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Neenah News

Aiden, who was visiting the library with mom Hannah recently, had a big smile as he played the new "Serenade" instrument.

## Concerns aired over campus spaces closing

### UW Fox Cities holds planetarium, museum

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The fate of the Barlow Planetarium, Communication Arts Center and Weis Earth Science Museum, which will be affected by the upcoming closure of the University of Wisconsin-Fox Cities campus, were at the top of mind for residents who attended a meeting at the campus Monday.

UW Oshkosh recently announced it will close its Fox Cities campus in Menasha in June, marking the sixth campus slated for closure after the merger of 13 two-year UW colleges with seven of its four-year colleges statewide in 2018.

Shrinking enrollment and budget challenges at UW Fox Cities resulted in a 65% drop in students over the past five years.

What hasn't been decided with the impending closure is what will happen to the campus infrastructure, with the board of trustees voting Monday to have a real estate property appraisal completed.

Since opening in 1997, the Barlow Planetarium has drawn more than 900,000 visitors including 27,000 guests in the 2023-2024 academic year, according to a letter read at the meeting by Northeast Wisconsin Stargazers (NEWSTAR) president Richard Beal.

"At this critical juncture, NEWSTAR's members are united in our commitment to the Barlow Planetarium," Beal said. "We are stepping forward as advocates, seeking to forge alliances with other nonprofits, educational groups, community leaders and corporate sponsors to secure the Barlow's

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## Outdoor instrument brings sweet sounds to downtown

Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library's new interactive outdoor chimes instrument was recently installed, striking a chord with visitors of all ages.

Library director Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm said the instrument – called "Serenade" – was made possible through donations in memory of longtime library patron and volunteer Rick Fahrenkrug, who passed away in December.

"Rick actively participated in the ukulele group and other library events," she said. "He was a strong supporter of the

library and had a passion for music. The Serenade is a fitting tribute to Rick."

The instrument is in front of the library near the kaleidoscope structure. With 15 rainbow color-coded xylophone-style chimes, players make music by following the colors of the bars or using the annotated notes in the songbook.

The interactive "Serenade" has quickly attracted players who use mallets to produce a gentle, tinkling tone.

"It really has been wonderful seeing all the different ages enjoying it," Hardina-Wilhelm said.

## Elder helps keep Menominee language, culture alive

By Patti Lee  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

It is said that still waters run deep. In the case of Dennis Kenote, the water is deep and wide.

Reserved and soft-spoken, the 78-year-old Kenote was born on the Menominee Indian Reservation. He is a Menominee tribal elder and Vietnam Navy veteran. His role in the tribe and as a man is to carry, honor and teach the rich heritage of his nation.

Kenote has a quiet manner steeped in dignity. Whether explaining a tradition

or speaking of hard times, his tenor does not change. He treats all interaction and conversation with others as teachable moments.

Kenote will deliver the invocation at the Neenah-Menasha Intertribal Powwow that returns to Shattuck Park in Neenah from 2 to 5 p.m. Sept. 14. The free event is open to the community.

His childhood reflects the harsh years of

reservation life back in the 1940s and '50s. He never grew up with his mother, who lived and worked in Chicago. "Back then there were no casinos, there were basically no jobs," Kenote recalled. "People had to go to the big cities for work – Minneapolis or Milwaukee or Chicago."

"My mother would come home to the reservation to give birth so her children could be put on the tribal rolls," Kenote said. "I was the third oldest of the nine children in our family. Three of them have now passed on and gone to the spirit world."



Kenote

Shortly after his birth, Kenote was sent to live with his maternal grandmother. She died around the time he turned 1 year old.

"Then I was sent to live with my mom's grandmother ... my great-grandmother. She spoke only Menominee," he said. "Up until the age of around 5, this is all I heard. This is the language that I spoke."

Then, Kenote was uprooted again. Great-grandmother simply became too old to care for the young boy. With his mother in Chicago and a high rate of

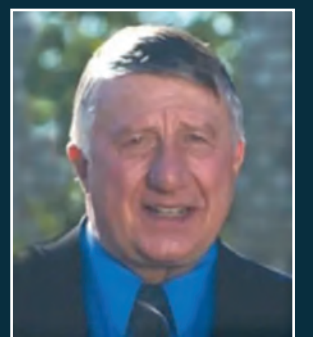
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Photo by Santiago Sanchez

Residents are shown in downtown Neenah tailgating along the route of the 2024 Memorial Day parade.

## New policy prohibits tailgating at parades

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Police Department has announced a new policy prohibiting parking and tailgating along parade routes starting with Monday's Labor Day parade.

Though parades typically stretch through both cities, Neenah previously allowed residents to park and tailgate during parades, while Menasha's parking ordinance prohibits it.

Tailgating has been a long-standing tradition for many families, with historical photos showing attendees lining parade routes with their vehicles, some sitting on the tailgate, while others set up a chair behind their vehicle to watch.

Monday's parade starts at 10 a.m. in Menasha's Curtis Reed Square and continues through downtown Neenah. It is followed by a festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Neenah Labor Temple on South Green

Bay Road.

Aimed at enhancing public safety and improving the parade experience, the new parking policy marks a shift in how the events will be managed due to concerns over associated safety risks.

This year, police began deploying 59 ballistic-rated traffic safety barriers during parades and special events. Assistant Police Chief Jeff Bernice said a person intent on causing harm could park their vehicle along the parade route, eliminating the effectiveness of the safety barriers.

He gave examples of common situations that come with a risk, such as a person consuming alcohol and then backing their vehicle into a crowd, or a medical episode that could cause a person to panic, lose situational awareness and forget there is a crowd around.

"I know it's a long tradition of people parking their cars there, but you know,

we have to look at risk over benefit, and I don't want anything happening to our community," he said.

Another challenge is that parking along the parade route limits space.

"You know, a little kid could just move a couple feet and then possibly get run over," he said.

Recent parades have seen an uptick in incidents where tailgating areas became overcrowded, leading to obstructed views and safety challenges for attendees and participants.

Bernice shared a photograph of the July 3 Parade of Lights and explained that an attendee was sitting only about three feet away from a police car that was participating and said an officer told him the event was scary.

"We're trying to get the cars side by side, as close as possible, but then the crowd is either on the driver side or passenger side of the vehicle, and you're so close," he said.

Bernice said it will take several events to get the parking situation in order. Police will be informing residents that there will be no parking during parades and placing signs along parade routes noting the time that the temporary ban is in effect.

If a vehicle is parked along the route, it may need to be towed to a different location at the owner's expense, but Bernice noted police will first make multiple attempts to contact the owner and take other steps to have the vehicle moved before resorting to towing.

"We want to work with people," he said. "We don't want to burden people with tickets and fees from a towing company, so ideally, we don't want to ticket them. We just want to try to get the vehicle off the parade route."

Police departments have been ramping up security after the 2021 Waukesha Christmas Parade incident where a driver plowed into the crowd, killing six.

"You look at Waukesha and all the injuries and fatalities and how that impacted the community as a whole, we don't want that here in the city of Neenah," Bernice said. "The priority of the police department is always the safety and the welfare of our citizens."

## Resurfacing work on part of State 76 completed

Neenah News

All major construction on a mile of State 76 from just north of County II to just south of Shady Lane in the Town of Clayton has been completed, the state Department of Transportation's Northeast Region announced last week.

The resurfacing-level improvement included milling and resurfacing, replacing

deteriorated guardrail and sections of curb, and cleanout of culvert pipes. The improvements are expected to extend the life of the existing pavement and decrease future maintenance costs.

The \$1.13 million project, with Stark Pavement Corp. of Brookfield as prime contractor, began July 8 and finished on time and on budget.



Neenah Historical Society

## Holiday parade

Neenah celebrates the 1987 Labor Day Parade. The view is looking east down Wisconsin Avenue.



