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County appoints new administrator

Director chosen to help lead budget process

Neenah News

Winnebago County Executive Jon Doemel has selected Jamie Rouch as the county's new director of administration, replacing Mike Collard who retired in April.

Rouch has more than 15 years of experience in administrative roles within local government. She was most recently

finance operations manager for the city of Independence, Mo., previously served as an associate professor at College of the Ozarks and as the city of Branson's director of finance.

The director of administration position was newly created by Doemel in 2022. According to the county's job posting, the

position provides leadership, high-level analysis and direction to increase internal services and responsiveness to the Finance, Human Resources and Information Systems departments and also assists the county executive and county board regarding public policy, budget development and administrative matters.

Among the skills listed in Rouch's cover letter is priority-based budgeting, a focus of Doemel's administration. Earlier this

SEE **County hiring** ON PAGE 10



Rouch

INSIDE



Flower power
Downtown stand backs fundraisers
Page 5

Recovery stories
Series takes personal look at addiction
Page 6



Photo by Dave Burke

Taking a spin

YouthGo associate director Timothy Chappa hosted its annual Family Night event Monday in Riverside Park, which featured a version of "The Price is Right." Chappa recreated the show by building many of its popular games and since 2009 has hosted 20 shows.

New DA program keys on high-frequency offenders

Those who don't take services will face jail

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

A new program from the Winnebago County district attorney's office is set to launch next year with the goal of offering services to help people living a life of crime in and out of the court system.

The high-frequency, low offender initiative will be a diversion program for people who are accounting for more than 10% of local crime in recent years. The program would offer services and those that don't

take advantage of the program could face six to 12 months in jail under the habitual offender state statute.

Deputy District Attorney Christian Gossett said these are lifelong criminals and this program is being developed to get them out of that lifestyle and begin contributing to society and their community.

"Our team has met a couple of times and will continue to develop and discuss the program over time as we determine what

the criterion will be," he said. "When we look at these cases and the services provided it comes down to these four underlying issues: mental health, AODA, employment and housing."

The DA's office has invited United Way to be a part of the program to connect people with these services.

"We will not just look at someone and say they've got an addiction problem and let's work on that," said Beth Oswald, United Way chief ex-

ecutive. "We'll be seeing if the person has any prior education that could help them get a job."

Oswald said the holistic approach United Way uses will be helpful as it will not just look at one service for people.

"We are at the table and part of the team as the nonprofit representative," she said. "We will be connecting people with the services available to them, as United Way has a lot of connections in the community when it comes to those four factors."

The team includes members of the DA's office such as special program coordinator

SEE **Crime diversion** ON PAGE 11



Gossett



Oswald



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Corrections

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

About the newspaper

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Thursdays for Friday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 21,000 homes and businesses in the Neenah and Fox Crossing areas. An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.neenahnewsnow.com.

Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.

School board retains disputed library book

Neenah News

The Neenah Joint School District Board of Education held a special meeting Tuesday where it voted against removing a graphic memoir from the high school library after a resident submitted a complaint.

"Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe explores themes of gender identity and personal discovery and includes sexually graphic illustrations. The book has become a focal point in the ongoing national debate over book censorship in libraries.

The school board's discussion was spurred by a complaint filed by attorney and former municipal judge Len Kachinsky, who wrote in an email in January that "these books appeal to sexual and prurient interests."

"They tend to sexualize children and foster sexual preoccupation," Kachinsky wrote. "They do not promote the goal of helping our children lead productive lives. They have no serious social value."

The timing of Kachinsky's complaint aligns closely with a push at the county level to ban minors from accessing controversial books in public libraries. That resolution introduced by county supervisors Shanah Zastera and George Bureau in February named "Gender Queer" as an example of a book that would be required to be kept in a newly created, secure, adult only section of every public library in the county. The resolution was withdrawn without being voted on.

"Gender Queer" has been praised by educators and LGBTQ+ advocates for its representation of the experiences of a nonbinary individual. The book has won several literary awards and made the top

of the American Library Association's annual list of most challenged books for the past three years.

In notes discussing the overall perceptions of the book, the school district's Reconsideration of Materials Team wrote that students working through gender identity issues may connect with the character's journey, which is different from the experience of a cisgender person.

Staff acknowledged that there are some images in the book that may be shocking but said the pictures are part of the story.

The team noted that the book has repeatedly been challenged by "groups" who are questioning books in libraries, likely referring to Moms for Liberty, a group with chapters in 48 states that has raised similar book challenges across the country.

Among the discussion points was whether the title of the book had more to do with it being held as an example and challenged, rather than being challenged for the content itself.

When evaluating the book, the team used selection criteria in 10 areas and noted "Gender Queer" met all the requirements and voted to keep the book in the library.

Kachinsky appealed the decision in June and per district policy the matter was forwarded to the Board of Education to determine whether the book should

remain available to all students, have restricted access placed on it or be removed.

Instructional library technology specialist Jennifer McMahon told the board there are currently no books in the high school library that are restricted access, but "Fun Home" by Alison Bechdel is kept behind the desk so that staff can inform a student of the content before reading it.

McMahon noted that "Fun Home" is recommended for grade 11 through adult, while "Gender Queer" is recommended for grades 9-12.

Parents and guardians have access to see what books their child checks out and may contact the library and request that access to certain titles be restricted, though it was noted at the meeting that per policy, parents can only restrict access for children who are under age 16.

Board member Tara Brzezinski said there is content in the book that people may not feel comfortable with even in a heterosexual relationship and questioned whether similar books are in the library.

McMahon said there probably are other books similar to "Gender Queer" and "Fun Home" in the high school library, and there are certainly books that include heterosexual sexual relationships.

The school board voted 7-2 to keep the book in the library with no restrictions, with Brzezinski and Lindsay Clark voting against.

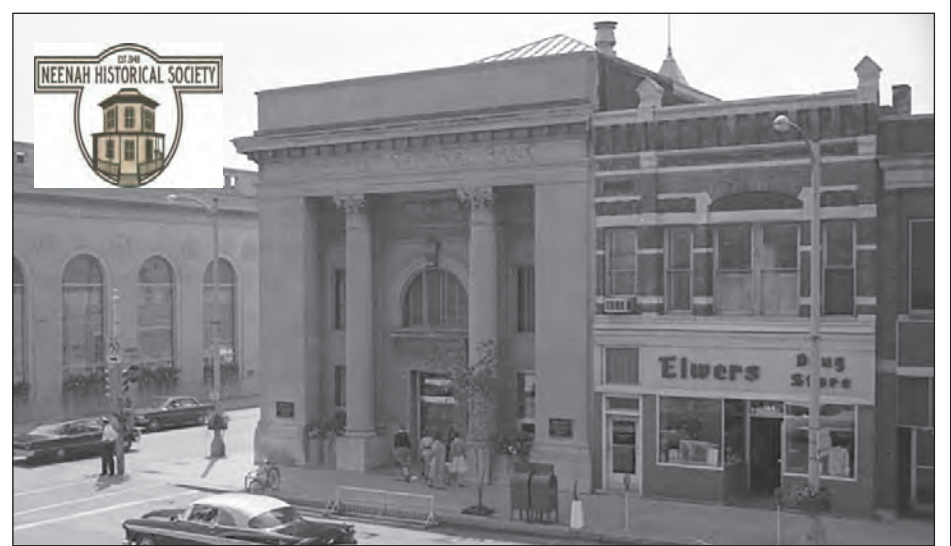


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Community Foundation notes 2023 outlays

The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region reported that it awarded \$32 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and students in 2023.

The foundation creates charitable funds that generate grants to nonprofit organizations across its service region of Calumet, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca counties, and the Neenah/Menasha area of Winnebago County.

For fiscal year 2023, which ended Dec. 31, 1,548 nonprofits received grants in areas that include human services, community improvement, education, health care, environment, arts and culture. The \$32 million grant total includes 510 scholarships totaling \$1.5 million awarded from scholarship funds.

“We’re grateful for the opportunity to work with so many caring, generous peo-

ple, passionate nonprofit organizations and dedicated volunteers and community leaders who, together, are seeking to make a difference to help everyone flourish,” said Curt Detjen, president and chief executive. “The word Community in our name is central to our mission, and all of us in the Fox Valley region continue to be needed to help create vibrant communities today and for generations to come.”

The foundation’s 1,835 charitable funds under management total \$549 million in assets and received \$39 million in contributions in 2023. The Himebaugh Legacy Circle, which grew to 315 members, recognizes people who have made after-lifetime plans for their favorite causes through a bequest or similar deferred gift.

Details about the grant recipients and charitable funds are at cfoxvalley.org/CommunityReport.



Submitted photo

The late Rodger Cavanaugh of Cavanaugh Carriages is shown driving a team of horses.

Pet cemetery blessing set ahead of relocation

Neenah News

A pet cemetery sacred blessings prayer service is scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday in the Town of Neenah at the former Neenah Animal Shelter location to honor the 1,000 animals buried there in advance of relocating them to Forrest Run Pet Cemetery in Sherwood.

The Rev. Amy Engbose of St. Paul Lu-

theran Church will officiate the prayer service and blessing at the Memorial Pet Cemetery at 951 County G.

