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Supervisors plan sessions for public input

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County Supervisors representing Neenah districts will be available at upcoming listening meetings to answer questions, discuss agenda items for monthly board meetings and accept input on the county budget.



Hancock-Cooke

Supervisors representing Neenah include Stefanie Holt in District 5, Lucas Reinke in District 6, Kate Hancock-Cooke in District 7, Jim Wise in District 8, Don Nussbaum in District 9, Bryan Stafford in District 10 and Chuck Farrey in District 30.

Hancock-Cooke, who was newly elected in April, is organizing the listening meetings because she said it's important to connect with residents to ensure the decisions the county board makes are what

SEE **Public input** ON PAGE 15

Work set to begin on new morgue

County facility faced construction delays

Neenah News

Construction is set to begin on a much-needed morgue and sheriff's office evidence storage about two years after the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors gave the green light for the project.

Facilities and property management director Mike Elder noted last year that the addition of the morgue altered the project's scope, requiring additional planning and funding. It was later determined that

the proposed site location wouldn't work, requiring a new survey, new site work and a redesign of the building.

Elder gave a status update on the project at the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting Monday, noting that the county is working through the permitting process with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Specifically, Elder said the DNR requested a better plan on how the county will mitigate any interruptions to water flowing through a north ditch on the property.

"We've got the information together and they should be getting a revised per-

mit application tomorrow, so we are looking at having the permit to start both the evidence garage and the morgue June 15," he said.

Winnebago County doesn't have its own cold storage for bodies. When a resident dies of a suspicious death an autopsy is conducted in Fond du Lac County, with Winnebago County required to store bodies for up to 12 days until the autopsy.

Medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer told the board in 2022 that a morgue is necessary to keep up with the rising number of

SEE **Morgue status** ON PAGE 15



Neenah News

The halls of Hoover Elementary bustled with activity for the final time last week as the school prepares to close.

Visitors reflect on Hoover school closing

Memories are shared about education legacy

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

As the sun set on an era of education, Hoover Elementary School staff and students bid farewell to its halls filled with laughter, learning and memories during a final celebration last Thursday.

More than 750 people gathered to reminisce about their fondest memories of Hoover, sharing anecdotes of playground adventures, classroom triumphs and friendships that withstood the test of time.

For 72 years Hoover stood as a beacon of education on Hunt Avenue, its halls echoing with the sounds of generations of students, teachers and staff.

The school board voted in February to

close the elementary school, leaving many members of the community disheartened. But declining enrollment, budget constraints and changing educational landscapes necessitated difficult choices.

The Neenah Joint School District plans to remain in possession of the vacant Hoover building. Possible uses include space for all-day 4K or a half-day 3K program and additional programming for special education or behavioral support. It could also reopen in the future as enrollment shifts or programming needs arise.

The final celebration last week included tours of the school, food trucks, games, free library books and clothes. Hoover staff gave attendees a handout on the school.

"950 Hunt Avenue is a sacred place where generations of families have walked their 5-year-olds hand in hand to be re-

leased into the hands of educators with hearts that were literally two sizes too big," staff wrote.

Those families include Tom and Pat Wenzel, who raised four children across the street who all attended Hoover from 1978-1994. The Wenzels, now in Oshkosh, traveled to Neenah to attend the final celebration.

"It was so much fun here," Pat said. "It was just as much fun for us as it was for our kids."

The Wenzels, who also have eight grandchildren, were excited to find a trophy on display with their son's name on it and spent time looking through cards that were handmade by students for the event.

The Hoover hallways were lined with students' decorations, photos and notes

SEE **Hoover closing** ON PAGE 15

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Candidates line up for state, national offices

Neenah News

Prospective candidates for state and national offices were set this week with Monday's nomination filing deadline, setting up races for the state Legislature based on new Assembly and Senate district maps approved in February.

Former Neenah Mayor Dean Kaufert is seeking a return to the state Assembly in which he served for 24 years before returning to city government to become its mayor until 2022.

The Democratic challenger for that newly drawn 53rd District is Duane Shuskoski of Neenah, who worked for Kim-

berly Clark for 37 years and retired from Proampac as an environmental health and safety manager.

The 53rd Assembly district includes Town of Neenah, City of Neenah, City of Menasha and a small portion of Appleton and is currently represented by Rep. Michael Shraa of Oshkosh.

Shraa now resides in the 55th District after it was remapped and will challenge fellow Republican and incumbent Nate Gustafson of Fox Crossing. Real estate agent and Winneconne native Kyle Kehoe also filed his candidacy as a Democrat for that district.

State Senate District 18, which includes Appleton, Menasha, Neenah and Oshkosh, will have a new representative as incumbent Sen. Dan Feyen, a Republican from Fond du Lac, was drawn out of that district and seeks re-election in the new District 20.

Appleton alderperson Kristin Alfheim will be seeking that Senate seat as a Democrat while Republicans Anthony Phillips and Blong Yang will face an Aug. 13 primary election to determine the Republican candidate.

New state maps for the Assembly and Senate districts were signed into law Feb. 19.

In the 6th Congressional District, longtime Republican incumbent Glenn Grothman will be challenged by Democrat John Zarbano.

In the 8th Congressional District, which includes portions of northern Winnebago County, there will be a special election to replace Mike Gallagher, a Republican who stepped down in April, ahead of the Nov. 5 general election. Andre Jacque, Roger Roth and Tony Wied will run in that Aug. 13 primary to narrow the field to one candidate. Democrat Kristin Lyerly also will run for that seat in the general election.



Neenah Historical Society photo

General store

When J.F. Stroebel was just 16 years old he began working in Pitt Peckham's hardware store in downtown Neenah. Over time, he would become the sole owner of what would be known as J.F. Stroebel Hardware at 126 W. Wisconsin Ave., (present-day Smile Creations).

