meet.

Armock earned his first-team honors in the 3,200 meters, while also picking up honorable mention honors in the 1,600 meters. Dean was first-team all-conference in the 400 meters, while senior Owen Wise took second-team honors in the event.

Neenah was also first team in the 1,600-meter relay with a team of Wise and seniors Braden Loudon, CJ Fredrickson and Alex Thayer, while the 3,200-meter relay team of Thayer and seniors Sam Kleisner, Owen Martin and Aidan Apa.

### Post, Groppe secure all-conference nods

St. Mary Catholic seniors Ashton Post and AJ Groppe earned all-Big East Conference honors in the pole vault.

Post was a first-team honoree, while Groppe earned a spot on the honorable mention list.

# Legion drops close game to Bay Port

Neenah News

Isaac Verbruggen turned in a strong start but the Neenah Post 33 Legion offense was held without a hit in a 3-1 loss to Bay Port on Monday night.

Verbruggen pitched 5 2/3 innings and allowed five hits while striking out four in the start. He allowed all three runs – only two of which were earned – in the fourth inning as Bay Port took the lead for good.

Neenah scored its lone run in the top of the second, starting when Jackson

Crowder reached on a fielder's choice. Braden Wendt came on as a courtesy runner and advanced to second when Adam Lorrigh reached on a Bay Port error.

With Owen Martin at the plate, Wendt would dash home on a wild pitch to stake Neenah to a 1-0 lead.

The only other baserunners for Neenah were Verbruggen, who was hit by a pitch and Trevor Stichman, who drew a walk.

Neenah will be hosting Appleton Legion on Monday before traveling to face Shawano on Tuesday.

# Neenah's Price to play in all-star games

Former Neenah High School standout AJ Price will be competing this weekend in the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches All-Star games this weekend in Oshkosh.

Price, who committed to attend St. Cloud State last summer, will be a member of the North team, which will play at 4 p.m. Friday at EJ Schneider Field in Oshkosh and then play two games on Saturday.

Price was a first-team all-Fox Valley Association selection this season as an outfielder after leading the Rockets with a

.382 batting average. He finished the season with 29 hits and 27 runs scored, while leading the team with 19 stolen bases.

Price also shared the team-lead with nine doubles, while topping the Rockets with two triples.

Price also finished 3-2 on the mound this season with 48 strikeouts in 32 innings on the mound.

Price was one of two FVA players selected for the games. He will be on the North squad with Appleton West's Ryder Hoffman.

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