The 60-year-old pet cemetery is situated at the animal shelter’s former location that will be sold with the shelter’s recent move to a new facility at 2475 Progress Court. The area is being excavated and the remains and headstones reinterred in a mass burial at Forrest Run.

Forrest Run owner Patrick Fahrenkrug, who also owns Kessler-Fahrenkrug Funeral Home in Neenah, donated a one-acre parcel as a permanent resting place for the remains.

The pet cemetery will be relocated later that same week, with the process expected to take about three days.

Celebration of life to honor noted resident Cavanaugh

Neenah News

The community will come together Saturday for a special celebration of life honoring the late Rodger Cavanaugh, a retired educator and owner of Cavanaugh Carriages.

Known for his community spirit and love of horses, Cavanaugh hosted school field trips, haunted hayrides, pumpkin picking, horse riding lessons, petting zoos, sleigh and carriage rides at the 140-acre farm he shared with his wife of 60 years, Jan, and son Cody.

Cavanaugh Carriages is well known locally, with the family regularly supplying animals for local events including live na-

tivity scenes and holiday celebrations.

Cavanaugh was an educator for 40 years, with 30 of those as an Earth science teacher with the Neenah Joint School District. He passed away at age 85 at his farm July 26 after a battle with dementia.

A visitation is at 10 a.m. at New Hope Lutheran Church followed by a memorial service at noon. The celebration of life will then move to the farm at 3910 Fairview Road, where many in attendance will wear Western attire for a cowboy lunch, followed by a petting zoo and hayrides.

“My husband was a great cowboy,” Jan said.

Calendar of events

Saturday, Aug. 24

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Tuesday, Aug. 27

Movie Talks: “When Harry Met Sally,” 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Wednesday, Aug. 28

Boogie Downtown, 6 p.m., Wisconsin Avenue

Thursday, Aug. 29

Out to Lunch Concert Series: Luma Knotty, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Live Music Series: The Gentlemen Grifters, 5 p.m., Batley’s Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way

Saturday, Aug. 31

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Monday, Sept. 2

Labor Day parade and Labor Fest, 10 a.m., 157 S. Green Bay Road

Saturday, Sept. 7

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Fox Valley Out of the Darkness Walk, 9 a.m., Riverside Park

Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Live Music Series: The Rings Band, 5 p.m., Batley’s Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way

Monday, Sept. 9

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

Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion’s Tail Brewery

Tuesday, Sept. 10

Guest night with Fox Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines, 6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Church St.

Thursday, Sept. 12

Brigade Open House, 4 p.m., 109 W. Columbian Ave.




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Neenah News

Frank the snake is growing and still on the move in downtown Neenah.

Rock snake slithers way into second downtown flower bed

Neenah News

Frank the painted rock snake has slithered his way into a second flower bed in downtown Neenah.

The eye-catching painted rocks lined in front of the Future Neenah office at 135 W. Wisconsin Ave. have turned into a collaborative effort that continues to grow.

Started by Future Neenah in June and named after one of the nonprofit's founding members – Frank Priest who owned Camera & Card downtown – the community art project features painted rocks

placed behind a central rock painted to resemble a snake's head.

A sign was placed in the flower bed that reads, "This is Frank the snake. Add a painted rock to see how long he will get."

Residents began painting their own rocks with intricate designs and adding them to the growing snake, which now weaves its way through two garden beds.

The creative activity is part of a broader movement that includes painting and hiding rocks in public places as a way to spread joy, connect with others and promote artistic expression.

Oshkosh tops rankings for hot housing market

Neenah News

Last month's Realtor.com rankings for the nation's most desirable housing market put the Oshkosh-Neenah metro area on top of its Hottest Housing Markets list for the first time.

Oshkosh and Neenah listings in July were getting 3.7 times more views per property than the national average and on the market for a median of 18 days, according to the report, which is more than a month shorter than the average.

The metro area's homes have a median list price of \$374,000, about \$66,000 below the national median.

Local real estate agents said the ranking gives the area more visibility on a national level and validates the progress made here in recent years.

"Much of the country, especially larger metro areas, has seen a slowing in the housing market so far in 2024," said Kevin Stein of Expert Real Estate Partners. "But Oshkosh has continued to enjoy growth and demand. As of August 1, we've had a 16% increase in home sales and an almost 8% increase in sales price when compared to this time last year."

Stein said reports like this benefit the community beyond the real estate and related title, mortgage and insurance industries.

"Larger companies and employers can

cite these articles as recruiting tools to attract employees from around the country," he said. "Small businesses benefit as the city grows and demand for their products increases."

Other factors contribute to the desirability of a community beyond sale and list prices emphasized in the report, Stein noted, such as schools, employment opportunities, crime, parks and activities.

Chris McPhetridge of CMcP Realty also noted the potential bump that a national report could provide for housing interests here.

"It's certainly going to make it interesting for buyers again because we're lacking inventory," McPhetridge said, "but we are seeing an increase in inventory."

"It's exciting to see that our ranking for Oshkosh are higher. Through the years I've noticed more of my buyers from out of town and a lot of them out of state."

The Janesville-Beloit metro area ranked No. 9 in the study and Green Bay was No. 18. Several other Midwestern cities were in the top 20 as those markets expanded as a result of lower prices in comparison to higher home prices nationwide and rising mortgage rates.

The Oshkosh-Neenah area was No. 20 in May and rose to No. 4 in June before July's top rating.

Anti-vape program expanded in state

The Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line has expanded its text-based Live Vape Free program to include young adults ages 18-26, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

The program supports young people seeking to ending their use of nicotine and vape products and provide people over age 18 with two weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy if medically eligible.

According to a 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, nearly one in five Wisconsinites ages 18-24 vape. They

account for 34% of current adult e-cigarette users.

Supportive text messages from coaches and interactive videos of peers, lessons and podcasts are intended to help participants manage stress, while nicotine therapy can help with the physical cravings and double their chances of quitting.

Live Vape Free has been traditionally offered to teens ages 13-17 with a companion program for parents and other trusted adults.

To participate, text VAPEFREE to 873373 or visit livevapefree.com.

Chamber initiative promotes election help

The Fox Cities Chamber is partnering with U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to spread awareness of the Civil Time Off (CTO) initiative, which encourages employees to serve as nonpartisan poll workers and fill a shortage of election workers.

CTO is open to employers of any size who include poll working in paid time off policies and share information with em-

ployees on how to sign up.

The chamber said increased civic engagement has positive benefits for businesses, communities and employees and is a way for employers to help increase civic knowledge, trust and engagement among employees.

Learn more at powerthepolls.org/the-civictrust.

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Downtown flower stand blossoms as local fundraiser

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A flower stand on select Fridays in downtown Neenah is turning heads and making a difference.

Started by local business owner Amy James of The Natural Boutique, the stand not only brightens the downtown with its vibrant selection of fresh cut flowers, but also serves a greater purpose: Raising funds for nonprofit organizations.

James, who has a passion for flowers and philanthropy, previously worked at nonprofits for 26 years. She sets up the booth in front of her business at 125 W. Wisconsin Ave., supplies the flowers and donates all the profits to various community organizations.

The stand is staffed by volunteers from each week's nonprofit and for a donation, visitors to the downtown stand take home a beautiful bouquet of fresh-cut flowers.

"It's a great chance to not only get to know nonprofits that might be quietly doing good in the backdrop, but also a good way for our community to get to know the awesome work that the nonprofits are doing," she said.

The beneficiary of last week's sale was Photo Opp of Appleton, an organization that works to inspire people to develop

technical skills and a passion for photography. James is on the nonprofit's board of directors.

Photo Opp at 621 N. Bateman St. in Appleton has been offering free strolling photo workshops at the Neenah Public Library and is hosting a gallery show that opens Oct. 19 and features three local photographers and images submitted by the community. The submission period ends Sept. 1 and more details are at the-photoopp.org/gallery.

Other recent beneficiaries of the fundraiser include P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), The Canary Fund, Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society and Future Neenah.

James grows the flowers under the name Flavor Farm at her Neenah home in 54 beds on about a half-acre of land.

Raising the flowers is a lot of work that involves planting seeds, watering, weeding and harvesting over a 10-month period. But despite the labor, there are benefits to raising flowers in addition to aesthetics.

"We've seen a significant increase in our pollinators and butterfly population, all of the things that are really important to keep us healthy that are small and seemingly insignificant, but are such a huge part of the ecosystem," she said. "It's making that im-



Photo from The Natural Boutique

Board members Morgan Kirchenwitz (left) and Brandi Grahl volunteered at a flower stand in downtown Neenah last Friday to raise funds for Photo Opp, an Appleton nonprofit that works to inspire a passion for photography.

pact."

James said the flowers need to be harvested for the health of the plant.

"It promotes the growth of the flowers and the plants that we're growing, but also supports the growth of organizations," she said.

The final flower Friday for the season

is from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 6 in front of The Natural Boutique, with the Neenah Animal Shelter the beneficiary. For those looking to brighten their day and support a good cause, it's a stop that promises both.

"They get to bring smiles to our community," James said, "because people leave with a bouquet and they're happy."