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# Judge orders city to pay legal fees in sign lawsuit

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A circuit court judge this week ordered the city of Neenah to pay legal expenses to the plaintiffs in a lawsuit that struck down portions of the city's sign ordinance as unconstitutional.

The resolution follows that of a federal lawsuit that also challenged the city's sign ordinance, which sought to place time limits and regulate the content and location of signs.

The city was first sued over its sign ordinance in federal court in January 2023 by the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty on behalf of residents Tim and Megan Florek.

The Floreks were among residents who received a letter from the city requesting signs in yards protesting development plans for the closed Shattuck Middle School be removed after the Common Council's failed vote to rezone the site so a developer could construct apartments and single-family homes.

The circuit court lawsuit was filed in April 2023 by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) on behalf of residents

Gail and Margaret Minks, and Gary and Kim Novak, after the Minks received a notice from the city to remove political signs they had in their yard for months.

The city repealed and recreated sections of the ordinance last October and filed for dismissal of both the federal and circuit court lawsuits.

While a judge subsequently dismissed the federal lawsuit as moot, WMC filed an amended complaint in circuit court challenging the updated ordinance and Judge Daniel Bissett granted summary judgment to WMC in May.

Bissett's ruling deemed portions of the sign ordinance banning speech on parked vehicles and trailers, banning off-premises signs, limiting residential property to one portable yard sign, imposing a 30-day limit on portable yard signs and requiring a permit for signs, as unconstitutional, invalid and unenforceable.

The Common Council voted earlier this month to repeal and recreate its sign ordinance for a second time to comply with the judge's ruling.

The changes include removing adver-

tising vehicle signs from the ordinance; expanding the definition of off-premises signs; removing the limit on the number of portable yard signs on residential property; removing the time limit that signs can remain on residential property; and revising the process for applying for a sign permit.

The city also removed sandwich board signs from the sign ordinance, with those signs expected to be included in a future revision to the street furniture section of the municipal code.

At Monday's hearing, an attorney for Neenah argued that because WMC filed an amended complaint, its earlier claims from the initial complaint were abandoned and those legal expenses should be excluded from what the city must pay.

Bissett disagreed, stating it's clear the lawsuit played a significant role in getting the city to amend its sign ordinance and the plaintiffs were the prevailing party in both the initial and amended complaints, entitling them to costs and expenses under the fee-shifting statute that governs whether a prevailing party can recover legal fees from the opposing party.

Bissett conceded to making a slight reduction in the fee award, noting that charging the city for two WMC attorneys to attend court appearances was duplicative, lowering the final fee by about \$550.

Neenah will be liable for about \$94,000 in costs and fees, in addition to the \$27,000 spent defending itself in the circuit court lawsuit.

The city has the option to appeal the ruling on the fee award, though if the appeal is unsuccessful the city would also be responsible for paying WMC's legal fees in defending the challenge.

Community development director Chris Haese said in June that early in the process the city offered to come to a resolution with WMC on the concerns, but "they rejected the offer and chose to continue with the lawsuit, which ultimately ended up costing us the city, its taxpayers and its businesses that are members of the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce more money."

Combined costs of the federal and circuit court sign ordinance lawsuits will leave city taxpayers responsible for about \$146,000.

## Convenience store beer sales up for city vote

Neenah News

The Neenah Common Council will vote Wednesday on modifying the municipal code to allow the sale of beer at convenience stores after a committee this week recommended the council approve the ordinance.

The move marks a major shift in the city's policy, which has banned alcohol sales at gas stations since the 1980s, making it one of the few cities in Wisconsin with such a restriction.

Proponents say it would be a positive move for economic development, attract convenience stores and place Neenah businesses on a level playing field with those in other communities. Critics opposing the change argue it will lead to more alcohol-related issues and crime; and will push small businesses out of the city.

Convenience stores would be required to obtain a permit and license to sell malt beverages from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Requirements in-

clude prohibiting keg sales, disallowing single-serve beverages of fewer than 60 ounces and mandating that beer must be sold in at least a four-pack of 12-ounce bottles or cans.

The Public Services and Safety Committee voted 3-2 Tuesday in favor of the change, with Cari Lendrum and Lee Hillstrom voting against.

The council is expected to vote in favor of the measure, aligning the city's regulations with broader state trends.

### Calendar of events

**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  
Community Living Room Series, 6 p.m., Neenah Public Library

**Thursday, Sept. 12**  
Brigade Open House, 4 p.m., 109 W. Columbian Ave.

**Saturday, Sept. 14**  
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park  
Walk to End Alzheimer's, 8:30 a.m., 24 Jeweler's Park Drive  
Ultimate Ladies Day, 9 a.m., downtown Neenah  
Neenah-Menasha Intertribal Powwow, 2 p.m., Shattuck Park



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Local news for you

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# Outdoor options enhance local dining experiences

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Summer may be wrapping up but there's still time to get outside and enjoy the city's beer gardens and sidewalk cafes, vibrant outdoor spaces that are increasing in popularity.

In Neenah, the outdoor dining and drinking trend is taking off with DoubleTree by Hilton the latest to be granted approval for The Forge Kitchen and Parlor to serve patrons in a sidewalk cafe along Wisconsin Avenue.

The city requires businesses to obtain an outdoor extension of premises to serve food and alcohol outdoors on private property, and for smoking purposes, typically in a patio or beer garden. The city also permits serving food and alcohol at sidewalk cafes, but only in the downtown area.

Businesses with a sidewalk cafe include Greene's Pour House, Layla's Place, Little Siam, Sante Wine Bar and Urban Market Neenah; while Cannova's Pizzeria has both a sidewalk cafe and an outdoor patio.

Businesses with an outdoor patio include Batley's Grill & Bar, Bridgewood Resort Hotel, Cedar Bar & Grill, Copperstill Bourbon Bar, Cozumel Mexican Restaurant, Cranky Pat's, The Dome, Fire Lite, Gord's Pub, Lion's Tail Brewing, Old 41 Saloon, Sidetracked Bar & Grill, Solea Mexican Grill, The Plaza, Town Council, Xtra Innings, Zacatecas Mexican Restaurant and Zuppas Cafe.

The growing number of outdoor dining and drinking spaces come in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which

required social distancing to prevent exposure.

In 2021, the Neenah Common Council approved a temporary ordinance to provide relief to restaurants, bars and taverns by allowing the use of parking areas, open spaces and adjacent areas to maximize service areas. Though the ordinance was automatically repealed at the end of the year, the trend of outdoor dining has continued.

Sidewalk seating such as that offered at Greene's Pour House attracts more customers and creates a street presence that enhances the downtown appeal, while beer gardens such as the one at Lion's Tail Brewing offer a community gathering and socializing spot.

Jon Horan, who owns Town Council, said he's been offering outdoor seating every summer since the business opened in 2016.

Horan said outdoor seating is popular but noted the challenge of accommodating patrons who have a reservation when the weather is poor and indoor seating is full.

"That gets to be a little tricky," he said.

For residents and visitors alike, these spaces offer more than just a place to eat or drink, but a way to enjoy the outdoors and take in the city while engaging with the community.

"I think that it just creates a really great downtown environment where there's more visibility," Horan said. "People who are milling about downtown can see people enjoying themselves and have a little bit better idea on what's going on inside."



Neenah News

Downtown Neenah offers a variety of spots for outdoor dining and drinking.

## Business news roundup

**Zuppas Cafe and Catering** is under the new ownership of longtime chef Alex Little after the retirement of chef and owner Peter Kuenzi, who opened the restaurant in 1999 in downtown Neenah's Marketplace building. Four years later, Zuppas relocated to 1540 S. Commercial St. where sandwiches, wraps, paninis and other food and deli items are served in a cafeteria-like setting. Little, a chef at Zuppas for about 20 years, recently took over the helm of the popular dining spot.

**Seven Thymes, Flowers & Other Lovely Things** at 200 W. Wisconsin Ave. in downtown Neenah has expanded its business with the opening of a Thyme After Thyme store at 107 Church St. that will focus on gifts, toys and other items for children and their families. Owner and floral designer Joelle Miller opened Seven Thymes in March 2022 and a year later moved the flower portion of the store to the corner at West Wisconsin Avenue.