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<p>June 20 Los Lonely Boys Chuck Prophet & The Mission Express Newski</p>	
<p>June 27 Steely Dane Paul Cebal Tomorrow Sound The Fox Menagerie</p>	
<p>July 11 ARRIVAL from Sweden: The Music of ABBA The Pocket Kings Salsa Manzana</p>	
<p>July 18 Voices of Rock Radio Copperbox Kate Voss & The Hot Sauce</p>	
<p>August 1 Gin Blossoms Toad The Wet Sprocket Vertical Horizon</p>	
<p>August 8 British Invasion Night! Hermans Hermits Starring Peter Noone American English: The Beatles Tribute</p>	
<p>August 15 The Mavericks Alex McMurray Band Lil' Davy Max</p>	
<p>Special Wednesday Event! August 21 Danny Seraphine and CTA with former Chicago singer and Bassist Jeff Coffey Child's Anthem The Music of Toto</p>	<p>THE MAVERICKS MOON & STARS SUMMER TOUR '24 AUGUST 15 OSHKOSH WISCONSIN WATERFEST • LEACH AMPHITHEATER</p>

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Calendar of events

- Saturday, June 8**
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
Learn to Sail and Sailing Open House, 10 a.m., Riverside Park
Doty Island rummage sales, 8 a.m., various locations
- Tuesday, June 11**
Neenah Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park
- Wednesday, June 12**
Summer Kickoff Concert: Love Monkeys, 6 p.m., downtown Neenah
- Thursday, June 13**
Out to Lunch Concert Series: Guy Parker Duo, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park
Live Music Series: Two of a Kind, 5 p.m., Batley's Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way
- Friday, June 14**
Summer Fun Fest, 2 p.m., Evergreen Credit Union, 1500 W. American Drive
- Saturday, June 15**
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
- Sunday, June 16**
Neenah Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park
- Tuesday, June 18**
Family Programs, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Wednesday, June 19**
Evening Concert Series: STEEM, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park
- Thursday, June 20**
Out to Lunch Concert Series: Russ Reiser, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park
Live Music Series: Pattie & Jeff, 5 p.m., Batley's Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way
Art After Dark: Swiftie Fan Celebration, 5:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

'Asphalt gypsy' draws probation for scams

Neenah News

A Texas man dubbed the "asphalt gypsy" was sentenced to five years' probation last week on five felony counts of theft by false representation for contractor fraud targeting elderly homeowners in Winchester and Omro.

Circuit Court Judge Daniel Bissett also sentenced Mico Miller, 30, to five years in prison and five years on extended supervision imposed and stayed, meaning Miller will only serve that sentence if his probation is revoked.

Miller was previously convicted of one felony in Waupaca County and two felonies in Brown County and is serving a two-year prison sentence for the traveling asphalt scam. He also faces an additional 11 felony and 10 misdemeanor charges in six other counties.

According to the Winnebago County criminal complaint, Miller approached a couple in Winchester in July 2020 and

offered to seal their driveway for \$500. Miller and a partner began sealing the driveway and halfway through informed the victim that if he wanted the driveway finished he would have to pay an additional \$6,000. The victim said he felt threatened that if he didn't pay, Miller would come back and take his belongings. He paid Miller \$5,100 in cash.



Miller

Three days later, Miller approached a 77-year-old Omro man and his wife offering to seal their driveway at "a deal" of \$38 per gallon of sealant. He and a partner spent 45 minutes working on the driveway and then requested \$7,500 as payment, claiming he used 241 gallons of product. The victim paid the fee.

Investigators noted the asphalt sealing community partners will begin reviewing submissions July 11 and the finalist will be announced July 19.

Designs must meet these themes: Harm reduction saves lives, all people are capable of recovery and decreasing the stigma of substance use disorder. More information is at wchd.pub/PHVM or by contacting Maddie Breager, community health strategist, at mbreager@winnebagocountywi.gov or 920-385-8833.

The vending machines will be at the David W. Albrecht Administrative Building at 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh and Neenah Human Services Building at 211 N. Commercial St. in Neenah.

was poorly done, peeling and sticking to the tires of vehicles five days after it was applied. A local sealcoating business was consulted and said the product used on the asphalt didn't appear to be sealant and at most the driveway would take about 20 gallons of sealant and cost \$300-\$500.

Miller was arrested in Grand Chute in August 2020 and his partner was identified as his 12-year-old nephew who was in Wisconsin to work. In a statement to investigators, Miller allegedly admitted he was misrepresenting how much product he was putting down and overcharging people.

District Attorney Eric Sparr said Miller initially posted \$20,000 cash bail in Winnebago County and a total of \$22,000 in his other county cases and then took off. His bail was forfeited and a warrant was issued for his arrest in 2021. In 2023 the county extradited him from Texas.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) issued a consumer alert in September that traveling asphalt crews were reported in the southeastern portion of Wisconsin.

DATCP advised residents in need of driveway resurfacing to contact local contractors, gather multiple bids and never pay the full price of the project up front.

If approached for unsolicited asphalt paving or sealing services, DATCP recommended residents turn the workers away and contact law enforcement with a description of the workers' vehicles and license plate numbers.

Residents who have been scammed by a transient asphalt crew may file a complaint at DATCP's Consumer Protection webpage at ConsumerProtection.wi.gov.

Artwork designs sought for vending machines

Neenah News

Winnebago County Public Health will be featuring artwork from a local community member on the new harm reduction-themed vending machines being placed in Oshkosh and Neenah.

County supervisors in March accepted a \$80,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to fund the vending machines that dispense the opioid overdose-reversing medication Narcan, fentanyl test strips and related materials.