Business news roundup

Kundinger, a Wisconsin and Michigan-based fluid power, automation and process control company, has welcomed **Shyanne Aull** and **Matthew Solis** to its Neenah office. Aull is joining as a purchasing associate and a native to the Neenah area with a background in health care. Solis will serve as a territory manager, a role

that promotes sales and supports clients with engineering, technical assistance, training and project management. He has experience in automation and controls and a special interest in machinery and technology.

J. J. Keller & Associates, an industry

leader in safety and regulatory compliance solutions, was recently named on **Forbes'** list of America's Best Employers for Women 2024. The Neenah employer ranked No. 66 of the 600 employers who made the list. J. J. Keller ranked second among professional services companies on the list. Forbes partnered

with market research firm Statista to survey more than 150,000 women who work at companies with 1,000 or more employees in the United States. In 2023, the company was ranked as an Elite 30 Top Company for Women to Work For in Transportation by the Women in Trucking Association.

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Fentanyl addiction and how it was robbing me

By Tessa Reed

I became addicted to fentanyl due to it being laced in heroin and methamphetamine, as if the two weren't bad enough already. I used because addiction ran in my family and I never knew how to cope. I always felt so lost. It was my numbing remedy.

It didn't take long for all the bad things to start happening, like overdoses, withdrawals, mental hospital, eviction, losing my kids, jail and prison. I want it to be known that I wanted to stop so bad; I said it over and over and even though I failed every time, I meant it.

I've never hurt so bad inside once the fix wore off. The pain was unbearable. All my problems from before were still there and now much more due to what I have become, and anything and everything I would do to get my drugs.

I let myself and so many others down, including my children. No one wakes up, looks in the mirror and says, "I want to be a junkie." Matter of fact, I always would say I'll never be them; I'll never get that bad.

When help first started being offered to me while in drug court in Waupaca County I was still stubborn and stuck in my ways and scared. So I would fail. Then I wanted to do it for my kids because addict or not, I never stopped loving my kids. The hurt and guilt with that is still hard to carry.

When they say people, places and things, as cliché as it sounds it matters! Another thing that matters is whether you want this for yourself, because if you don't have yourself and belief and mindset, you have nothing. If I can get better, anyone can. It doesn't matter where you come from. Addicts don't just come from bad

families; it can happen to anyone. I've come a long way and it's amazing. I want to give a big shout-out to my significant other, Tyler Shelton, who also has a story of his own, and Michael Hall, who runs treatment-based sober living called Mission of Hope in Waupaca County. They made me see things in a different light and taught me that I can be the person I want to be not the person that drugs robbed from me.

About the series

August is Fentanyl Awareness Month, highlighting the impact of a drug that has contributed to 59% of the more than 150 overdose deaths in Winnebago County from 2018 to 2022. Many of these deaths were unintentional and the number is rising. The Oshkosh Herald and Neenah News are sharing personal essays of people who have been impacted by fentanyl and other dangerous drugs.

Winnebago County Public Health, sponsor of the fentanyl awareness series, has resources at www.co.winnebago.wi.us/node/13313 or by calling 920-232-3000.

families; it can happen to anyone.

I can confidently say I'm finally, after a long eight years, on the right path. I have an amazing job at Evergreen Retirement Community, where plenty of people believe in me. I have my own place and am trying to rebuild relationships with my kids. I start school in August for substance abuse disorder counseling and I couldn't be happier that I'm in recovery – healthy, happy and going to be able to help people that struggled like I did.

Never give up on yourself. Recovery is beautiful.

Submitted photo



Tyler Shelton and Tessa Reed share their stories of addiction and recovery.

Recovery required a combination of support, patience

By Tyler Shelton

This essay is going to give you insight on my life successes and struggles with drug addiction and traumas I have been through with my life. Addiction has been in my life since as long as I can remember, from childhood to adolescent to adulthood.

I have seen my loved ones struggle and even myself. My addiction started as an adolescent teenager. My mother was a crackhead and father in federal prison for drug distribution. Even though I was smoking weed at this time that was only the beginning of my downward spiral.

Growing up in a drug-infested house

with mental and physical abuse only made me feel rebellious. I would run away from home get into trouble with the law and commit crimes to get away from home. Little did I know it would introduce me to this tragic world of addiction.

I guess I never really understood the reality of addiction or its outcomes. My addiction only got worse as I progressed throughout life. I can say that nothing good has come from this lifestyle I chased and craved. My addiction has brought me to a lot of jails, institutions and a criminal record that disgusts me. I've started and rebuilt my life more times than I can count on one hand.

I've asked myself when is enough going to be enough. Maybe when you hit rock bottom, some people think, but for me it wasn't. My addiction has caused me to do things I'm not proud of. I've been homeless and numbing feelings and filling voids due to my addiction.

When I met Tessa Reed, my significant other, my addiction was full blown. She taught me how to deal with my life problems without using substances for comfort and express feelings. She made me realize the life I was living and what "addiction" really looks like. She taught me that you can achieve anything you set your mind to and overcome any obstacle life throws at

you, which can be a lot as we know.

I haven't felt so good and powerful in my life ever since I started the life of recovery and sobriety. I wake up every day looking in the mirror and being happy with my appearance and accomplishments I have gained from being sober. I think back to my addiction and how I thought I was cool being that guy with drugs and honestly it disgusts me to think I was chasing and craving that.

I can honestly say sobriety and recovery is where it's at, not being an addict or "the guy." Every day the recovery community is

SEE **Tyler's story** ON PAGE 7



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Winnebago County, WI

Public Health Vending Machines: FAQ

What will be in the machines?

Items available will include nasal Narcan/Naloxone, Fentanyl Tests Strips, Deterra drug deactivation kits, gun locks, feminine hygiene products, and other items as approved by the Winnebago County Executive.

Where will these machines be located?

There will be two outdoor locations in Winnebago County:

- David W. Albrecht Administration Building - 112 Otter Avenue in Oshkosh
- Winnebago County Human Services Building - 211 N. Commercial Street in Neenah

How were they funded?

Winnebago County Public Health was awarded grant funds from WI DHS to install the Public Health Vending Machines. Grand funds are from the state's \$400 million opioid settlement.

How do I access the Public Health Vending Machines?

Anyone will be able to access these life saving, free resources 24/7 by calling the PHVM Hotline to receive a PIN code.

Firefighters, EMS workers seek best case outcomes

By Tyler Downs
OSHKOSH FIRE DEPARTMENT

I have been with the Oshkosh Fire Department for a little more than eight months but with EMS for over three years. In 2022, the fire department ran more than 10,000 calls and out of those, 8,788 were EMS oriented.

What people often don't know is that a lot of what we do is emergency medical service. We don't have fires every day and we don't go to the crazy calls you see on TV shows either. But we go on an assortment of EMS calls every single day.



Unfortunately, some of those calls are overdoses. The department responded to 208 overdoses in 2022, some

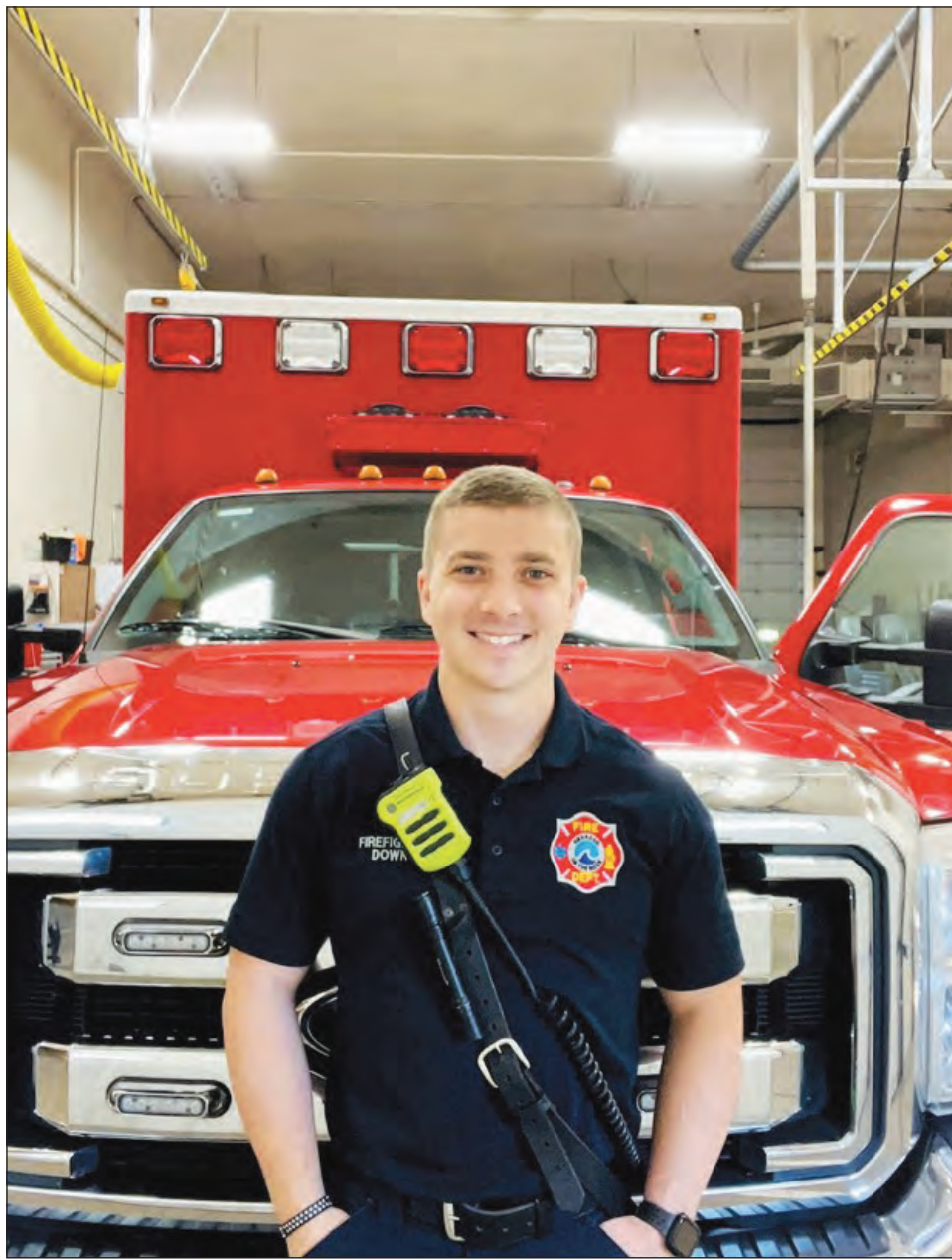
of them from over-the-counter medications, prescription medication, cocaine, methamphetamines and more.