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# Program coordinator offers personal perspective

By Amanda Tennyson

HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

My story is one of disconnection. My addiction took me away from the parts of my life that were important to me; laws and society took me away from everything and everyone else.

Louise Vincent, who is director of the NC Survivors Union, says, "All we do is disconnect people in the United States. So, if you are a person who uses drugs and needs help, we start with disconnecting you. And I truly believe that addiction is the opposite of connection. What we do is everything wrong to help a person. We disconnect people from their families, we disconnect people from their friends, we alienate people from work, we disconnect them from community, and then we disconnect them from their freedom. And when people finally have nothing left, then they will use until they die."

I survived.

Growing up, I wish someone would have told me that, for some of us, if we use drugs, we can never stop rather than the Just Say No model of the DARE program that just told us drugs are bad. My first experience with drug use occurred when an older sibling got me high for the first time at age 9. Now, I know that I suffered from mental health all my life. Back then those were issues we just didn't talk about, so I was left to manage it all myself.

Overall, I did well for many years. I was a regular teen. I was on the pom and dance team, I played soccer, I got good grades (for the most part), and I received a scholarship to attend a college for cosmetology. My friends used drugs periodically and didn't have any problems. I had no reason to believe I would be any different.

Shortly after high school graduation, I began dating a man six years my senior. He dealt cocaine, which we both used. I was 18 years old the first time I experimented with crack cocaine. It was at that point that my life changed forever. It wasn't long before I dropped out of cosmetology school.

That relationship was very physically, emotionally, mentally and sexually abu-



Submitted photo

Amanda Tennyson, shown with her children, is the Harm Reduction Program coordinator at Winnebago County Public Health.

sive, which continued for the next seven years. I got pregnant with my first son and stopped doing drugs, however, he was also an alcoholic and an angry one at that.

During my second pregnancy he had me arrested and I went to jail. My family bailed me out and I delivered our second baby boy two days after my release. The stress of the relationship caused our son to have a lot of health issues.

I discharged myself from the hospital 12 hours after delivering, while my son was still in the NICU to file a domestic restraining order so I could get all the kid's belongings out of the house. I tried so hard to get my life together so I could raise my children. I eventually moved into my own place, struggling to co-parent, still

dealing with his abuse.

I decided to go back to cosmetology school to attempt to live a "normal" life. I found myself in a relationship with a woman who was fighting the same demon of addiction. It wasn't long before I started using crack again, and again dropped out of school.

During that relationship, we partied and experimented with all kinds of drugs. I found, what I thought was the love of my life: heroin. After countless efforts to stop using heroin, losing custody of my children to their abusive father, selling my body for drugs, being homeless, and overdosing, the time finally came when I was arrested and charged with manufacture and delivery of heroin, party to a

crime. I went through withdrawals while incarcerated. I always said, if I ever made it through the withdrawals, I would never go back to shooting heroin.

During my time in jail, I learned about Narcotics Anonymous. There was a woman who came into the jails and led NA meetings. I sat 102 days in Outagamie County Jail and when I was finally released, I asked that woman to be my sponsor. She was my saving grace. She was the first person that loved me for who and what I was. She loved me even though I had done horrible things, and I didn't think I deserved to be loved.

A month after I was released, I entered

SEE **Tennyson** ON PAGE 7

## Emotional impact of drug deaths touches everyone

By Cheryl Brehmer

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

From a young age I wanted to be Quincy ME when I grew up. I was always fascinated by the investigations and medical mysteries, and it was a TV show that captured my interest and held on for many years.

What this show did not portray was the emotional toll it takes on the people working within this profession.

In the effort to maintain our professional yet compassionate composure and remain strong to help support families and loved ones, I can only say that there are many times we put on a facade. Not all will agree with me and each of us is at our own stage of the journey but – no matter how strong we think we are – in the end we have all been affected in some way.

Not all deaths are under horrendous situations, and some have been explained as a beautiful experience by the family with the capability of being by their bedside giving loving support as they pass on. For others it was one of the worst days of their lives and they feel they've been robbed of

the opportunity to make amends, to say I love you one more time, or to just be there so their loved one didn't die alone.

The overdose epidemic has robbed too many families of these opportunities. While we may have never met the decedent or their family and friends before we are summoned to the scene, their pain and turmoil is impossible to ignore once witnessed and it is just as impossible to stop it from reaching our own hearts. These deaths are so preventable, and it is heartbreaking and emotionally exhausting that they continue to increase each year.

I used to believe that if I was not portrayed as strong and showed that the impact of this epidemic was wearing me down, then I would be seen as no longer having the coping skills to remain in this field. I was empathetic to the situations but would keep up what I believed was impenetrable shields.

After over a decade of responding to death scenes, which include too many overdoses, I have come to learn that my shields have multiple cracks and flaws that I continuously overlooked.



Submitted photo

Cheryl Brehmer has been Winnebago County's medical examiner since 2019.

The overdose epidemic has been explained by some in the medical examiner's field as feeling like Groundhog Day. It is disheartening to see those of all ages from

teens to over 70 either lose their battle with substance abuse or suffer a fatal overdose from experimenting with substances. The consequences far exceed the action or circumstances and impacts everyone involved with the situation, from the families to those investigating and assisting the families.

Although we are considered the last responders, we join those in the effort of prevention with our time and knowledge in any aspect that we can offer. This is the way that we cope with what we have seen and experienced in hopes that someday overdose deaths will become a rare event.

We need to continue coming together as a community, we need more recovery resources, we need more treatment beds, we need to strengthen our recovery community, and we need to find a way to remain proactive and not continuously reactive. There are more programs being developed every day, some of which I agree with and others that I don't, but I can agree that we all have the same goals in that we want substance abuse and fatal overdoses to be a memory, not our reality.

## More information

**Winnebago County Public Health** ([www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 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](http://www.nami.org)).

**Apricity:** The alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) certified treatment and recovery program has its job training center and three sober living homes in Neenah along with treatment centers – Mooring House and Casa Clara – in Appleton. Contact its corporate office at 1010 Strohmeyer Drive, Neenah, at 920-722-2345 or go to [apricityservices.com](http://apricityservices.com).

**Narcotics Anonymous USA (NA)** is a nonprofit fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. Go to [usa-na.org](http://usa-na.org) or email [info@usa-na.org](mailto:info@usa-na.org) for more information.

## Cardiologist offers tips to safe activity in the heat

ThedaCare Communications

Summer is a wonderful time to embrace the pleasures of the season – spending time at the pool, enjoying a barbeque or taking the opportunity to exercise outdoors. If you are exercising outdoors, it's important to understand how hot weather can stress your heart.

“Extreme heat can increase health risks for people with chronic conditions, including heart disease,” said Dr. Ameer Kabour, a cardiologist and senior medical director of cardiovascular services for ThedaCare Cardiovascular Care. “Taking precautions can help keep you safe and well.”

The temperature danger zone kicks in around 100 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the American Heart Association (AHA). However, even temperatures in the 80s with high humidity can lead to an increased risk of heart problems.

“Heat and dehydration cause the heart to work harder, trying to cool itself by shifting blood from major organs to underneath the skin,” the AHA stated. “This

shift causes the heart to pump more blood, putting it under significantly more stress.”

Extreme heat also can lead to blood clots and electrolyte imbalances that can contribute to cardiovascular disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These factors may worsen heart failure and lead to acute coronary syndrome, acute myocardial infarction, arrhythmias, and stroke.

“Anyone can experience heat-related illness,” explained Kabour. “Heat exhaustion and heatstroke are two common types.”

People with heat exhaustion should take steps to cool down and watch for worsening symptoms. Heatstroke, on the other hand, is a medical emergency.