Those in recovery, those who support those in recovery or anyone looking to make a difference are encouraged to submit artwork designs by June 28. A panel of

WILLS vs TRUSTS

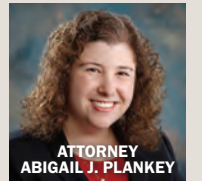
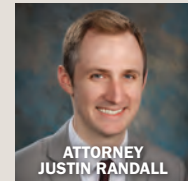
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- ▶ How veterans or their spouses can receive money to help pay for medical expenses.
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Tags emphasize importance of recycling efficiently

By Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski
FOR THE NEENAH NEWS

This March, Winnebago County Solid Waste reported the city of Neenah recycled 152 tons of materials. There are certain items, however, that residents put in those recycling carts that are not recyclable.

Starting this month, the city will be implementing a recycling reminder tag. These tags are a courtesy note to residents

on the rules to assist in recycling better.

The reminder tags will be used if an obvious recycling rule has been broken. The most common example of where a tag may be deployed is if a resident has bagged their recycling in their cart or their cart is full of plastic bags.

The city is part of the Winnebago County Solid Waste recycling, which is a partner in the TriCounty Recycling Program. Materials from three counties are taken to

the Appleton center to be sorted into the different recyclable types (paper, plastic, glass, and metal food and beverage containers).

In May, the Outagamie County center posted on Facebook a request for residents to stop putting plastic bags in recycling carts. They reported filling two 30-yard dumpsters per day of just those bags. Some bags make it past the initial sorting line and clog their machinery, which results in unnecessary downtime.

By keeping the bags out of recycling carts, we can keep our recycling clean and efficient. Plastic bags can be recycled by residents at participating retail locations or grocery stores.

Other common recycling mistakes include putting non-recyclable items in the cart, such as trash or items such as batteries or scrap metal. Large, molded plastic items like children's toys or laundry baskets are also not recyclable in your curbside recycling cart, but could be taken to the Outagamie County Recycling Center.

Residents with questions on whether an item is recyclable or where to take a particular item can search the Waste Wizard on the TriCounty Recycling website (recyclemoretricity.org) or download the BetterBin app to their mobile phone.

The recycling tags do not have a consequence, they are just a courtesy notice and reminder. Similar tags have been implemented in Outagamie County to assist with their program. The main goal is to reduce waste in landfills, which will decrease landfill charges to the city and ultimately taxpayers. Another goal is increasing the value of the recycled materials, which is achieved when not contaminated with

non-recyclable materials.

Interested in recycling even more items? The Sustainable Neenah Committee has the following suggestions:

- Avoid putting the "ugly eight" in curbside recycling carts: plastic bags, shredded paper, propane tanks, sharps, tangler items (hoses, cords, ropes, wires), textiles, batteries and trash.

- Sign up to take a recycling class with Tri-County Recycling. They offer two levels of classes during the year.

- Take a tour of the Tri-County Recycling Center in Appleton. Here you can see what happens with the recycling you place in a cart and the importance of recycling correctly.

- Verify a household item is recyclable using the BetterBin app or the Waste Wizard. What is or is not acceptable may occasionally change, and these sites provide the most current information.

- Visit with Sustainable Neenah at the Farmers Market to learn about the projects they are working on to make Neenah more green and sustainable. Volunteer to help with current projects or serve on the committee.

- Recycle electronic items at the city-sponsored e-waste events in May and October or through RecycleThatStuff in Appleton. Charges may apply.

- The Foam Dome at Outagamie County Recycling and Solid Waste accepts clean expandable polystyrene (EPS) – foam to protect new electronics and appliances, and clean food packaging foam (egg cartons, foam takeout containers or foam cups).

Let's work together to make Neenah cleaner and greener.



Photo from Beaming Inc.

Governor visit

Gov. Tony Evers is shown visiting Beaming in Neenah to highlight the organization's work to support veterans and their mental health with equine-assisted therapy. Beaming recently was awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs to expand its Horses, Hearts & Heroes program that will support mental health services, bunkhouses for veterans and their families to camp in and enjoy an extended experience at the Beaming Ranch.

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Neenah News

Plexus and UW Madison staff and alumni posed for a group photo at the Plexus global headquarters in Neenah last Thursday.

UW Madison anniversary tour makes stop in Neenah

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is celebrating its 175th anniversary with a state tour that included several stops in the Fox Valley last week to recognize its partnership with local businesses, community groups, leaders, alumni and prospective students.

The university's delegation, including Bucky Badger, started the day last Thursday by meeting with more than 200 students at Maplewood Middle School in Menasha.

"We got to spend time with a bunch of seventh-graders with big dreams," said Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin. "We talked about how they want to grow up to be everything from veterinarians, to video game coders, to brain surgeons, to defense

lawyers, and we hope that UW Madison can be part of their story, too."

The delegation's next stop was at Plexus Corp. global headquarters in Neenah where attendees listened to remarks from university and Plexus leaders, ate lunch and toured the company.

Plexus employs about 80 UW Madison alumni, including chief executive Todd Kelsey who told attendees that the university holds a special place in his heart. Plexus has long supported UW Madison, collaborating to offer classroom spaces and programs.

Noteworthy is Kelsey's advocacy for the construction of a new \$347 million College of Engineering building at UW Madison, slated to begin later this year. Kelsey is featured in videos about the endeavor and Plexus pledged a financial contribution,



Plexus photo

UW Madison's Fox Valley portion of its 175th anniversary celebration included a stop at Plexus in Neenah where attendees toured the building.

solidifying its commitment to advancing education and research at the university.

"Plexus was a terrific partner for us as we were helping the state and Legislature understand the value of a new engineering building," Mnookin said. "The Plexus CEO was a strong advocate for the importance of that building and not only for us at the university, but for him as a major employer and for the good of the state."

Ian Robertson, dean of the College of Engineering, said Plexus was one of many companies and individuals throughout Wisconsin that played a role in the new engineering building.