The one I want to talk about is opioid overdoses. I want to briefly touch on what opioids do to the body, how we as EMS providers can treat patients that overdose on opioids, what we see when we respond to these types of calls, and what we as a department do to try to help our patients from overdosing again.

To truly understand what we can do as care providers, it's important to know what opioids do to the body. Opioids have analgesic –pain control– and sedative effects, which is why they are used for pain management. But they also can cause euphoria, which is one of the main reasons why some keep taking them because they keep trying to get that euphoric feeling.

When used irresponsibly, opioids can cause someone to go into respiratory failure. If symptoms go on without intervention, the patient will go into cardiac arrest.

When it comes to treating someone



Submitted photo

Tyler Downs works in the Oshkosh Fire Department's emergency medical services.

who has overdosed on an opioid, we as care providers will give a medication called naloxone, otherwise known as Narcan. This will reverse the effects of opioids if administered within a timely manner.

When responding to an overdose there

are a lot of things that EMS, fire and police need to think about. Is the scene safe? How many patients are there going to be? Is there a "bad batch" going around? Is this patient a known user? What other drugs did this person take? How long ago did they take the opioids? What kind of environment could we be walking into?

When arriving at the scene of an overdose, many times patients are found in unsafe or dangerous locations, which makes quick and effective treatment of the

patients more difficult. The patient could be in a small area between the toilet and the sink, could be in a hoarder house, or in a parking lot when the weather is not favorable, sometimes, the room is so dark we have to hold a flashlight to start an IV and perform other interventions, or in an area where family and friends are surrounding the patient yelling and screaming for EMS to help.

There have been times where patients have overdosed while driving and caused an accident and have been found in improvised shelters like tents, storage units, etc.

If we get to the patient in time where the Naloxone works, dealing with them can be difficult. There are some who get combative because we reversed the euphoric effects of the drug and some deny using opioids even though the Naloxone was the medication that helped them regain consciousness. We try to explain to those patients that if 9-1-1 was not called and their symptoms not treated, death could have occurred.

As a department, our goal in EMS is to help patients to the best of our ability on every call. When responding to opioid overdoses, we also try to inform the patient on resources to get help. One program adopted by the fire department, with assistance from Winnebago County, is the Narcan leave behind kit. We give a close friend or family member a small bag with a dose of Narcan and instructions on how to properly administer it. If the patient overdoses in the future, that individual has the ability to administer Narcan and potentially save their life.

Another resource we inform patients about is called the Peer Support Team. If the patient is wanting help with their addiction, we can reach out to this team and they will respond to the scene and help get resources lined up.

In the end we always want the best for our patients. We strive not only to give the best care possible but to get them the proper resources so they don't go through the battle of addiction alone and receive the proper help they need to help them through their addiction.

I have achieved so much in the months I've been sober, more than I could ever in my full-blown addiction. I have a lot of traumas and stuff I didn't discuss or share due to me still dealing with the effects it had on me but I'm dealing with them slowly and in the way I found best for me. Recovery is not an overnight process or immediate but it does get easier as time comes as for me.

Everyone is different and responds differently to recovery. I never thought I would be part of this amazing community or ask for help when needed but I did, and couldn't feel better and want be part of a community where everyone is there to help or listen.

More information

Winnebago County Public Health (www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health) provides substance use harm reduction services from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday with offices at 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh and also has an office in Neenah at 211 N. Commercial St. The Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review team reviews local fatal overdose data and offers recommendations for preventing overdoses in the county. Free Narcan training sessions are offered periodically.

Solutions Recovery Inc. provides sober living, peer support and a recovery center. Staff are available at 621 Evans St., Oshkosh, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and there is also a 24/7 Recovery Hotline to assist with addiction-related needs at 866-465-0010, or by stopping by the facility or going to solutionsrecovery.org and through its Facebook page for more information.

Day by Day Shelter at 420 Ceape Ave. provides temporary shelter, individualized services and opportunities for self-sufficiency to empower the most vulnerable adults in the community. Go to daybydayshelter.org or call 920-203-4865 for more information about its services.

Father Carr's Place2B at 1062 N. Koeller St. in Oshkosh carries on its namesake's mission of supporting community needs that began a half-century ago with a youth center and evolved into a multiservice center for food, housing and health essentials. Go to fathercarrs.org or call 920-231-2378 for more information.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) is a nationwide education program that tries to prevent use of controlled drugs, membership in gangs and violent behavior. (<https://dare.org>)

The **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** of Oshkosh is a non-profit organization dedicated to education, advocacy and support to those affected by mental illness. NAMI Oshkosh partners with local crisis, law enforcement, social services agencies and community groups (www.nami.org).

Mission of Hope's Resiliency Center is a 16-bed peer supported living environment at 520 N. Shawano St., New Landon, that offers programs and services designed to help clients break from poverty, substance abuse disorder and homelessness. (<https://mohwi.org>).

Tyler's story

FROM PAGE 6

growing and getting stronger. That's where I want to be, not battling with addiction and the struggles that came with it. I went through hell with my addiction and that's not "cool" or the way I want to live.

I never thought I could make it but here I am, taking it day by day and reminding myself there's only one way from here and that's up. Sure I have triggers and cravings I deal with but I cope and defeat them. I tell myself cravings are temporary and will pass and also tell myself you know your outcome and consequences if you fold.

A beer tagline can create a positive first impression

“The Champagne of Beers.”
 “The King of Beers.”
 “From the Land of Sky Blue Waters.”

Do you know which beer brands have used these classic taglines? We’ll disclose them later, but first let’s talk about taglines from breweries, some from within our state and some from afar.

As writers, Wife and Husband are fascinated by how words connect beer drinkers to a particular brand. Even more, how words can persuade someone to take action, inspiring a customer to order a pint at a local tavern or plop down \$17 for a 6-pack at your retailer.

Wife: “Only in Wisconsin” from New Glarus Brewing makes a statement, more so about their distribution than the beer itself. They don’t really need to promote the brand too hard around here.

Husband: I’ve always liked “Legendary Wisconsin Beer” by Tyranaena Brewing (Lake Mills) for its simplicity and boldness.

W: When you and I visited Central Waters Brewing (Amherst) during our honeymoon 24 years ago, they were just starting out. They had not yet sold to new ownership, moved to their current location or even distributed very much.

H: They’ve always done things a bit differently, and their current tagline – “Ale, Sun, Earth and Sky” – also takes a different approach.

W: Much more spiritual. Ethereal, really. It’s confident while also reflecting the brewery’s commitment to green energy.

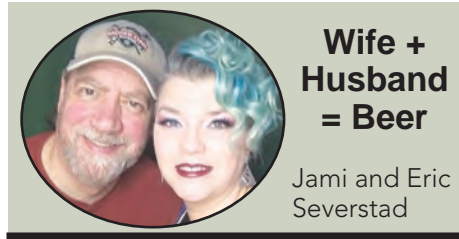
H: Website copy explains, “Our beers are sustainably crafted using solar heat and water conservation techniques.”

W: “You’re Not Worthy” is pretty classic and surely sets a tone. A couple of decades ago, the entire branding from Stone Brewing (San Diego) stood out from other breweries. They weren’t afraid to challenge their customers and get sassy.

H: The tagline for MobCraft Beer (Milwaukee) reflects their business plan. “Ideas Into Beer” is perfect because they’ll take a customer’s suggestion and then create a recipe around that idea. Crowdsourcing beer is unique.

W: “Good for What Ales You” was used by Town Hall Brewing (Minneapolis) as well as one or two others, but I still like the play on words. Celebrating the craft behind the beer, “Art In Fermented Form” is a nice one from New Holland Brewing (Michigan).

H: A new beer in our local market, Real American Beer, has a tagline that’s supposed to unite us: “To bring people together, one beer at a time.”