Heat exhaustion symptoms include heavy sweating, cold, pale, or clammy skin, rapid pulse, muscle cramps, nausea, weakness or tiredness, and headache.

“Heat-related illness can be preventable if people are taking the proper precautions,” Kabour said. “Those in high-risk groups should be especially mindful.”

## Tennyson

FROM PAGE 4

treatment at Apricity. I only lasted a few weeks in treatment before I left against staff advice. Before entering treatment, I began dating a man who had been recently released from prison, who also was fighting his own demon. We were sober, attending meetings, and working with a sponsor.

During this time, my mother, and her partner stood by me while I fought to get custody of my kids back. My mother paid thousands of dollars to make it possible while I did the work I needed to do to get them back.

After 18 months with this man, we got married and I gained full custody of my boys. Shortly after we married, he relapsed on meth. For the next three years, it was jail, prison and treatment centers. I vowed to love him through sickness and health until finally, I needed to protect my children and myself after the relationship became abusive.

I will never forget the look of emptiness in his eyes as the man I trusted and loved beat me. I didn't think I was ever going to be in the position of being beaten ever again and here I was, standing face to face with the choice to stay and put my children and my sobriety in danger or to divorce him and start over. As he was stuck in the wicked cycle of meth addiction, I knew from my own addiction, work and education, I couldn't save him, no matter how badly I wanted to. As he went to prison for drug use and domestic abuse, I filed for a divorce.

My path gave me the opportunity to train to become a recovery coach, where I learned that there are many avenues to recovery outside of the traditional 12-step model. I knew that the rigid, abstinence-from-everything model was not going to work for me. I remember telling my sponsor, that I didn't see myself abstaining from alcohol for the rest of my life since alcohol was never an issue for me.

After three years of abstaining from all substances, I decided to have a drink. In the eyes of society, I was no longer “sober.” At that moment, all my “friends” left, my sponsor left, and I was left to deal with all of this on my own. I was again disconnected from the people I needed.

Did my decision to drink scare people? 100%. Did everyone think that I was going to go back to using drugs? Yes. For me, all their assumptions were proved wrong.

Now, this isn't to say that anyone who stops using drugs can drink. This is my journey and what I do will not work for everyone. Recovery isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. Everyone's journey is different and that is the approach I take with all

## Last in a 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](http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/node/13313) or by calling 920-232-3000.

my clients. I often say, ‘You can't recover if you're dead’ and I will likely never stop screaming this to everyone around me.

I am the harm reduction program coordinator at Winnebago County Public Health. While difficult and often under scrutiny, I love my work. I have the opportunity to use my lived experiences and difficulties to connect with people who are as disconnected as I was. It is amazing what can be accomplished when we approach people as humans who are worthy of our care and respect, get them the tools they need to survive and consistently be here to support them wherever they are in their life.

I am the person that people come to on their best day and worst day. I get to connect them to care when they are ready, and I get to be the friendly and safe face to greet them when life is too much. Every day I am reminded of the importance of this work.

The stigma of addiction is so prevalent and never really goes away. To this day, after nearly 11 years in recovery, I still face stigma and discrimination in many systems, especially within many health care systems. I wish that people would consider the pain that stigma and discrimination cause to people who use drugs and people in recovery before they speak and while making decisions.

Contrary to some, we do not choose to become addicted to drugs. We do not love drugs more than our children or families. If it were that easy to stop, we would have been successful the first time because believe me, we have tried time and time again. We are parents, children, siblings, friends, employees and members of this community.

Without programs like the one I operate and the people who do this work, I wouldn't be here today to share my story and for that, I am eternally grateful.

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# Wisconsin native featured in glass museum exhibit

Neenah News

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass' upcoming exhibition, "Farm to Flame: The Artwork of Gene Koss," will be on view starting Sept. 20 through Feb. 9.

Born in Mindoro, Wis., to a farming family, Koss takes his artistic inspiration from the labors of farming and the agricultural implements that make them possible. His first solo exhibition in Wisconsin, "Farm to Flame" highlights the artist's career in glass, including recent large-scale sculptures.

"Gene's sculpture will be exhibited in two galleries, as well as the park and lake lawns of the museum grounds," stated Casey Eichhorn, curator of Collections and Exhibitions. "Programming is being scheduled to coincide with the Wisconsin Science Festival."

The museum will publish a 60-page, full-color catalog of Koss' work for the exhibition.

Koss was first exposed to glass as an art medium while studying at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. After obtaining his master of fine arts degree at Tyler School of Art at Temple University, he started the glass program at Tulane University and brought the movement of glass art to New Orleans.

Retiring from teaching this year, he continues to use steel and glass to create glass art.

Working with serial cast glass parts to enlarge scale and combining these elements with iron and steel, he has raised



Photo from urbanglass.org

The works of sculptor and professor Gene Koss will be featured at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass starting Sept. 20.

glass sculpture to the realm of public art.

Koss' honors include the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Orleans Community Arts Award and Pace-Willson Art Foundation grants. His work is included in several private collections and has been displayed in museums and galleries throughout the United States and abroad, including the International Biennale for Contemporary Art in Florence, Italy, and has been featured in International Glass Art, Contemporary Glass-Color, Light & Form and Glass Art from Urban Glass publications.

# Public library calendar

Aug. 31-Sept. 2

Library closed

Sept. 3

Powered by Yarn: 6-7 p.m.

Sept. 4

Mah Jongg Meet Up: 5-8 p.m.

Sept. 5

Open Chess: 5-7 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam: 6-7 p.m.

Sept. 6

Fitness Friday: Boot Camp: 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Chair Yoga: 10:30-11 a.m.

Sept. 9

Monday Matinees: "The Fall Guy": 1-3 p.m.  
"What is the Community Living Room?" listening session: 6-8 p.m.  
Short Story Night: 7-8 p.m.

Sept. 10

Adaptive Storytime (all ages): 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months): 10-11 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone: 10-10:45 a.m.  
Legal Assistance Clinic: 4-6 p.m.

Sept. 11

Baby Time Storytime: 9:15-10 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages): 10-11 a.m.  
Mah Jongg Meet Up: 5-8 p.m.

Sept. 12

Fox Tales Storytime (all ages): 9:15-9:45 a.m.  
Open Chess: 5-7 p.m.

Sept. 15

LEGOs in the Library: 1-3 p.m.

Sept. 16

Memory Cafe: Lyrics and Laughter: 1-3 p.m.  
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book: 6-7 p.m.

Sept. 17

Adaptive Storytime (all ages): 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months): 10-11 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone (all ages): 10-10:45 a.m.  
Cookbook Book Club: 6-7 p.m.

Sept. 18

Baby Time Storytime: 9:15-10 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages): 10-11 a.m.

Mah Jongg Meet Up: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
True Crime Series: "The Devil You Know: Father Alfred Kunz": 6-7 p.m.

Sept. 19

Fox Tales Storytime (all ages): 9:15-9:45 a.m.  
Open Chess: 5-7 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam: 6-7 p.m.  
The Homefront: Neenah's Efforts During WWII: 6-8 p.m.

Sept. 20

Library closed for staff in-service

Sept. 21

Boosting Your Parenting Toolbox: Conscious Discipline Workshop: 10 a.m.-noon

Sept. 23

Wild Child Adventure Storytime (all ages): 10-10:30 a.m.  
Monday Morning Book Klatch: "My Two Elaines" by Martin Schreiber: 10-11 a.m.

Money Safety for Seniors: 2-3 p.m.  
Community Living Room Pop-Up: 5-8 p.m.

Virtual Humor Writing Workshop: 7-8 p.m.

Sept. 24

Adaptive Storytime (all ages): 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months): 10-11 a.m.

Storytime for Everyone (all ages): 10-10:45 a.m.

Movie Talks: "Double Indemnity": 6-7 p.m.

Sept. 25

Baby Time Storytime: 9:15-10 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages): 10-11 a.m.  
Mah Jongg Meet Up: 5-8 p.m.