"We want to thank everyone for all of their support in getting this building done," he said. "It's going to be great for the state."

Reflecting on the event, Mnookin said the state tour exemplifies the importance of partnership between academia and the community.

"I'm especially honored to help lead a university where the principle of sharing and creating knowledge and value and connection all across the state is at the heart of what we do and what we care about," she said.

The Fox Valley portion of the tour continued with a stop at the Mosquito Hill Nature Center in New London, which is celebrating its own 50-year anniversary, and concluded with a community event at Poplar Hall in Appleton.

The UW Madison state tour continues throughout the summer, with upcoming stops listed at 175.wisc.edu/state-tour.

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Kimberly-Clark awards scholarships to seniors in area

Kimberly-Clark has awarded 2024 Bright Futures college scholarships to 18 Fox Valley students in recognition of their academic achievements and leadership in their schools and communities.

Established in 1993, the Bright Futures program is administered by the Kimberly-Clark Foundation and awards scholarships worth up to \$20,000, or \$5,000 per school year, to children of Kimberly-Clark employees.

Among the seniors receiving scholarships:

Alison Denzin, Neenah High School, child of Jim and Vicki Denzin, who plans to attend Trine University.

Gabe Hansen, Neenah High School, child of Jim and Wendy Hansen, who plans to attend the University of Wisconsin.

Charley Mullen, Lourdes Academy, child of Rob and Erica Mullen.

Alex Walsh, St. Mary Catholic High School, child of Julie Walsh.

Myah Wenzel, Neenah High School, child of Scott and Sheila Wenzel, who plans to attend UW Oshkosh.

Sean Zeier, Neenah High School, child of Shelby Zeier, who plans to attend UW-Whitewater.

K-C awarded scholarships to 47 students in the U.S. and Canada. The average GPA for this year was 3.97.

Business news roundup

The Fox Cities Chamber recently welcomed Cheryl Fahrner as its new manager of economic development. She will lead the



Fahrner

chamber's economic development efforts, including talent retention and attraction, business attraction, business retention and expansion, and partnership development. Fahrner has more than 20 years of leadership experience,

most recently serving as executive director of Columbia County Economic Development Corp. and the Columbia County Visitors Bureau.

The Fox Cities Chamber has been named a finalist for the national 2024 Chamber of the Year award, presented by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, an association based in Alexandria, Va., with more than 1,600 chambers of commerce and related organizations around the world. Those honored with the Chamber of the Year designation have demonstrated organizational strength and impacted key community priorities. Winners will be announced July 17. The chamber was one of 12 Communications Award of Excellence winners named.



Photos by David Hall

Trail season

The Fox Cities Trestle Trail bridge seen from the air and across the water last weekend draws both fishing interests and trail users in growing numbers as summer draws near. The popular bridge spans Little Lake Butte des Morts as part of the 3.5-mile loop connecting Neenah, Menasha and Fox Crossing. Part of the Friendship Trail, the 1,600-foot former railroad trestle was developed into a recreational route in 2005.



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Rockets punch ticket to state by toppling Hudson

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah High School boys lacrosse team clinched its spot in the inaugural WIAA state title match and got some revenge at the same time Tuesday night.

The Rockets avenged a loss to Hudson from earlier in the season by beating the Raiders 11-6 in Neenah in a WIAA Sectional Final.

Neenah will play in the state title game Saturday afternoon in Sun Prairie where it will face Waunakee, another team that beat the Rockets during the regular season.

“It’s truly an honor for us to be part of the very first WIAA lacrosse championship,” Neenah head coach Eric Marsh said. “It was the goal since day one of the season. The support from around the community and state has been amazing and we can’t wait to see where this sport goes from here.”

The first half belonged to Neenah’s offense as the Rockets put up seven goals to take the lead at intermission.

Evan Hans opened the scoring with his first goal of the night but also broke a 4-4 tie with back-to-back tallies midway through the second period that put the Rockets ahead for good.

“I thought that our entire team was working so well offensively tonight,” Evan Hans said. “Throughout the game it was all about finding the right time to dodge and attack the goal. This team has made a huge push to get to the state championship and that all started this offseason.”

Hans said his success was simply a matter of placement.



Photo by Dustin Riese

The Neenah boys lacrosse team will play in the inaugural WIAA state championship game against Waunakee on Saturday in Sun Prairie. The Rockets beat Hudson, 11-6, in a state semifinal Tuesday night.

“Tonight I was able to find the right places to shoot at the goalie,” he said. “That led to not only three goals for me, but led to plenty of scoring for the rest of our team.”

Keane Sullivan also scored in the opening half for the Rockets, while goals from Brandon Price and Jack Klundt 20 seconds apart gave the Neenah a 4-3 lead early in the second quarter.

After Hans gave the Rockets the lead,

Owen Grotenhuis found the net with 55 seconds left in the first half to give Neenah a 7-5 cushion.

That’s when the Rockets’ defense took over by allowing only one goal in the second half as Neenah pulled away for the win.

A second goal from Price was followed by goals from Drew Green and Ben Carey in the third quarter, while Jackson Browne picked up the final tally in the final period as the Rockets’ defense held Hudson scoreless.

“We went into the second half with one thing in mind: keep our foot on the gas,” Neenah goalkeeper Jack Ramsos said. “We knew that our lead was never too big and that they could come back at any time. We focused on keeping con-

stant ball pressure and not giving up anything easy down the stretch.”

The win over Hudson was the second straight tournament victory where the Rockets topped a team that beat them in the regular season. Neenah toppled Appleton 17-4 in a regional final last Saturday.

The Rockets will try to make it three revenge wins in a row against Waunakee in the state title game and will enter playing their best lacrosse of the season, having outscored their four postseason opponents 64-23.