**Wife +
Husband
= Beer**

Jami and Eric
Severstad

W: That’s not an original idea, of course. Many breweries lean on beer’s natural ability to be a social lubricant (see the old Central Waters bumper sticker in the photo above). However, because this beer features Hulk Hogan on the label, it’s a political powder keg.

H: During his speech at the 2024 Republican National Convention, Hogan said, “We’re going to bring America back together one real American at a time, brother.”

W: Sounds just like the beer’s tagline! It’s contract brewed by Great Central Brewing Co. (Chicago).

H: The reviews on Untappd, a popular beer review website, say “It’s a Bud Light with a cool can” and “Tastes sorta like Miller Lite.”

W: Omega Brewing Experience, a brewery 8 miles west of Oshkosh, doesn’t have a tagline. They do have some award-winning beers, though.

H: During a stop at their brewpub in Omro a week ago, we tried all three of the brews that were recognized recently at the United States Beer Tasting Championships (usbtc.com), plus three more.

W: Here’s the USBTC’s 30th Summer Competition Grand Champion winner, “Lil Red,” which is only 5.1% ABV. It beat out 36 other entries in the Amber/Red Ale category.

H: It’s pretty mellow and really drinkable. It slides right down.

W: Nothing stands out for me. I see this as a gateway for people exploring craft beer. I personally would like a little more character, so it’s milder than I’d usually drink.

H: We’re no experts, apparently. Certified beer judges gave it the highest marks. Let’s try another ...

W: Oh, my! “Liquid Bread” doppelbock has such a bready aroma. The tasting experience is so balanced; hops upfront with a long, smooth finish. I can see why this won a regional award.

H: The 8.4% ABV is so well hidden. The mouthfeel is silky, so the alcohol can sneak up on you. It’s wonderful.

W: Finally, “Machete” Imperial IPA/Red Ale smacks you in the face immediately. I like that! Bitterness and rye spice really hits you, so the name is appropriate.

H: It’s earthy, with both malts and hops



Taglines can set the tone for a brewery’s brand and may appear on bumper stickers, apparel, glassware and other swag.



Omega Brewing Experience in Omro, just minutes from Neenah, recently won three awards at the U.S. Beer Tasting Championships and offers flights of their beers.

fighting for my attention, which is good. It’s a fun fight that’s really tasty at 8.8% ABV.

Omega Brewing Experience is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 3 to 8 pm. Their Facebook page touts “12 craft beers and hard seltzer on tap. The outdoor area features boat tie-ups (Fox River) and picnic tables, making it an excellent gathering spot for friends.”

On a related note, last month Wife + Husband = Beer featured nonalcoholic

beers. The Grand Champion of nonalcoholic beer at USBTC was Riverwest Stein NA from Lakefront Brewing (Milwaukee). Go Wisconsin!

Oh, as far as those three taglines to open today’s column, they are Miller High Life, Budweiser and Hamm’s (of course). Cheers until next time!

What beer-related topic should we tackle next? Let us know: wife.husband.beer@gmail.com.

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Neenah News

Timber Rattler players are shown speaking with area youth as part of the Badges for Baseball annual picnic held in Jefferson Park in Menasha last Friday.

Timber Rattler players inspire area youth

Neenah News

YouthGo held its Badges for Baseball annual picnic last Friday at Jefferson Park in Menasha that included a visit from two pitchers and an outfielder from the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers.

Timber Rattlers players intended to play baseball with youth but due to wet and muddy conditions they instead signed autographs, answered questions and spoke with participants about life lessons both on and off the field.

The Badges for Baseball program consists of YouthGo staff, high school assistants and Neenah, Menasha and Fox Crossing police officers who coach youth in grades 4-8.

Badges for Baseball was created by the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice as a crime prevention program designed to bring law enforcement professionals together with young people to use baseball and softball to build character and positively impact youth.

Group notes need to meet diapers request

Jake's Network of Hope is looking to support 517 children with size 6 diapers and 330 children with pull-ups by raising funds from the community.

The organization said these items are not frequently donated, which means it must purchase them to stock their shelves

and meet every child's needs. Each will receive 25 size 6 diapers or 25 pull-ups, and purchasing them by the pallet costs the group about 25 cents each.

Contact hope@jakesnoh.org for more information or visit jakesnoh.org to donate.

Volunteer needs

Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance is looking for volunteers to Adopt-A-Launch. Visit a designated boat launch at least three times a year through Nov. 1 to check for invasive species, remove plants and litter, and report issues. Training provided. Contact Chris at chris@fwwa.org.

SCORE Fox Cities is looking for business mentors to help new and existing businesses, and should have extensive experience in business start-up, administration, planning, operations, sales, marketing, accounting, HR, manufacturing or another business discipline, or have been a business owner. Mentor training provided. Learn more by contacting Monica at monica.duebbert@scorevolunteer.org.

YMCA of the Fox Cities is seeking annual campaign ambassadors to help raise funds from March through August. This role supports financial assistance for memberships, child care, camps and cancer survivor programs. Contact Kate at kyates@ymcafoxcities.org or Brandon at bvanderhoof@ymcafoxcities.org to learn more.

Junior Achievement of Wisconsin is looking for classroom volunteers to inspire and educate K-12 students on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness. Commit to teaching 5 to 7, 30-45-minute classes, with flexible scheduling options. Teachers provide support in the classroom. Contact Kristine at kkolb@jawis.org or Jill at jhenshaw@jawis.org for details.

Out of Darkness Walk set for Riverside

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) will be sending a message of hope Sept. 7 at Riverside Park with others spreading awareness and understanding through Out of the Darkness Walks.

Funds raised will provide care and support for those who have lost loved ones to suicide, also toward education pro-

grams, advocacy and scientific research to help save lives from this leading cause of death.

The organization notes that many people's introduction to AFSP comes through the Out of the Darkness Walks, along with its campus and overnight walks, which are held in cities nationwide. More information is at afsp.org/foxvalley.

Sweet Adelines offer guest night opportunity

The Fox Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines invites women to a guest night at 6:45 p.m. Sept. 10 at 200 S. Church St. in Neenah where they will have the opportunity to perform two songs with the chorus at its Oct. 26 Halloween show.

Guests are asked to attend at least five of the upcoming rehearsals leading up to the

show and the dress rehearsal. For more information email foxvalleychorus@gmail.com. Visit their website: www.foxvalleychorus.org.

Guests who are not interested in participating in the show are still welcome to come to any of the Tuesday evening rehearsals and connect with the group.

Congratulations

to the Fox Cities Chamber on being named
National Chamber of the Year!

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Find your third place in Neenah

By Sara Hanneman
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I recently attended a webinar that talked about third places, and it really got me thinking about all the wonderful third places in Neenah.

You might ask, what exactly is a third place? And no, it's not the white ribbon you got on your grade school science fair project.

A third place is a social environment beyond your home or workplace where you can 'be' and connect with others – a library, a church, a cafe, a park, downtown, it can even be virtual. Think about it as the living room of society.

What are the spaces in Neenah that you would consider your personal third place? Is it Shattuck Park for a Farmers Market, is it The Globe for an iced coffee

FUTURE NEENAH

on their summer patio, is it bingo at Cedar Bar, is it the pickle ball court at the YMCA, is it Sunday services at St Margaret Mary's?

It's not always the place that makes it a destination, it's the people and the activity of exchanging ideas, enjoying yourself, building relationships or joining various gender, social or demographic groups. Third places provide community building and community gathering spots and foster a sense of belonging contributing to the social fabric of Neenah.

We encourage you to find your third place in Neenah.



Neenah News

County judge takes oath

New Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 Judge Michael D. Rust is sworn in with the help of his family at an investiture ceremony on Aug. 22 at the courthouse. The former court commissioner was elected to the bench in April.

County hiring

FROM PAGE 1

year the county board approved \$175,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the county executive's office for assistance with strategic planning and priority-based budgeting.

"Jamie's experience with priority-based budgeting is on the cutting edge of this initiative," Doemel wrote in a letter to the board requesting approval for her appointment.

According to the job posting, the position comes with an annual salary of \$135,890-\$150,989. Rouch was selected after a search process that included two rounds of interviews and she is relocating

to Winnebago County with her family.

In her cover letter, Rouch wrote that she will collaborate with elected officials, city staff and residents to advance the interests of the county.

"I am particularly drawn to Winnebago County for its vibrant community, forward thinking and strategic vision for the future," Rouch wrote. "I am impressed by the city's commitment to balancing the growth with financial stability and economic development and eager to leverage my skills in leadership, decision-making and problem-solving to support the city's goals and priorities."

With County Board approval, Rouch is expected to begin in the new position in the next week.

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.

To become a member visit www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe or call our office at 920-486-1616.

Have a story idea?
Promotions or expansion at your business?
Community or school program to highlight?

Neenah News
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Email submit@neenahnewsnow.com to connect with our editorial team

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Crime diversion

FROM PAGE 1

Molly Roffers-Susa and crime data analyst Caitlin Wehing. Other members are law enforcement officials such as Sheriff John Matz.

Most of the details are still being worked out by the team but right now the program would be offered as a diversion program and require two case managers.

This would be offered to people once they have been arrested. Gossett said the DA's office will not be compiling a list of offenders and having them arrested.