Sept. 26

Fox Tales Storytime (all ages): 9:15-9:45 a.m.  
Open Chess: 5-7 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam: 6-7 p.m.

Sept. 27

Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength: 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Chair Yoga: 10:30-11 a.m.

Sept. 30

Wild Child Adventure Storytime (all ages): 10-10:30 a.m.

## Neenah News

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# Building on tradition: Funeral home focused on service

By MaryBeth Matzek  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

For Bob Karrmann, his work is all about servicing families in their times of need.

Karrmann, who became the sole owner of Westgor Funeral Home at the end of 2023, has been a funeral director for 30 years, including the last 27 years at Westgor. About 15 years ago, he and Sara Westgor, the daughter and third generation of the Westgor family, purchased the business from her father.

Sara Westgor retired in late 2023, making Karrmann the first non-family member to own the business outright.

“I am so honored to carry on the Westgor tradition and legacy,” he said. “Our reputation of providing exceptional service speaks for itself.”

John and Alberta Westgor established the funeral home in 1941. Their son, Ted, joined the firm in 1973, becoming owner in 1985. In addition to the funeral home at 205 W. Doty Ave., Neenah, they opened a second location in Menasha on Appleton Road in 1998.

Karrmann said whenever a call comes in that someone has passed away, a licensed funeral director shows up to take their loved one into Westgor’s care. “Not everyone does that,” he said.

Karrmann said he loves his job and helping families at “a truly difficult time.”

“We see the whole gamut of grief from families who have watched a loved one suffer and are grateful they are at peace to sudden deaths leaving families absolutely shattered,” he said.

Along with new ownership, there are several other changes at Westgor — the addition of two funeral directors and a remodeling project scheduled for this fall.

“We’re enhancing the experience and service we’re offering our customers,” Karrmann said.

The two new funeral directors are Kiera Karrman, Bob’s daughter, who served as a funeral director apprentice in Illinois before coming home to Neenah, and Jade



Photo from Westgor

Westgor Funeral Home in Neenah has four funeral directors (from left), Jade Petri, Michelle Reppert, Bob Karrmann and Keira Karrmann.

Petri.

In 2023, Westgor completed a small-scale remodeling project but now Karrmann is looking to do more. In October, he plans to put in new carpet, furniture and light fixtures.

“It’s going to have a more updated, fresh look,” he said.

Since Karrmann became a funeral director, a lot has changed in the industry, he said. For example, cremations have become more popular than traditional burials.

“It used to be 75% traditional and 25% cremations, and now that has completely

reversed,” he said.

In addition, more families are opting not to have services for their loved ones.

“We meet with families to make arrangements and we focus on the things they are looking for. We really care about their needs,” Karrmann said.

Preplanning funerals has also become

more common with people meeting with Lisa Brennan, Westgor’s advanced funeral planner, to discuss what type of service or arrangements they are interested in.

“For many people, they like the peace of mind that the pre-planning gives since it provides their families with a clear idea of what they are looking for,” Karrmann said.



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Photo from UW Oshkosh

The UW Fox Cities Communication Arts Center is shown at the campus in Menasha, which also includes the Barlow Planetarium and Weis Earth Science Museum.

# Neenah News

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

**Questions! Questions! Let us introduce ourselves!**

## Who owns the Neenah News?

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

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

## Why Neenah?

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

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

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

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

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

## How many newspapers get mailed every week?

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

## Is a weekly newspaper sustainable?

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

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

If you have questions, please email karen at [karen@oshkoshherald.com](mailto:karen@oshkoshherald.com).

To become a member visit [www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe](http://www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe) or call our office at 920-486-1616.

## UW Fox Cities

FROM PAGE 1

future.”

The 51,000-square-foot Communication Arts Center (CAC) opened in 2009 and is used for art exhibits, theatrical and musical performances, and other events. A petition started in July by “Friends of the CAC” with more than 1,000 signatures seeks to keep the facility open and affordable for use by community arts groups.

Neenah resident Jim Morganstern said he and others contributed to the UW Fox Cities Foundation for the purpose and benefit of the CAC.

“The CAC to me is a vital cultural center for the Fox Cities and I would like to see that continue,” he said.

The Weis museum opened to the public in 2002 with galleries that include meteorites and meteors, an overview of Earth’s formation and development, the geological and historical evolution of Wisconsin, the evolution of animal life and an extensive array of minerals.

UW Fox Cities professor of geology Beth Johnson said the museum is an “absolute gem” for the community.

“The design of the Weis museum is something that has won a prestigious award and it is the only museum in the United States that is dedicated to the geology of a single state,” she said. “So if you really want to celebrate the treasure that is Wisconsin’s geology, the Weis museum needs to stay open and I would like to see the same happen for all of the other auxiliaries here on the Fox Cities campus which includes the Barlow Planetarium, the university Children’s Center and of

course the CAC.”

Winnebago County Executive Jon Doemel said he and Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson are working together to come up with a plan for the campus.

“I get the challenges ahead and I can promise you that Executive Nelson and I, as well as our legal departments, as well as our facility departments, are going to try to do our best to make sure that we have all the input of everybody that’s speaking ... to make sure that we’re proposing the best and highest use for this going forward,” Doemel said.

Nelson noted that even though there is an end date with the relationship among the campus, counties and UW Oshkosh next June, “If we don’t come up with a plan of use for all the facilities, the campus doesn’t turn into a pumpkin.”

“You know, we don’t necessarily have to come up with specific answers or we start losing these assets,” he said. “We have time.”

Missing from Monday’s meeting were representatives from the UW System, which has withdrawn from the discussions.

“I agree that it is unacceptable that they don’t have a representative here, even though we’re not going to have a relationship going forward, you would think that there would be a modicum of professionalism that they would realize – this is my responsibility if we’re going to spend money, the county’s money, the taxpayers’ money, if there are going to be legitimate concerns with respect to operating – that they’re going to be here to do this,” Nelson said.

The two county boards will make the final decision on the campus infrastructure, including short- and long-term transition plans, with a timeline not immediately clear.



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# Tribal language

FROM PAGE 1

joblessness and alcoholism on the reservation, options for him were few and not terribly good.

Kenote was taken to an orphanage in Green Bay where he remained for about a year.

"Then I was adopted by white people and I lived with them and was raised by them," he recounted. "They were good to me; I had everything I wanted."

But English was the spoken word and the Menominee language eventually began slipping away from him.

After his military service, Kenote lived and worked in Green Bay for many years before something remarkable happened. In the late 1990s, UW-Stevens Point added a Menominee language course to the curriculum.

"The classes were to be held at the Menominee Indian High School in Keshena on the reservation," Kenote said. "My job was strictly a daytime job and the courses were at night. I could commute, it's not that far. They were three-hour courses three nights a week."

The classes sparked thoughts and memories from long ago.

"I started hearing words and phrases and I would think, 'Grandma would say things like that!' Slowly it all started to come back," he said, passing the courses one after the other.

About two weeks after completing both language classes, a call came from UW Stevens Point announcing that Kenote had four college credits.

"I asked him, 'What for?' and he said for passing two foreign language courses." Kenote said, shaking his head and exclaiming, "Foreign language! Menominee was spoken here long before English. So I asked him if I could get another four credits for learning to speak English."

While that story is relayed with a wry smile, teaching the language and history of his nation have been the cornerstone of his life's work since.

"I have been studying and learning this language for some 30-odd years. You learn something else all the time," he explained. "It's not an easy language. Our language is noun based rather than verb based. In other words, while you might say, 'I am going to Green Bay,' we would say, 'Green Bay I am going.'"

Kenote's life is steeped in education, oversight, sharing and celebration of Menominee heritage. As the oldest of the tribal elders, he is deeply involved in the community. He is on the Aging Commission and the Veterans Service Office board. He is the first to be asked for counsel, for spiritual rites, and for traditions such as indigenous naming ceremonies.