“We played well but we can still clean some things up,” Marsh said. “Our defense was so tough in the second half and has been solid for us all year. This was truly a full team effort for us tonight and it was great to see us rewarded for that.”



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Neenah dealt heartbreaking loss in sectional semifinal

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah second-year head coach Aaron Nelson had one simple message for his team as they huddled after a gut-wrenching 4-3, nine-inning loss to Manitowoc Lincoln in a WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal at EJ Schneider Field in Oshkosh on Tuesday.

“Thank you,” an emotional Nelson said. “Just thank you for everything.”

“Thank you to the 10 seniors we had who left it all out there. It’s tough. You’re winning the whole game and you get down to the last inning, the last strike and you are inches away (from the win). But that’s the game.”

Neenah did plenty of things right to knock off the third-seeded Ships in the game, starting with the effort of Mack Krause on the mound.

The sophomore allowed only five hits in pitching 7 2/3 innings while walking two – one intentionally – and striking out four. Two of the three runs he allowed came in the second inning when two batters he hit with pitches scored but he proceeded to

retire the next 10 batters he faced.

“That kid’s a competitor. That’s what Mack is about,” Nelson said. “They threw their top guys at us and he went toe-to-toe with one of the best guys in the state.”

After getting the Ships in order in the top of the first inning, Krause kept Manitowoc quiet in the middle innings by retiring them in order in the third, fourth and sixth innings.

The only blemish in that stretch was a two-out single in the fifth.

“Mack was unreal. He is a dog. I love that kid,” junior third baseman Andrew Carlson said. “He does work very fast so it can be hard to get your prep step, but when he is in a groove it doesn’t matter because they don’t make much contact and if they do, it’s pretty weak.”

Carlson, who staked Neenah to a 1-0 lead with a first inning sacrifice fly, helped the Rockets answer the Ships’ rally off Krause.

Trevor Stichman and AJ Price started the inning with singles and Neenah then loaded the bases when Ethan Van Dyke reached on an error.

Carlson then delivered a two-run single that boosted Neenah back in front, 3-2.

“It’s easy and it’s hard at the same time,” Carlson said about hitting with runners in scoring position. “It’s a high-pressure situation. You know you aren’t going to get much as a four-hole hitter so you have to expand your zone a little bit and hit some stuff you might not really want to hit.”

Nelson was confident that Carlson would deliver when he batted with runners in scoring position.

“The kid goes after it. He’s going to battle until he gets his pitch and then execute,” Nelson said. “We talk about team swings, putting the ball in play when it matters and that’s what he did today. He found some holes and drove in runs, and that’s what he’s about.”

The Rockets wouldn’t score again but did have some opportunities to put more runs on the scoreboard.

In the sixth, Carlson had a single and Krause reached on a Manitowoc error to start the inning but Neenah would leave the bases loaded.

With the score tied in the eighth, the Rockets loaded the bases with no outs but Manitowoc ace Noah Welch got a strike-out and then an inning-ending double play to end the threat.

“Obviously when you leave guys on base, especially with less than two outs and you don’t get them in, that’s tough. But that’s baseball,” Nelson said. “You can go back through the whole game and pick

SEE **Neenah baseball** ON PAGE 14

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Rockets gear for familiar foe at team state tennis

Neenah News

Neenah's boys tennis team will face a familiar foe when the Rockets head to the WIAA Division 1 State Team Tennis Tournament, which begins Friday at the Nielsen Tennis Stadium in Madison.

The Rockets, who are seeded fourth in the eight-team field, will face fifth-seeded and fellow Fox Valley Association member Kimberly in a quarterfinal match. The winner will advance to face either top-seeded Brookfield Central or eighth-seeded Kenosha Indian Trail in Saturday's semifinals.

This will be Neenah's fifth straight trip to the team state tournament and 10th trip since 2013. The Rockets have finished second three times since 2013, the last coming in 2022, while Neenah's only team state title came in 1995.

The Rockets will be making their 21st appearance at the team state tournament, which is the second most behind Eau Claire Memorial's 25 appearances. Kimberly is making their first trip to the team state tournament.

Neenah defeated the Papermakers during the regular season by a slim, 4-3 margin, although the Rockets could be bringing a different lineup to the match. The Rockets swept all three doubles matches in that dual meet, including a three-set win from Luke Grassl and Henry Farrell. Tristan Yun had the lone singles win at the No. 3 flight.

Of the seven matches in the dual meet, six of them had at least one 7-5 set or went to three sets. The only lopsided flight was at No. 3 doubles where Joe Schultz and Harrison Tanager posted a 6-0, 6-1 win for Neenah.

Neenah enters the team state tournament off a good showing at the individual

state meet where three of the four Rocket flights to qualify won at least one match.

Carl Hein cruised past Oregon's Hayden Lohrentz, 6-0, 6-1, in his first match and then topped Mukwonago's Andrew Davies 7-5, 6-4, 10-7. Hein fell in the third round to top-seeded Oscar Corwin of Brookfield East.

The Rockets' No. 1 doubles team of Andrew Werner and Brady Hildreth also finished 2-1. The duo, which was seeded 13th, breezed past Menomonie's Charlie Behrend and Micah Gunderson, 6-3, 6-0 in the first round and then topped Joseph Belanger and Dalton Fritz of Rhinelander, 6-2, 6-3. The duo fell to fourth-seeded Ryan Gould and Aiden Ferber of Marquette.

Neenah's No. 2 team of Yun and Hunter Brown collected a first-round win over Badger's Oliver Nafziger and Jonny Klug, 6-0, 6-2, but lost in the second round to eighth-seeded Ilya Rice and Bodi Russo of Middleton.

Brady Lawatsch, Neenah's No. 2 singles player, lost in straight sets in his state match.