"They would be in place if arrested for a new crime before they are offered this program," he said, "and they would have to meet the criterion, which will still need to determine."

The possible criteria could be any person with nine criminal referrals within three years, 12 criminal referrals within four years or 15 criminal referrals within five years.

In most diversion programs the individual gets one strike and they're out, but this program would give people several repeats.

"These are people living an alternative lifestyle and they become criminally minded," Gossett said. "Eventually this population just fall through the cracks and end up in and out of court."

The crimes are usually misdemeanors and low-level felonies that often conclude with time on probation – retail theft, disorderly conduct, obstructing/resisting arrest, possession of drug paraphernalia, bail jumping.

"The goal is to stop walking away from these people and going, 'We don't know what to do with these people' and instead try to assist them by engaging or incarcerating them," Gossett said.

He spoke of the social contract we have in society of people doing their part and having an obligation to contribute.

"We all have this social contract. If you're down on your luck – if something bad happens and you end up in financial straits or with an addiction issue – as a society and a community we owe it to you to help you, but there's a limit to that help," Gossett said, "when are we helping and when are we enabling. If we're helping you, you have an obligation to take advantage of the help that we're giving and improve your situation."

Gossett said this program was an idea about 10 years ago but the data wasn't readily available to break down. The DA's office now has the ability to analyze data from various law enforcement agencies in the area to compile information on habitual offenders.

"We're specifically going after that portion of the population that won't take advantage of the help we're offering," Gossett said.

In Winnebago County between June 2019 and June 2024, there were 266 individuals that made up 13% of all criminal referrals in the county. With a county pop-

ulation of around 171,000, according to the 2020 census, these individuals make up less than 1% of all county residents.

Of the 266 individuals, about 73% are white and 66% are men. About 80% of the 266 people fall under the criteria of nine criminal referrals within the last three years.

"(It's) a reminder that most people get zero criminal referrals or possibly one or two throughout their lifetime," Gossett said.

Matz said he understands the reason for this type of program and was not surprised to learn that fewer than 300 people made up more than 10% of criminal referrals in the county.

Matz said he is in on board with the DA's office trying something to combat these high-frequency, low level offenders.

"We can't deal with it with a citation or arrest. They come to jail and get released on a signature bond two days later and continue to commit low-level crimes," Matz said.

"Ninety days or 180 or 270 days of sobriety – that can be a real game changer for someone. It's similar to mental health with having medications available every day," he said. "Life is about building small successes and then suddenly life is going better."

One concern Matz has is the jail population and what effect there will be if there is a rise in people staying six to 12 months as habitual offenders. Some of these offenders could be offered the STAR program (Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery) in the jail designed to break the cycle of addiction.

"It will mean more staffing and we've had hiring difficulties in the past," Matz said.

He said that hiring corrections officers has gotten somewhat easier recently and the department is currently fully staffed with some employees still going through training. But he said there remain concerns about the costs of having to hire more people.

Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith, who has been invited to the meetings with the DA's team, said he did not want to comment on the program until he knows all the details. It will be important to have Smith's support as Gossett said a lot of the people who would be eligible for the program are in Oshkosh.

"The problem needs to be addressed and we're excited to continue this work and develop the program," Roffers-Susa said. "We're going to give it a try and see if it works."

Gossett said team members will continue to meet on this topic and answer questions as they head toward the expected January rollout date.

"We'll continue to fine-tune the program and make adjustments moving forward," Gossett said. "The overall goal will remain to connect people with the resources they need to help them and have them uphold their part of the social contract we have in society."



Neenah News

Bridgewood housing

A multifamily housing project at the former Bridgewood Golf Course is transforming the 46-acre space on the city's south side. A 60-unit apartment complex along Harrison Street and another 206 units in 26 buildings are part of the overall \$22 million development.

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The Town of Neenah Fire Department is offering an opportunity for a few children to ride a fire truck to school during Fire Prevention Month in October as part of its commitment to fire safety education and community engagement

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DNR seeks volunteer hunter education instructors

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Future Badger Dean set to make most of senior season

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah High School senior Grant Dean has many things he can put on his athletic resume.

Returning first-team all-Fox Valley Association running back.

University of Wisconsin football recruit.

WIAA track and field state champion.

Dominant pickleball player.

"I'm really good at pickleball. REALLY good at pickleball," Dean said. "I can run anybody at pickleball. I'm really confident about that."

But is there any carry over from being a good pickleball player to being a standout running back and defensive back on the football field.

"Absolutely not," Dean said with a laugh.

Besides his exploits in the pickleball arena, Dean has made a name for himself on the gridiron at Neenah where he enters his third season as a key figure for the Rockets.

As a sophomore, Dean saw regular action in the secondary where he finished sixth on the team in tackles and had three interceptions, while playing a limited role on offense. Serving mostly as a receiver, Dean finished with 12 catches for 192 yards and a pair of touchdowns, while racking up 488 yards rushing as a back-up to starter Jase Jenkins.

"(My sophomore year) kind of set the foundation for me for the way I play today," Dean said. "Those guys were such good leaders for me. Those guys were role models. It taught me a lot."

Dean entered his junior season set to be the starting running back and focus of the Rockets' offense. Yet even he couldn't



Neenah News

Neenah High School senior Grant Dean is looking forward to his final season with the Rockets before heading to the University of Wisconsin to play football with the Badgers.

imagine a better debut.

Playing the first game at the new Neenah football stadium, Dean – on his birthday no less - exploded for 282 yards rushing and five touchdowns, while also returning a kickoff 88 yards for a score – in a resounding 49-37 win over De Pere.

"It was electric the first game of the year. It was such a good atmosphere all around," Dean said. "I remember the student sec-

tion chanting Happy Birthday."

The season-opener was a precursor to what would be a breakout campaign for Dean.

Despite missing a game due to injury, Dean rushed for 1,774 yards and 25 touchdowns, while averaging more than seven yards per carry. He had five games where he racked up at least 200 yards and posted three games with five rushing touchdowns, while also registering three games where his per-carry average was more than 10 yards.

Dean also averaged 12 yards per reception on 20 catches with three touchdowns and earned all-conference first-team honors in the FVA.

The numbers he produced were impressive but there was another side to the breakout season.

"Offensively, I shocked myself a little bit but defensively, I didn't hit a lot of the goals I wanted to," said Dean, who was a second-team all-FVA safety. "Last year, I knew it was a big year for me. You have to have a big year if you are going to get recruited."

Dean said that he started to hear from college coaches following his sophomore

Senior Standout



season and even received scholarship offers from FCS powers North Dakota State University and South Dakota State before the start of his junior year.

Last summer, he attended a camp at the University of Wisconsin and excelled, eventually earning a scholarship offer from head coach Luke Fickell and the Badgers. Last April, he verbally committed to head to Madison.

"It's a real surreal feeling. It's kind of a big sigh of relief," Dean said. "It's something I've always dreamed of and I'm happy it came true."

Dean is being recruited as a safety and potentially a kick and punt returner, which would bring an end to his days as a running back.

"I really like safety. (Defense) is the part of the game you have to study a little

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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Return of Vanevenhoven to provide spark for Rockets

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

In a team sport like football, one player doesn't determine the success of an entire team.

But it can certainly help.

After missing much of the 2023 season because of injury, senior quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven is 100 percent healthy again and ready to lead the Rockets in the 2024 campaign.

"It's really good to have him back with him being the run/pass option. It adds another threat to our offense," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "Ashton (Van Beek) did a really good job last year, but it will be nice having a senior back there running the show with Grant (Dean)."

As a sophomore, Vanevenhoven rushed

for 1,185 yards and 14 touchdowns, while also completing 67 percent of his passes for 995 yards and 11 touchdowns.

He had rushed for 112 yards on 12 carries in last year's season-opener before suffering a wrist injury.

"It feels great to be back with the team and be able to practice with everyone. It was definitely a battle coming back from that," Vanevenhoven said. "It's definitely a motivation not having last year. I could support the team from the sideline but being able to be on the field with the guys is great."

Vanevenhoven joins first-team all-Fox Valley Association running back Grant Dean – who rushed for more than 1,700 yards last season – to form an explosive backfield.

And Vanevenhoven knows having Dean next to him will open things up.

"They have to key on (Dean) and it opens a lot more on offense having a player like that," Vanevenhoven said. "He's a dynamic player and he can do a lot with the ball in his hands."

Senior Alex Alatorre will make the move from tackle to center to anchor the offensive line, with juniors Jameson Oldenburg and Bryce Leneau joining the group up front.

Neenah will also get a boost from senior Nathaniel Pellotes, who at 6-foot-4, 300 pounds, returns to football after not playing the last two years and will fill one of the tackle spots.

"He still has a lot to learn but you can see him getting better," Jung said. "He's

caught on to the offense much better than I thought."

Senior Luke Jung also joins the offensive line at tight end and will be one of Vanevenhoven's targets in the passing game.

Luke Jung was also the team's leading tackler a year ago and earned second-team all-FVA honors at safety. The senior, who recently committed to Minnesota-Duluth, is looking forward to playing on both sides of the ball and helping lead the defense.