He is also past chairman and a current sitting member of the Menominee Language and Culture Commission. On the language side, this commission monitors language teachers from pre-kindergarten all the way through the 12th grade, mak-



Photo by David Hall

The Neenah-Menasha Intertribal Powwow returns to Shattuck Park on Sept. 14

ing sure that it's being taught correctly. A group of commission members assist in the areas where help is needed. A member often goes to a school unannounced and sits in on the class, observing how and what is being taught.

"A long time ago we had fluent speakers ... first speakers we call them. But there were not many," he said "Back in the 1940s and '50s our population might have been about 5,000 enrolled Menominee members. With the arrival of the Catholic church, a lot of our youth were sent to the boarding schools."

Fluent speakers were forbidden to speak the language.

"If they were caught, they would be punished," he said. "So, our language skipped a whole generation. It almost died because we didn't want our children to be punished for speaking. And when a language dies, the culture is not far behind."

Now the Menominee youth programs are taking the language classes online and they're being taught in the schools.

"We have some pretty good speakers. They're going to be carrying the language. They're going to be teaching the younger ones," he said. "In fact, the younger ones are teaching us. Sometimes I can't quite remember and I'll ask a younger person who took the courses. It's a huge comeback. It does my heart good to see so many speakers."

On the cultural side, the commission engages with the schools and community

on traditions. Maple syrup season is a big part of the culture, as is wild rice. Kenote sits on a UW-Madison board pertaining to wild rice where tribal members consult with scientists on cultivation of the crop.

"They want to bring back wild rice in the Lake Winnebago flood area," Kenote explained. "So I consult with them every so often on the wild rice project."

There are many indigenous cultures and traditions, but probably the most front facing and familiar to this area is the Inter-Tribal Powwow. Many cultural skills and traditions weave together to create the community event.

"From the time they are very small, youngsters are brought to powwow," Kenote said. "They see the dancing, how it's done, why it's done, maybe practice

at home. Mothers who are good at beading will make an outfit so their child can dance."

The children learn by watching the older ones and it is also taught at the Boys & Girls Club on the reservation. The boys have three categories: grass dancer, fancy dancer and men's traditional.

"For the young girls, you'll have your fancy shawl dance," he said. "They have these big shawls, and they spin around as they mimic the butterfly. Then there's the jingle dress and that is a healing song. That dress came to us from the Chippewa people up north."

The women's traditional is a slow movement.

"Some are even stationary, with up and down movements of their body, while others walk slowly around the dance circle," he said. "You might even see some women carrying an old-fashioned washboard. We call them scrubbers. They will go up and down, mimicking the washing of the clothes, and movement of the river or the lake. That is very, very old, very traditional."

It is fitting that this cultural event takes place on Doty Island.

"Long before the Europeans came to this land, the Menominee and Ho Chunk Indian tribes lived together as neighbors and in peace. They would be hunting and fishing here in this area and we would harvest the wild rice," he said.

The area's native history and more are included in the Neenah Historical Society sign project which includes three signs along the Lakeshore Avenue walkway with a QR code to scan. Visitors to the signs are introduced to Kenote, who shares his indigenous name and greets them in his native tongue as he teaches the history of the region.

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# Love of football drives Zephyrs' Harness

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Daniel Harness has a vivid memory of when he first stepped onto a varsity football field his freshman season.

St. Mary Catholic, which was playing 8-player football at the time, opened the 2021 season against Wisconsin Heights and Harness got his first taste of competing on the big stage.

"I line up at defensive end and the guy across from me, he's got tattoos and a full beard and I'm 14 years old," Harness recalled after a practice earlier this week. "That was an eye-opening experience."

Harness is now entering his senior season with the Zephyrs' program and has been a stalwart in the St. Mary Catholic lineup.

A year ago in the program's one season in the Trailways Conference, Harness was a first-team selection at defensive end after finishing second on the team in total tackles, while posting team-highs in sacks (4.5) and interceptions (2).

After playing almost entirely on defense his first two seasons on varsity, Harness stepped across the line of scrimmage to the offensive side of the ball and earned second-team honors at receiver, leading the team with 51 catches for 528 yards.

"I like to play both ways. I was super excited to play receiver last year and we had a successful year in the receiving standpoint," Harness said. "I always pictured



Neenah News

Daniel Harness is a four-year varsity starter for the St. Mary Catholic football team.

myself more on offense until the last year or two with the whole recruiting process and looking at colleges. Then I tilted more toward defensive end and linebacker."

Harness has certainly made his mark on that side of the ball during his career and has his memorable plays.

As a sophomore, Harness recalled combining with fellow defensive end Sam Todd to put a high-low hit on an opposing quarterback for a sack. Then, there was his pick-6 against Fall River/Rio last season.

"Getting an interception and taking it back for a touchdown, it doesn't get better than that," Harness said. "Coming around the end for a sack or getting a big hit in the hole ... that's a great feeling, too."

St. Mary Catholic head coach Josh Young certainly likes having Harness out on the field.

"Daniel is 100 percent every play," Harness said. "He's been the vocal leader of the team the last two or three years. He gets them up and gets them going. He does everything for us."

Being a leader for his teammates is something important to Harness but it isn't limited to just the football field.

It's a trait that he may have learned playing the sport but can carry on into all facets of his life.

"Leadership and brotherhood is something that you can carry on into all aspects of life and those are things you definitely learn in football," Harness said. "You can't just lead on the football field and not be a leader in the classroom or in real life. Having a bond with people and learning how to lead people in an effective way, that's

## Senior Standout



big."

Harness' drive on the gridiron comes simply from the love of playing football.

From playing catch in the backyard with his father and talking about playing in middle school to his days playing flag football through the YMCA, Harness has felt a connection with the sport from a young age.

And his passion has only grown as he's continued to play.

"Everything, honestly," Harness said when asked what he likes most about the sport. "I wake up in the morning and I think about football. Getting out here on Friday nights with all of your friends, it doesn't get better than that."

Even that freshman season when he was going up against opponents bigger, stronger and more tattooed and bearded than he was, it was still fun just playing football and he credits former head coach Lane Peterson and his teammates for helping him adjust to the varsity game.

"Coach Peterson was a big part of me being confident in being able to play as a freshman," Harness said. "The rest of the guys - they were hard on me like they were all freshmen coming in - but they really treated me like family once I was out there balling. It was a really good experience my freshman year."

Harness also credits one of his teammates for helping him learn the defensive end position.

"I have to give a shout out to Nick Berg, he was our left tackle," Harness said. "He really helped get me to the position where I am today."

Since that freshman season, Harness has continued to grow and improve and become a force on the Zephyr defense and is now looking forward to extending his career after high school.

Harness has already received scholarship offers from NCAA Division I Drake University and NCAA Division II Northern State, while also being pursued heavily by Carthage College and Grinnell College in Division III.

A strong performance this season could lead to more offers for Harness, who said he will make a decision sometime after his high school season ends. Yet, he doesn't feel any pressure knowing that plenty of eyes are watching him play.

"I don't feel the pressure too much. If

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 14




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# St. Mary Catholic aims to build on last year's state run

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

It was a magical 2023 season for the St. Mary Catholic volleyball team as the Zephyrs marched their way to the first WIAA State Tournament appearance in school history.

Now, head coach Mike Mauritz is hoping to author just as exciting of a sequel.

St. Mary Catholic lost a number of key figures from last year's squad but do bring back both starting middle hitters

## Girls Volleyball PREVIEW

and both setters as they begin the journey to a repeat of last year.

"You'd like to

think there is some carry-over from last season but it's a new year and it's a new team," Mauritz said. "There are girls on the team that played last year but we lost a significant group of seniors and the chemistry is a little different. There is a little buzz from last year but we have to play some matches to find out if that buzz really carries over from last year."

Leading the list of returning players is senior middle hitter Eliana Brenn, who was a first-team all Big East Red Conference selection a year ago. Brenn finished second on the team with 168 kills last year, while leading the team with 77 aces.