Zephyrs' pair takes third

St. Mary Catholic's No. 1 doubles team of senior Grant Bergstrom and junior Wesley Auth posted a pair of three-set wins over better-seeded opponents to take third at the WIAA Division 2 State Tennis Meet held last weekend in Madison.

Bergstrom and Auth, who were seeded fifth in the bracket, knocked off fourth-seeded Nick Bittner and Nate Hall of Xavier, 4-6, 6-3, 10-3 in the quarterfinals before suffering a loss to top-seeded and eventual champions Nate Carson and Finn Milleman of Catholic Memorial in the semifinals.

The Zephyr duo bounced back in the



Submitted photo

The St. Mary Catholic doubles team of Grant Bergstrom (left) and Wesley Auth finished third this weekend at the WIAA Division 2 State Doubles Tournament in Madison.

third-place match, once again recovering from a first-set loss to edge third-seeded Miles Gourlay and Jack Gilpin of University School, 6-7, 6-4, 10-7.

Bergstrom and Auth opened the tournament with a 6-2, 6-1 win over La Crosse Logan's Danil Roberts and Maxim Roberts before topping the Shorewood pairing of Max Reeve and Auguste Caton, 6-1, 6-4.

Bergstrom and Auth became the first St. Mary Catholic doubles team to finish in the top six at a state tournament since Luke Szews and Alex Peroutky took sixth in 2009.

It was Bergstrom's third straight trip to the state meet in doubles, while Auth reached the state tournament in singles the last two years, placing fifth as a freshman and sixth last year.

Prep roundup

BASEBALL

Zephyrs knocked off in sectional final

St. Mary Catholic finished one step short of earning a spot in the WIAA State Baseball Tournament, falling to Bonduel in a Division 3 sectional final at Gillett.

The Zephyrs fell in the sectional final, 7-0, to the Bears, who are ranked fifth in the state.

St. Mary Catholic earned its spot in the sectional final with a 7-3 win over Algoma earlier on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs scored all seven runs in the top of the fifth inning against the Wolves as Collin Nigl and Jacob Ernsting each drove in two runs in the rally. Fisher Mackenzie, Aidan Birling and Grant Brazzale each added an RBI.

Ernsting finished 2-for-3 for the Zephyrs. Mackenzie got the win on the mound and did not allow an earned run in getting the complete game victory. He struck out eight in the game, while walking two and scattering six hits.

Rockets top Owls for regional title

AJ Price tossed 6 2/3 strong innings and

drove in three runs as Neenah defeated Slinger, 7-3, to win a WIAA regional title last week.

Price, Trevor Stichman and Ethan Van Dyke each finished with two hits and scored two runs as the Rockets built a 7-0 lead after four innings.

Price struck out four and allowed just six hits with Isaac Verbruggen getting the final out of the game in the win.

SOCCER

St. Mary Catholic wins regional title

Audrey Wanless tallied the game's only goal as the Zephyrs knocked off visiting Peshtigo in a WIAA Division 4 regional final last Saturday.

The fourth-seeded Zephyrs finished with 17 shots on goal in the win.

Bethany Ruppert tallied five saves in net for St. Mary Catholic.

The Zephyrs earned a spot in the regional final with a 3-0 win over Omro.

Wanless scored a pair of goals to lead St. Mary Catholic, while also picking up an assist in the win. Maddy Mittelstadt added a goal and an assist for the Zephyrs.

Ruppert made eight saves in goal to earn the shutout.

Neenah swimmer makes Olympic trials

Neenah News

Neenah High School junior Drew Gaerthofner will compete in the U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials on June 15 in Indianapolis after achieving a qualifying time last weekend.

Gaerthofner swam a time of 1:02.14 in the 100-meter breaststroke Saturday at the Jack Pettinger Invite at UW-Madison. The qualifying time is 1:02.19.

He will compete on the opening day of the Olympic Trials at Lucas Oil Stadium

with the event set to begin at 10 a.m. and televised on Peacock.

The top three finishers will compete in the Summer Olympics in Paris.

Gaerthofner will be a senior next fall and has verbally committed to swim collegiately at UW-Madison.

He placed third at the WIAA state championships in the 100-yard breaststroke in February with a time of 55.78 seconds.

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Rockets pick up medals at state track meet

Neenah News

The Neenah High School track and field teams picked up five medals at the WIAA Division 1 State Track and Field Meet held last weekend in La Crosse.

A trio of medal-winning individuals led the girls squad, which tied for 10th place in the final team standings.

Freshman Celia Gentile scored the top finish for the Rockets, placing second in the long jump with a distance of 19 feet, 5.5 inches. She was one of only two jumpers in the field to post a marker longer than 19-1 and finished 2.5 inches behind event winner Anisa Barnett of Homestead.

Senior Rachel Dietrich picked up a third place in the 800 meters in her final prep meet, running a time of 2 minutes, 16.07 seconds.

Rounding out the podium finishers for the Neenah girls was junior Mazie Olkowski, who placed fifth in the 3,200 meters with a time of 10:44.67. Olkowski nearly made the podium in the 1,600 meters, taking seventh place, about four seconds out of sixth place.

Other individuals to compete at the state meet for the Rockets were: Lydia Delene, 11th place in both the shot put and discus – one of just four athletes to place

in the top 11 in both throwing events; Elsa Gruber, 20th in the 3,200 meters; and Brynn Fox, 23rd in the 100 meters.

The Rockets also had three relays qualify for the state meet, with two finishing in the top half of their events.

The 3,200-meter relay team of Gruber, Dietrich, Natalie Willes and Brooke Veith finished 10th, while the foursome of Gentile, Dietrich, Julia Rangel and Ava Schalow placed 11th in the 1,600-meter relay.

The 400-meter relay team of Fox, Gentile, Lilly Granditzke and Abbie Fischer were 17th in the preliminaries.