"I want to be on the field as much as I can to help the team," Luke Jung said. "This year we bring back a lot of leaders and a lot of good people and we have really been bringing the team together. We're

SEE **Rockets** ON PAGE 15

Zephyrs aiming to bounce back from rough 2023 season

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

With its return to 11-player football a year ago, the St. Mary Catholic football program expected to carry over the success from the previous seasons playing the 8-player game.

It didn't quite happen.

The Zephyrs rolled past Rosholt in the season-opener but dropped seven of its final eight games to finish a disappointing 2-8.

"I think we were pretty cocky after being so good in 8-man football. Last year was kind of a wake-up call for how physical and how much bigger the guys are that we are playing," said junior quarterback Maddox Dwyer. "I'm really excited for the season. Football is a ton of fun."

St. Mary Catholic head coach Josh Young admitted that the team entered last season with making the playoffs – something the team was ineligible for in 8-player because of school size – on their minds.

He has changed that approach this season.

"It's cliché but we are going to take it a 1-0 each week this season," Young said. "I think we looked too far ahead last year. When we talked at the beginning of the year about playoff opportunities, I'm not worried about that anymore. I'm just focused on each week."

Not that the Zephyrs don't have making the postseason as a goal for this year's group.

It's just that they know the only path to

get there is by focusing on each game as it comes.

"Last year, didn't go how we wanted it to," senior Daniel Harness said. "This a group we believe in and we believe we can make a run in the playoffs and that's what we're going to try to do."

The Zephyrs' road to the postseason goes through its third conference in the past three years.

St. Mary Catholic played last season in the Trailways Conference but with WIAA conference realignment, moved to the Eastern Wisconsin Conference this season. It's a league that includes Brillion, Chilton, Kiel, Kohler/Sheboygan Lutheran/Sheboygan Catholic, New Holstein, Roncalli and Valdars.

Young knows his the conference in-

cludes some traditionally strong programs but he believes it's a league the Zephyrs can compete in and doesn't see the three years of being in different conferences as an issue.

"We haven't had the continuity of like the (Fox Valley Association) where it's the same teams every year, but I'm not worried about it," Young said. "We have now gotten closer to all of the teams so hopefully we can create some natural rivalries."

Dwyer echoed those thoughts, believing it won't be that big of a deal preparing for new opponents.

"It's all football. It's all the same. You have to go out there and hit people. Play-

SEE **Zephyrs** ON PAGE 14

2024

Football schedules

NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL

Aug 23	@Muskego	7pm
Aug 29	Menasha	7pm
Sep 5	Appleton East	7pm
Sep 13	@Kaukauna	7pm
Sep 20	Oshkosh West	7pm
Sep 27	@Appleton North	7pm
Oct 4	Kimberly	7pm
Oct 11	@Fond du Lac	7pm
Oct 18	Hortonville	7pm

Home Games – Boldface – NHS Rocket Stadium

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Aug 23	Amherst	7pm
Aug 30	@Manawa	7pm
Sep 5	Valders	7pm
Sep 13	@Chilton	7pm
Sep 20	Kiel	7pm
Sep 27	@Kohler/Lutheran/Christian	7pm
Oct 4	Roncalli	7pm
Oct 11	@Brillion	7pm
Oct 18	New Holstein	7pm

Home Games – Boldface – SMCS Zephyr Field

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Returning Searles leads Neenah golfers

Neenah News

Neenah's varsity girls golf team will have basically a whole new look this season but head coach Adam Hendrickson is looking forward to what his young team can accomplish.

"We are a very young team this year in terms of varsity experience, but we have a lot of players who made great strides last season and hopefully continue their growth," Hendrickson commented. "We have a great deal of potential and it will be fun to see how that potential begins to show as our girls get more competitive experience."

Leading the group will be the lone varsity holdover from last season in senior Annika Searles.

Searles was honorable mention all-Fox Valley Association and finished ninth at the WIAA Division 1 regional where the Rockets finished second. Neenah was third at sectionals, missing a state tournament berth by five shots.

Behind Searles, seniors Carly Callahan and Emma Oehlenschlager, junior Jordyn Brockman and sophomores Adrienne Oitzinger and Lilly Quella will be competing to round out the varsity lineup. Callahan, Oehlenschlager and Brockman each have limited varsity experience from last season.

Kaukauna is again likely to be the favorite in the FVA, but Hendrickson hopes that the Rockets will challenge for another strong finish in the league.

"We should be very competitive in our dual meet season which will help our team as we get to the postseason," Hendrickson commented.

Neenah opened the season with the Heart of the Valley Metro Girls Golf Championship on Tuesday at High Cliff Golf Course.

The Rockets finished eighth overall in the tandem event that consisted of a nine-hole scramble and nine-hole best ball.

Searles and Paige Keck posted the Rockets' lowest score with an 85, while Oitzinger and Quella finished with a score of 94.

Zephyrs

FROM PAGE 13

ing the same team over and over doesn't mean you are going to know everything they do and are going to win," Dwyer said. "You have to go out there and give 100 percent, give your best. Every game is something different."

Dwyer will be leading the Zephyrs offense at quarterback, a position he played some last season.

He played five games after starting the year as a backup and threw for just over 300 yards and a touchdown.

"(The experience) is going to help a lot. Last year, during my first start I was really nervous and didn't know what was going to happen. I kind of learned that it was way quicker and more physical," Dwyer said. "This year I know what to expect and I can help my teammates prepare and I can go into every game with a positive mindset, knowing what to do."

The Zephyrs graduated their two leading rushers from a year ago and will turn to junior Elliott Reichenbacher and sophomore Gus Clark to spearhead the running game this season. Sophomore Gavin Post and senior Anton Jackson are also in the running for playing time.

"We have a bunch of guys we can roll through and then we have some young guys, too," Young said. "We have a better crew development wise than we had in the past where we had to rely on just one or two guys."

Paving the way for the running backs will be an experienced offensive line, although the leaders of the group will still be young.

Max Vosters, Alex Klinkhammer and Brady Determan are all sophomores but the trio all started as freshmen last year. Senior Myles Norville is also a

returning starter to give the group plenty of experience up front.

Junior Marcos Muniz and sophomores Gibson Rause and Jacob Ernsting are also expected to get playing time.

"I'm comfortable putting any of them in there," Young said.

The veteran Harness rounds out the group at tight end and will also anchor the St. Mary Catholic defensive unit. The defensive end was an all-conference selection in the Trailways a year ago and is the team's top returning tackler. He enters his fourth season as a starter on defense.

"It's kind of crazy to be a senior already. It feels like I was just a freshman," Harness said. "Physicality is going to be huge (on defense) because we don't have much size. A lot less than some of the teams we are going to see this year. It's 100 percent flying to the ball and gang tackle. It's all stuff we preach about at practice and we are going to show that on Fridays."

Reichenbacher and senior Carson Emenecker at linebacker and junior Isaiah Hennessy on the defensive line are also expected to be the leaders on the defense.

That defense will get a test in the season opener on Friday when the Zephyrs host perennial state powerhouse Amherst in a nonconference game.

Facing an opponent with a reputation like Amherst can be a bit intimidating but the Zephyrs believe that the Falcons may overlook a team that had just two wins a year ago.

"They don't care who we are and are probably already looking toward next week after us," Harness said. "It's a nice way to start the season. Last year, we didn't have much competition to start the season and I think it's going to be a wakeup call to our team to play a big physical team."

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Top doubles pairing sparks Zephyrs at season-opening quad

Neenah News

An impressive showing by its No. 1 doubles team at its season-opening event could be a precursor for what's to come for the St. Mary Catholic girls tennis team.

The Zephyrs went 2-1 at a quadrangular at Kohler but the No. 1 doubles team of freshman Vivie Auth and junior Adel Schneider went 3-0, knocking off a pair of state meet placewinners from last season. The duo defeated Kohler's Sophia Torke and Grace Vilwock, who were the state runners up last year, 6-3, 6-3, while also beating the fourth-place doubles team from last year – Grace Ogden and Gabby Stammer of Xavier, 6-0, 4-6, 10-3.

The pairing will anchor what looks to be a strong Zephyr lineup this season, which includes seven returning varsity players led by seniors Audrey Wanless, Emily Vogel, Alice Cole and Nolie Anderson along with juniors Erin Blaney and Schneider. Sophomore Nadia Alexander Alexander

also returns from last season.

Schneider qualified for the state in singles in each of her first two years, while Vogel was a state qualifier last year as part of St. Mary Catholic's No. 1 doubles team.

Freshmen Auth, Ella Chier and Lorelai Miller are also expected to contribute to the varsity lineup this season.

St. Mary Catholic got at least one win from every player during the season-opening quad, led the by the 3-0 mark from Auth and Schneider.

Anderson and Miller also each had 3-0 records, including one win together at No. 3 doubles against Xavier. Anderson then teamed with Wanless at No. 3 doubles for wins against Shorewood and Kohler, while Miller posted her other two wins at No. 4 singles in those two matches.

Blaney was the only other Zephyr to post a win against Xavier, earning a victory at No. 2 singles as St. Mary Catholic lost, 4-3.

a program that has reached the postseason eight straight seasons and won back-to-back Division 1 state championships in 2018 and 2019.

It's a tough opponent for a season-opener but that's what the head coach wants.