Senior Kate Nackers also returns as a middle hitter after finishing the season, joining Brenn as one of the top blockers on the team.

At the setter position, senior Stella Virlee and junior Samantha Weiss both return.

"That helps. They have been there done that. They have both run the team," Mauritz said. "Getting them both back, not even having to change one really helps us ease into the year."

Mauritz expects sophomores Lucy Nackers and Autumn Crowe to be two of the players who will step into hitting roles with the team this year, while senior Ava Rankin will take over as the team's libero after seeing some varsity action last season.

Rankin will be a key figure for St. Mary Catholic as the Zephyrs will have to replace the bulk of their passing from last season.

"The key for us will be our passing," Mauritz said. "How quickly we improve our passing to the point where we can run the offense we want to try to run."

Returning to the state tournament this season is something that is in the minds of the Zephyrs entering the season, but Mauritz said the team isn't focusing on making it back to the Resch Center in Green Bay.

Instead, he believes in following the process and taking care of the season in steps.

"When I start thinking about our goals, it starts with conference and taking care of our half of the conference," Mauritz said. "Then making the regional finals is a goal and after that, it's a matter of wheth-

er everything comes together and the magic happens again."

## Neenah

Second-year head coach Nate Leitermann expects to bring a fairly young squad to the court this year but a team that does have some experience.

One of the key players coming back for the Rockets will be junior Ella Lindgren, who is back at the libero position. Lindgren earned honorable mention all-FVA honors last season and led the Rockets with 220 digs.

Also returning will be senior setters Ally Corrente and Nadia Marchionda, which should provide for a smooth offensive transition into this season. Corrente finished with a team-high 196 assists last year, while Marchionda added 70.

"I think it's important (to return the setters) because the setter-hitter connection is crucial for the kids these days," Leitermann said. "We want to run a pretty fast offense and it starts with our setters and being able to set a tempo ball. So having that and having that leadership when they are running the court is super important."

The Rockets will also be bringing back two of their top hitters from a year ago in junior Ella Nigl and sophomore Lilly Romjue to provide a boost at the net. Nigl totaled 110 kills a year ago, while

Romjue had 88.

"We are looking for a breakout season for Ella. She has been a workhorse in the gym so we are super excited to see what she can do this year for us," Leitermann said. "We are returning a pretty strong core of players."

Having that experience will be important for the Rockets as they get the season rolling.

"The experience makes a huge difference," Leitermann said. "Some of these gyms we go to are loud and are big and when you have girls who have been there before, especially when you are a young team for the most part, we have players who can calm them down and settle their nerves."

Among the newcomers to the varsity lineup this season, Leitermann expects freshmen Aubrey Lindgren and Leah Oldenburg to be key contributors this season.

Last year the Rockets finished 3-6 in the Fox Valley Association and Neenah will be looking to move up the standings this season.

Leitermann believes his team is capable of that.

"From top to bottom in the FVA, you are going to have to earn every win and I'd like to think our group is pretty hungry and they think they can compete. I know they can compete," Leitermann said. "I think we are pretty battle-tested and I think in the end we are going to give every team in this conference a run for their money."



Mauritz



Leitermann



# 2024 GIRLS

# Volleyball schedules

|  |  NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL |  ST. MARY CATHOLIC |
|--|--|---|
| Sep 6  | @Kimberly 7pm  | Kohler 7pm  |
| <b>Sep 12</b>                                    | <b>Fond du Lac 7pm</b>   | @Hilbert 7pm  |
| Sep 17   | @Kaukauna 7pm  | <b>Reedsville 7pm</b>   |
| <b>Sep 19</b>                                    | <b>Appleton East 7pm</b>   | <b>Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah 7pm</b>  |
| Sep 26   | @Oshkosh North 7pm   | <b>Laona-Wabeno 7pm</b>   |
| Oct 3  | @Hortonville 7pm   | @Michicot 7pm   |
| <b>Oct 8</b>                                     | <b>Appleton West 7pm</b>   | @Manitowoc Lutheran 7pm   |
| Oct 10   | @Oshkosh West 7pm  | <b>Iola-Scandinavia 7pm</b>   |
| <b>Oct 14</b>                                    | <b>Howards Grove 7pm</b>   | @Lourdes Academy 7pm  |
| <b>Oct 17</b>                                    | <b>Appleton North 7pm</b>  | <b>Weyauwega-Fremont 7pm</b>  |
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# Zephyrs look to rebound with road game at Manawa

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

The St. Mary Catholic football team will hit the road in search of its first win of the 2024 season on Friday.

The Zephyrs are coming off a 43-12 loss to powerhouse Amherst on Friday and will look to rebound when the team faces Manawa in a nonconference tilt. Manawa also lost their season-opener last week against Rosholt.

"They are going to come out just like we are, wanting to win," St. Mary Catholic head coach Josh Young said. "They have lower numbers in their program, but from what we saw on film, they stuck with it the entire game. Being on their home field, I expect they are going to be jacked up especially given all of things the city of Manawa has been through this

The Neenah High School football team hosted Menasha in a non-conference game on Thursday night. The game ended too late to be included in this edition. The Rockets will host Appleton East in the FVA opener next Thursday at Rocket Stadium.

summer."

In order to be successful against the Wolves, St. Mary Catholic must play better on both sides of the line of scrimmage than it did against Amherst.

Amherst was able to shut down the Zephyr running game, while grinding out scoring drives with its option offense.

"We weren't aggressive enough on offense or defense on the line," Young said. "We didn't move the line of scrimmage at all. We couldn't run the ball."

football career. He said it will also make things a little easier when he has to take his Zephyr uniform off for the final time.

"I haven't had to think about it too much but we're getting to that point. It's going to be tough, but we are looking forward to the future, too," Harness said. "I'm just trying to play as long as I can. I know that if I look back 10-15 years in the future I'm going to be upset if I didn't take an opportunity. So, play as long as I can and see where it goes."

Only quarterback Maddox Dwyer finished with positive rushing yards in the game, with the majority of that coming on scrambles after dropping back to pass.

Dwyer did finish 21-of-36 passing for 235 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the game, connecting with Daniel Harness for a 37-yard touchdown and with Mason Wagner for a 19-yard scoring strike.

Harness finished with 76 yards receiving on eight catches, while Tarver Trinker had a team-high 90 yards on eight catches. Wagner finished with four catches for 65 yards.

Harness led the defense with nine tackles, while Wagner had an interception in the game and Myles Norville recovered a fumble.

Amherst, which is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in Division 5 entering the season, never trailed in the game and kept St. Mary Catholic scoreless in the first half.

"We shot ourselves in the foot in the first half. We got a turnover right away in the game, but we couldn't capitalize on it," Young said. "In the second half, we got a little more together, put together some drives and scored some points."

The Zephyrs will hope to build on that better second half against Amherst and carry it over to this Friday night and

Manawa may be a good matchup for them.

The Wolves allowed nearly 300 yards of total offense, including 209 on the ground, while totaling 121 yards in the game and scoring one offensive touchdown. Manawa also scored on a kickoff return.

"We match up pretty well against Manawa so I think Friday will be better for us and give us a better idea of what we can do," Young said. "We'll adjust some stuff and do a couple different things here and there but were not going to make wholesale changes."

For Young, it's not about scheme or personnel. It's about execution and that is something he believes his squad will do better on Friday.

"We're a good team. There are just one or two things that go wrong on a play and it shoots the whole play so it's just a matter of shoring some of those things up," Young said. "The line of scrimmage will be the key. If we can't run the ball on offense, we aren't going to be able to put up points and if we put the put defense out there and they can't control the line of scrimmage it's going to be a tough night."

"If the offensive and defensive line can go make hay, then you are going to win the game that's usually how it works."

## Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 12

you love the game, it's just about being out there and having fun more than anything," Harness said. "Last Friday was the least nervous I've been for a game. Just went out there and had fun."