On the boys side, Grant Dean played a part in both medal-winning events for the Rockets.

The junior finished third in the 400 meters, running a time of 48.85 seconds in the finals to finish about a second behind winner Cayden Brandenburg of Janesville Parker.

Dean also joined CJ Fredrickson, Alex Thayer and Owen Wise to place sixth in the 1,600-meter relay in a time of 3:20.63. Neenah won the state title in the event last season.

Dean also finished 15th in the preliminaries of the 100 meters but did not advance to the finals, while Wyatt Armock was 12th in the 3,200 meters and 22nd in the 1,600 meters and Sam Scheer took 19th in the discus.

Neenah also had a strong showing in the 3,200-meter relay where the foursome of Fredrickson, Armock, Wise and Thayer placed 11th.

Anderson leads Zephyrs

Junior Nolie Anderson was the top fin-

isher for the St. Mary Catholic squads, placing in the top 10 in a pair of throwing events.

Anderson, who won the discus title at last year's state meet, finished third in the same event this year, registering a best throw of 131-10. It was one of only three entrants to top 128 feet and she was the only non-senior to finish in the top four.

Anderson also placed 10th in the shot put where her best throw measured 35-11.75.

Lauren Ripley also picked up a pair of top-10 finishes for St. Mary Catholic, placing 10th in the 1,600 meters with a time of 5:18.78.

Ripley then joined Addison Dinka, Maria Marti and Claire Higgins to finish seventh in the 3,200-meter relay, missing a spot on the podium by about four-tenths of a second.

For the boys, Ashton Post was the lone state qualifier for the Zephyrs and he took 16th in the pole vault after falling short of clearing the opening height.



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Neenah baseball

FROM PAGE 11

apart where you might do things different, but the way these kids battled, there is nothing to pick apart.”

Lincoln tied the game in the bottom of the seventh when the Ships’ Zach Bradl

hit a sinking liner to right field that Rocks outfielder Payton Miller got a glove on with an all-out dive but couldn’t secure the catch.

In the ninth, Manitowoc Lincoln loaded the bases with nobody out off reliever Adam Lorrig. The Ships’ Brady Hadler then lifted a fly ball to shallow centerfield that wasn’t deep enough to score a run fol-

lowing the catch by Price, but the senior smartly threw to second base to force out a runner for a double play.

But Manitowoc Lincoln’s Brayden Steinbecker followed with a base hit that bounced wildly off the side of the pitcher’s mound to bring in the winning run.

“We are inches away from getting out of some innings. We are inches away from getting a hit to score a run. And even on that last play, we are inches away from getting out of it,” Nelson said. “This team just stayed together. They knew they could do

this and kept grinding. At the end of the day, it came down to inches.”

Carlson was the only player with two hits in the game for Neenah, finishing 2-for-3, but the top four hitters combined to reach base nine times and score all three runs.

“We knew that was a good team and they had good pitching but (the effort) is just who we are as people,” Carlson said. “We work really, really hard. I think it’s a culture thing. We are trying to build a different culture.”

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Neenah News

Artwork and messages, including this handmade card signed by student JJ, adorned the halls of Hoover Elementary during a final open house last week.

Hoover closing

FROM PAGE 1

describing what they love about the school.

"I love Hoover school because the teachers are the best," one student wrote.

"I love Hoover because I feel safe here," another said.

"Hoover is so special because it has all the people I love," read another sign.

Hoover third-grade teacher Amanda Linzmeier said the students put a lot of work into the decorations as a way to welcome visitors and returning students.

"We wanted people to come back and feel good and feel like they still belonged, because they still do," she said.

She added that the community turnout for the event shows tremendous support for staff and students.

"This is amazing," she said. "I'm seeing people connecting with each other that you can tell haven't seen each other in so long

and I've been hearing amazing stories."

As attendees wandered through the corridors adorned with artwork and accolades, there was a sense of gratitude mingled with sorrow.

"To see and hear the history and the excitement that they have over Hoover and the teachers that impacted them here, it's pretty neat and it makes my heart happy during a hard time," Linzmeier said.

Hoover staff and students will begin next school year at other schools in the district.

"I am hopeful for some new and exciting adventures, but it's hard," Linzmeier said. "It's heavy, because the relationships you make here can't be replaced."

With Hoover's doors closed for the final time, the school's legacy will endure in the lives that were touched and the values instilled.

"Trust that the impact of love that has overflowed on the grounds of Hoover Elementary School will go on," staff wrote. "It will not be forgotten. It is our legacy."

Morgue status

FROM PAGE 1

overdose deaths in Winnebago County. Last year the county logged a record 50 overdose fatalities.

At one point the county was storing nine bodies at various funeral homes. The county temporarily borrowed a cold storage trailer from another county that was riddled with problems, including a cooling system failure.

A livery service that transports bodies was providing temporary storage for the deceased. Then in August, Fox Valley Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition donated a mobile morgue unit to the

county that is being used until the permanent morgue is completed. It will then be used in the event of a mass casualty or when the morgue is over capacity.

The new morgue is expected to solve the county's issues with storing bodies and place the medical examiner's office and an exam room at the same location.

The sheriff's department evidence storage expansion was approved in January 2021 and construction of a morgue addition was approved in June 2022. Groundbreaking was supposed to take place in early 2023 but no construction has been completed.

Miron Construction is expected to break ground later this month, with the project expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Public input

FROM PAGE 1

constituents want.

Hancock-Cooke said supervisors will attend if available and if a constituent's supervisor is not present those in attendance can facilitate connecting.

The listening meetings are scheduled from 7 to 9 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month starting June 18 through the end of the year at the McDonald's on South Commercial Street.

Meetings are also scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. the preceding Thursday of each

month in the Neenah Library Buchta Room No. 109 next Thursday, July 11, Aug. 15, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

Supervisors will also be present to speak with constituents at the Future Neenah Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to noon July 27. Details on the listening meetings will be available on Hancock-Cooke's "Kate for County Board" Facebook page.