"It will be nice to go against a team that's really physical to start out the year and really organized with their offense and defense," Steve Jung said. "It's always nice to get the win, no question about it, but I think we've always looked for a really competitive nonconference schedule and that is to prepare us for our really physical play in the FVA."

Playing a program like Muskego could also help the Rockets down the line.

Of course, the players stress the importance of focusing on each opponent but the team knows the potential this group has and where they would like to end their season.

"We all know the goal is to (play at Camp Randall for a state title)," Luke Jung said. "We've met as a leadership group and we know what we want to do. We hope and we think we can get there."

Added Vanevenhoven: "You have to take it week by week for sure and win each game, but there has definitely been talks about (playing in Camp Randall Stadium) and high hopes for that."

"It was really an amazing feeling," Dean said. "That's one (achievement) I hold pretty high. We weren't expecting to win that all. I blacked out the last 100 meters."

Although his speed has helped him to many of his accomplishments, one of his strengths as a runner is his ability to slow things down.

Dean credits his patience as a running back as one of his biggest strengths and said it was something that he had to learn as he developed.

"It's coaching, it's 100 percent coaching because I wasn't always like that," Dean said. "My freshman year, when I moved up to junior varsity, I wasn't doing very good. Coach Severson taught me a lot that year and how to properly run and it has helped."

Dean hopes to cap his prep career with another stellar season and is looking forward to getting things going on Friday at home against Muskego.

"I'm really excited to be able to play with all of the kids I played with since I started and finally get this thing underway. Hopefully, we get to the goals we set," Dean said. "It is hard (to wait for January), but I've learned to just keep focused on what's right in front of you."

Cole picked up a win at No. 3 singles against Shorewood, while the No. 2 doubles team of Voigel and Alexander were also winners. Vogel and Alexander also won at No. 2 doubles against Kohler, while Chier picked up a win at No. 2 singles.

St. Mary Catholic scored 5-2 wins over both Shorewood and Kohler.

Neenah

The Rockets had seven underclassmen in its lineup that made the WIAA Division 1 Team State semifinals last season and are expected to once again compete for a top finish in the Fox Valley Association.

Neenah's entire singles lineup from last

year has the potential to return after each player earned all-FVA recognition last season.

Sophomore Rebekah Thomas earned first-team honors at No. 3 singles, while senior Izzy Murray at No. 1 singles, senior Norah Spanbauer at No. 4 singles and sophomore Celia Grant at No. singles were each second-team honorees.

In doubles, senior Meredith Werner earned first-team honors as part of the No. 2 doubles team, while juniors Ava Motto and Celia Alexander earned second-team honors at No. 2 doubles.

Neenah shared the FVA title with Neenah last season.

Rockets

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just going to be better that way."

Dean joins Jung as a returning all-FVA safety, while junior Nathan Kramp on the defensive line, seniors Andrew Carlson and Cole Fenske and junior Hunter Weinke at linebacker and senior Zayne Schmidt at cornerback will also be back on defense.

Carlson was an honorable mention all-FVA selection a year ago, while Schmidt led the team in interceptions.

"We had to replace a fair amount on defense but we feel that most of these guys go one way and we're making progress," Steve Jung said. "We have a bunch of young guys who are giving us a lot of effort."

Neenah's defense was one of the best in the FVA a year ago and has the potential to once again be one of the league's top units.

"We just have a bunch of guys who buy in to what the coaches teach us. We have a bunch of guys who just want to hit people. We love to be physical," Luke Jung said. "Obviously there are some really good players (in the FVA) and you just have to be so fundamentally sound and be ready to stay on your assignment and stay disciplined."

Neenah's defense will get a test in its season opener on Friday against Muskego,

Senior Standout

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more," Dean said. "Last year I didn't show a lot of coverage in my film and that's something what I want to improve on."

Dean isn't going to wait until next fall to join the Wisconsin program either.

He will head to Madison in January after graduating from Neenah a semester early. It was something he decided to do last year and is looking forward to jump-starting his collegiate career.

"I had to adjust my schedule so I can graduate early and it's just staying focused and keeping balance in my life," Dean said. "It's going to benefit me in football."

One of the assets Dean will bring to the safety position is his speed, which has been something that has been on display with the Rockets' track and field program.

Dean is a three-time state qualifier in track and field, including a third-place finish in the Division 1 400 meters at last year's event.

He was also a part of Neenah's state championship 1,600-meter relay team as a junior and winning the gold in La Crosse is something that will stick with him forever.

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AUCTION – ON-LINE "ONLY" 9am. Sept. 1 to 5pm Sept. 10. Amazing Business Opportunity for two adjacent businesses in downtown Antigo WI w/exceptional gross sales. Dixie Lunch & Fifth Avenue Restaurant. OPEN HOUSE AUG. 24th from 3-5pm. www.nolansales.com for photo's & details. Nolan Sales LLC, Marion WI. Auctioneers Lic#165 & #142

CRANDON WI. (Forest County) 10 acres on a town road, power available, Land Contract Available, \$89,000. Also 142 Acre Active gravel pit. Call Fred 715-493-6121

For Sale

2004 Honda Shadow 1100CC. New starter, new batter, good tires. \$2450.00. Call Scott 920-381-0941

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-888-686-1458 (WCAN)

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-920-3533 (WCAN)

FRITZ BARN PAINTING Rusty Roofs, Metal buildings Free Est 608-221-3510 920-821-6311

In Need of Custom Plaining, Sanding, or siding? Also, for sale car siding bring sample we can match it. Reasonable Delivery & Installation available! RIVERS EDGE TRIMMING & MOULDINGS. Call 715-613-8701 Mention PDS and receive a 2% discount.

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL Can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer.) Offer ends 8/25/24 Call 833-224-4977 (WCAN)

PLYMOUTH FURNITURE: QUEEN MATTRESSES FROM \$199 40 Styles on Display! All Sizes Avail. PlymouthFurnitureWI.com 2133 Eastern Ave Plymouth WI 920-892-6006 Open Daily (WCAN)

POMERANIAN – MINI – AUSTRALIAN SHEP CROSS PUPS 1-M \$250 1-F \$300 DOB 5-9 715-823-3052

POMERANIANS APRI REGISTERED Full of love, friendly very cute, Great Fun! Vet

chk, shoots, \$800 Unregistered liter \$600 715-654-5149

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES WITH BRIGGS & STRATTON PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty 7 years (\$849 value) Proudly made in the USA. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-855-918-3220 (WCAN)

PUREBRED BEAGLE PUPPIES. Shots/wormed, \$500 Born June 15, Ready Now 715-680-0140 or 715-257-9316

REPLACE YOUR ROOF w/the best looking & longest lasting material, steel from **Erie Metal Roofs!** 3 Styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% OFF Installation + Add'l 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders) Call Erie Metal Roofs 1-877-845-6606 (WCAN)

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments & No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. **BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call today!** 1-877-651-1850 (WCAN)

REG. BERNADOODLE PUPPIES vet checked, shots, wormed/dews \$1100. No sun calls 715-409-3321 Lic#495932

Garage/Estate Sales

Hosta, Wisconsin Metal Garden Art and other Fun Stuff! 2110 Rabbit Trail Road, Ripon; 12 miles west of Oshkosh off of Hwy 91. Friday and Saturday, August 23 and 24. Sale times are 10-5. Absolutely no early sales! Cash or check.

3,000 pots of fully rooted, landscape ready hosta. 200 kinds of hosta including Curly Fries, Wrinkle in Time, Autumn Frost, Krossa Regal, Praying Hands, Banana Bay, Blue Angel, First Blush, Sum and Substance, Whee and Christmas Tree. Many hosta that you may have never seen before! The metal art are bucks, does, fawns, elk, moose, turtles, flowers, butterflies and dragonflies. So much fun stuff...benches, small tables, galvanized tubs and pails, hand saws, garden pots, birdhouses on garden tools, 25 messages on plasma cut signs, vintage sewing machine tables and a yard full more.

Miscellaneous

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? GET RESULTS! Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers' Guide papers for as low as \$36.00 **Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.) 1-920-922-4864 www.pdsadnet.com**

Start Your OWN Business! GROW your Small Business! Enroll in E-Seed Express in Appleton or Oshkosh! Sessions start in September. Grant Funding for E-Seed Express is available. Contact: www.fvct.edu/VentureCenter or venture@fvct.edu

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability.

Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: AJAIVEER RANDHAWA SAMUEL
By (Petitioner) JASLEEN KAUR RANDHAWA

By (Co-Petitioner) HEMANTH KUMAR SAMUEL

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 24 CV 705

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: [First] Ajaiveer [Middle] Randhawa [Last] Samuel
To: [First] Ajaiveer [Middle] [Last] Randhawa-Samuel
Birth Certificate: [First] Ajaiveer [Middle] Randhawa [Last] Samuel

IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Michael S. Gibbs
Place: 415 Jackson Street, Rm 211 Oshkosh, WI 54903
Date: September 5, 2024
Time: 11:00 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4848 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Neenah News (Oshkosh Herald) a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin.
BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: July 26, 2024 /s/ Hon. Michael Gibbs

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Runs: Aug 9, 2024, Aug 16, 2024 and Aug 23, 2024 WNAXLP