Even if he doesn't know where he will be playing, Harness wants to continue his

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# Weaver, Kuehn lead upstart Neenah squad

Neenah News

The Neenah High School boys volleyball team may be on the rise this season.

The Rockets finished sixth in the Fox Valley Association last season but return a strong core of players as they look to climb

**Boys Volleyball** toward the top of the powerhouse league. Our conference is always very

strong top to bottom which makes it very challenging and you have to be at the top of your game every single night," Neenah head coach Jake Coenen commented. "I am excited about the potential this group has for this season. With the returning players and the experience we have, we could be a darkhorse in our conference but we have to play up to our potential."

Coenen said that last year's conference champion Appleton North, along with state-qualifying Kimberly, Fond du Lac and Kaukauna will be the favorites in the league as each has a strong tradition and returns plenty of talent from last year.

Coenen believes Neenah has the ability to play with any one of those teams.

"We feel that if we can serve receive, and be aggressive when serving we can compete with the best teams in the state. Consistent play, limiting errors, and just the mindset of winning is something we continue to discuss every day in practice,"

Coenen commented. "If we do the right things, stay locked in, and control our side of the net we will be excited about the results on the court."

The Rockets will certainly be bringing some firepower to the court this season and it starts with senior Miles Weaver. Weaver is a returning first-team all-conference outside hitter from a year ago, who led the entire FVA in kills last season with 273.

Fellow senior outside hitter Julian Kuehn earned honorable mention all-league honors last season, while senior middle blocker Ben Donaldson and senior right-side hitter Ethan Duncan also return.

Weaver may lead the Rockets at the net but Neenah has plenty of options to go to with the set.

"Ben and Ethan have both taken great strides in their games and hope to make even more of an impact this year," Coenen commented. "Both Miles and Julian are three year varsity starters, which allows them to lead by example and vocally for our team as they have seen everything our league has."

In addition to an athletic, talented and competitive junior class, Coenen is hoping that sophomore middle blocker Trevor Ricketts and sophomore setter Cam Diekfuss can make strides after playing as freshmen.

## Prep sports roundup

### FOOTBALL

#### Rockets can't hold lead in loss to Warriors

Neenah burst out to an 18-point half-time lead but powerhouse Muskego rallied in the second half to hand the Rockets a 31-21 loss in the season-opener last Friday at Muskego High School.

Neenah led 21-3 at halftime but were held scoreless in the second half.

Grant Dean rushed for 135 yards on 17 carries and had a pair of first quarter touchdowns as Neenah responded to an early 3-0 deficit. Dean ran for a 24-yard score for his first touchdown and then gashed the Warrior defense for a 62-yard scoring run.

Evan Vanevenhoven, who added 75 yards on 18 carries, scored on a 1-yard plunge in the second quarter to give the Rockets their biggest lead.

Cole Fenske and Luke Jung each had 11 tackles in the game to lead the Rocket defense.

This was the first loss in a season-opener in a non-COVID year since 2012. The Rockets lost to Kimberly in the first game of the season that year.

### TENNIS

#### Zephyrs take second at own invite

Two of St. Mary Catholic's doubles teams finished in first place to help the Zephyrs to a runner-up finish at their own eight-team invitational last week.

The No. 1 pairing of Vivie Auth and Adel Schneider finished first at the No. 1 flight, while the No. 3 pairing of Audrey Wanless and Kaylee Sommerfeld also captured the title at their flight. The No. 2 pairing of Emily Vogel and Nadia Alexander finished in second place.

St. Mary Catholic also had three third-

place finishers in singles with Ella Chier at No. 2, Alice Cole at No. 3 and Lorelai Miller at No. 4 earning the finishes.

St. Mary Catholic also picked up wins over Appleton North (4-3) and Appleton East (6-0) on Monday.

In the win over Appleton North, the Zephyrs got a singles win from Wanless at the No. 1 flight, while Auth and Schneider at No. 1 doubles, Vogel and Alexander at No. 2 doubles and Nolie Anderson and Miller at No. 3 doubles also posted wins. The three losses for the Zephyrs all came in three sets.

St. Mary Catholic dropped only two games in six matches in sweeping the Patriots. Erin Blaney at No. 2 singles, Cole at No. 4 singles, Auth and Schneider at No. 1 doubles and Anderson and Miller at No. 3 doubles each won by 6-0, 6-0 scores.

The Zephyrs posted a 7-0 win over Plymouth last week with Chier at No. 2 singles and Sommerfeld at No. 4 singles winning by 6-0, 6-0 scores. St. Mary Catholic won all seven matches in straight sets.

### VOLLEYBALL

#### Neenah splits pair to open season

The Rockets kicked off the 2024 season by splitting a pair of matches at a triangular meet hosted by Bay Port High School on Tuesday.

Neenah fell to host Bay Port 25-16, 34-32, but bounced back to beat Green Bay Notre Dame, 25-13, 25-16.

### SOCCER

#### Neenah earns shutout win over De Pere

The Neenah boys soccer team opened the season with a 2-0 win over De Pere in their season opener on Tuesday night.

## Obituaries

### Nancy M. Buchanan

Nancy M. Buchanan (Merizon), age 90 of Appleton, WI passed away on August 22, 2024. She was born to Isaac and Della (Kempf) Merizon on June 23, 1934 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Nancy was a woman with a full heart that she was willing to share with everyone. She spent a lot of her free time volunteering for organizations and charities, such as the Neenah/Menasha Thrift Shop, The Neenah Emergency Society, and as a tutor for children. She enjoyed many sports throughout her life, but most notably tennis, sailing and golf, especially as a member of the North Shore Golf Club. One could often find Nancy playing a fiercely competitive game of bridge with her friends. More than anything though, Nancy loved her family and cherished every moment she spent with them.

Nancy will be deeply missed by her children, Bren (Kris) Buchanan, David (Donna) Blank, Christina Pabst, and Jim (Paisley) Pabst; her grandchildren, Isaac, Blu, Tommy, Alex, and Lucy; her great-grandchildren, Hawk, River and Isaac; as well as many nieces, nephews, other extended relatives, and dear friends.

Nancy is preceded in death by her parents, Isaac and Della; her brother, William Merizon; and her last husband, William Buchanan.

With respect to Nancy's wishes, no formal services will be held. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Neenah Animal Shelter at 2475 Progress Court, Neenah, WI 54956.

Nancy's family would like to extend a special thanks to Ellen and Todd Needham and Marcia and Mike Ostwald for their friendship and assistance with their mother.



## Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad

Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday.

### Employment

**OTR TRUCK DRIVERS FT/PT.** Put your career in Gear Competitive wages & full benefits. Mileage Milage, Drop pay, Paid weekly, Home weekends, NO east/west coast. 28 Central States. Van & Hopper Division. Agricultural experience a plus. Fox Vally Company since 1958 Call Frank 920-788-6242 or 920-858-0238. Van Groll Trucking, Kaukauna

### Real Estate/Rental

**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. 24<sup>th</sup> 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

3 wheel 3-speed disability bike \$500; 1/2" drill \$30; Chicago Zawzall \$30. Call Scott 920-381-0941.

**AKC BOXER PUPS** Fawn & Brindle color shots/wormed family raised no Sun calls \$850 715-644-2440

**AKC German Shepard Pups** DOB July \$400 very nice shots call 715-504-1097

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**CHICKEN!** Pastured Non-GMO \$4.50 lb. whole process ready Sept. 715-470-0458

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**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

**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

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

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

### Miscellaneous

**BONDUAL CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Sat** AUG. 31<sup>st</sup>. 8:30 am **BAKE SALE** 8am Quilts-furniture - crafts-tools machinery- antiques N4310 Hill Rd Shawano for info call 715-524-2605

**HOLIDAY FLEA MARKET Aug 3 & Sun** Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> **ANTIGO** Langlade Co. Fairgrounds (Hwy 45)1633 Neva Rd Vendors Welcome! 715-526-9769 zurkopromotions.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.fvtc.edu/VentureCenter or venture@fvtc.edu

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