Hancock-Cooke said the meetings are scheduled close to county board meetings held on select Tuesdays each month so that residents may review the agenda at each session. Agendas are posted at winnebago-cowi.portal.civicclerk.com.



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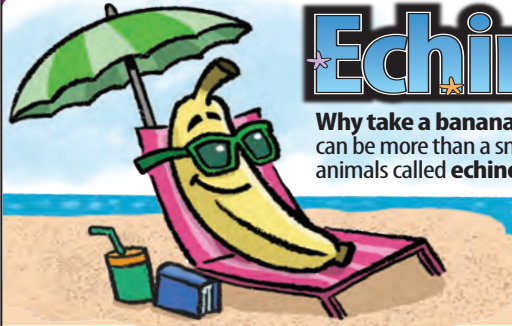
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Echinoderms

Why take a banana to the beach? At the beach, a banana can be more than a snack. It can teach you about a group of animals called **echinoderms!**

Echinoderms are a group of animals that live on the ocean floor. Some examples of echinoderms include **sea stars (starfish), sea urchins and sea cucumbers.**

Standards Link: Compare the diversity of life within an ecosystem.

What's in a name?

Use the code to see what the name echinoderm means.

E
N
D
R
M
S
T
Y

A I K N P S T Y

E
N
D
R
M
S
T
Y

E
N
D
R
M
S
T
Y

Banana and a Sea Star

Peel a banana. Carefully split a banana peel into five fairly equal strips. Leave them connected at one end.



Lay your banana peel out flat, and you have the design of a sea star.

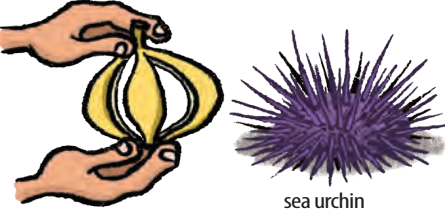


Banana and a Sea Urchin

Pull the tips of your banana peel and hold them together on both ends.

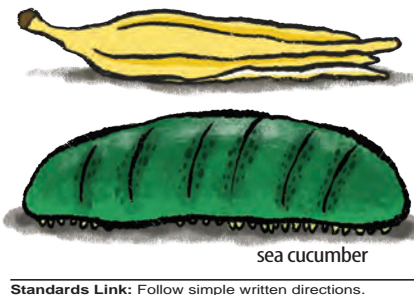
Imagine the empty spaces are filled in and that the whole thing is covered with spines.

What do you have? A sea urchin!



Banana and a Sea Cucumber

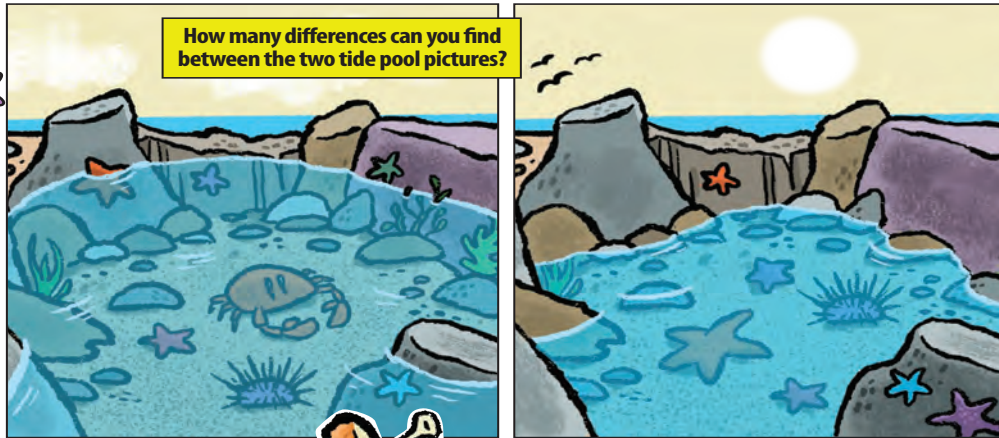
Turn your banana "urchin" on its side and stretch it out. You now have a banana peel sea cucumber!



Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Where do echinoderms live?

Many echinoderms live in **tide pools**. Tide pools are pools that are left behind when the ocean moves away from the shore at low tide. Each time the tide returns, the tide pools are covered with water, and new plants and animals can get it. You can visit the same tide pool and see something different each time!



How many differences can you find between the two tide pool pictures?

Extra! Extra!

The Power of Five

Dive into your newspaper to find:

- 5 words that describe water
- 5 five-digit numbers
- 5 five-syllable words

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.



Tube feet on a sea slug.

Walking on Tube Feet

Echinoderms don't have legs or feet. How do they move from one place to another?

They have hundreds of tiny **tube feet** on the underside of their bodies. Tube feet are like tiny suction cups that help the echinoderms grip onto surfaces and move. They can move across the land and up and down rocky surfaces.

Standards Link: Animals have structures that aid in survival.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

What's inside a mermaid's purse?

Sometimes a strange, dark brown object washes into a tide pool. This is called a "mermaid's purse." These little pouches are actually the discarded eggcases for some familiar marine animals. **Circle every other letter to see which ones.**



D S R H L A T R O K J S B A
K N T D U R V A W Y C S

S

Standards Link: Understand the diversity of life within a habitat.

Double Double Word Search

- ANIMALS
- BANANA
- DOWN
- FIVE
- FLAT
- GRIP
- LAND
- OCEAN
- PEEL
- SEA
- SNACK
- TIDE
- TUBE
- UP
- WATER

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together

Sea Star Patterns

In each column, draw the missing sea star that continues the pattern. Have an adult check your answers.

1	2	3