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INSIDE



Happy at 100 **Doty Island woman** celebrating full life Page 6

Beer sales now permitted in gas stations

Neenah News

A longstanding prohibition on the sale of alcohol at convenience stores in Neenah was overturned last week.

The 7-2 vote at the Sept. 4 Common Council meeting paved the way for convenience stores to sell beer and other malt beverages, effective immediately.

Representatives of Kwik Trip were among those who urged the council to overturn the decades-old ban.

"Our store in Neenah here, we can't sell beer but you can walk across the parking lot to CVS pharmacy and pick up a Vicodin prescription and grab a 12-pack there," said Rob Albrecht, who works at Kwik Trip. Erich Lisser, who runs the Neenah Kwik Trip store, explained the precautions the company takes to ensure alcohol regulations are followed.

Packager expands preprint operations Menasha Packaging The investment complements recent inah-based company stated, including press

to invest \$50 million Neenah News

Menasha Packaging last week announced a \$50 million investment in its North American preprint capabilities that company officials said will "revolutionize the preprinted graphic packaging space" while adding up to 30 new jobs.

The expansion includes substantial investments in cutting-edge equipment and automation, adding an eight-color, varnish press to its existing fleet, complemented by facility automation and robotics that could double Menasha Packaging's North American preprint capacity.

vestments in graphic packaging technology to include digital flexo (short and long run), digital offset, litho laminate, and direct print for corrugated and folding carton.

"These investments are going to drive improvements in both quality and safety while delivering incremental capacity and significant reductions in make-ready and setup times," stated executive vice president Jeff Krepline. "This preprint hub will support a North American corrugated and packout network that not only converts the preprint into graphic packaging boxes, but also fulfills a significant portion of the boxes with customer product when required."

The investment also will create 25 to 30 new jobs in the Fox Valley area, the Neenoperators, secondary operators, plate mounters, utility, and shipping and receiving team members.

Menasha's preprint hub will be in Neenah with its output converted across its North American network and shipped across North America.

"I am excited about the stability this investment brings locally here in Wisconsin as we add new positions, but the rolls of printed liner will also support hundreds of positions across multiple states providing an exciting future for our employees," Krepline said.

Menasha Packaging partners with more than 1,500 global brands to protect, move and promote its products at retailers.



Neenah News

Curtis Roesler walks his dog in front of his home on W. North Water Street, which was in the process of getting a new roof and other repairs through a collaborative effort.

Community helps with home repair needs Veteran's roof replaced through partnerships Bv Bethanie Gengler

By Tuesday evening, Roesler's home was covered with a new sturdy roof and gutters that will protect it for years to come.

Roesler's home on W. North Water Street will also undergo additional repairs to siding, stairs and the rear entrance through a partnership between Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity and the city of Neenah. Through the city's new Houses Into Homes Curb Appeal program introduced earlier this year, Roesler was approved for a \$3,000 matching grant, with Habitat covering the remainder.

home since 2006, which he shares with two senior rescue dogs, BlueBell and Jasmine. His wife passed away in 2016.

The 48-year-old U.S. Air Force veteran expressed gratitude and relief as the team worked on his home this week.

"We wish you guys would consider it and obviously pass it to push it through because

SEE Beer Sales ON PAGE 9

NEENAH NEWS

Military veteran Curtis Roesler received a new roof on his Neenah home this week through the collaborative efforts of Security-Luebke Roofing and the Owens Corning Roof Deployment Project.

The installation process began Monday morning with a team of Security-Luebke employees tearing off the existing roofing and replacing it with new material.

Roesler is a Hortonville High School graduate who has lived in his Neenah

"Understanding the stress and the cost involved with getting this done was definitely starting to weigh on me, trying to figure out how to be able to do it," he said.

The initiative came about after volunteers with Habitat for Humanity's Rock the Block program identified Roesler's

SEE Helping veterans ON PAGE 10

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Advertising deadline is noon Tuesday for the following Friday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday.

Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407

School district names employees of year

Neenah News

Eight individuals and a staff team have been recognized as the Neenah Joint School District's top employees for the 2023-24 school year.

The group represents one person from each of the district's employment categories who were nominated by colleagues, parents and students. Four teachers were selected, including Jessica Martine from the elementary level, Betsy Jacobson-Holtz from the middle school level, Jen Hager from the high school level and Jeff LaPlant from the special services area.

Coolidge educational assistant Kelsey Keller was named Educational Assistant of the Year and district technician Andy Dubey was chosen from the Administrative Assistant/Technician/Exempt employee category. High school groundskeeper TJ Severson was selected as the Operations/ Maintenance Employee of the Year and activities director Mike Elkin was named Administrator of the Year.

The Team of the Year honor was awarded to the staff members at Tullar Elementary.

Education Foundation honors district educators

The Educational Foundation of Neenah honored 14 Neenah Joint School District educators in its "Rocketing Ahead: Celebration of Education" Teaching Awards.

Each recipient receives a grant for classroom enhancements or professional development. The grants were created to recognize educators who have demonstrated innovative or creative classroom methods and who are involved in extracurricular activities for their students and community.

Those honored include Erica Cates and Stephanie Gorski (Alliance), Beverly Stearns (Clayton), Ashleigh Jones (Coolidge), Heather Hocks (Hoover), Stefanie Monroe (Horace Mann), Jill Bowden (Lakeview), Lauren Lange (Spring Road), Hope Wreath (Taft), Jennifer Kangas (Tullar), Renee Poeschl (Washington), Rina Hill and Jennifer Kuenster (NMS) and Lisa Reimer (NHS).

The Educational Foundation is a nonprofit organization with an all-volunteer board of directors.

Basic Needs Giving announces opening of new grant cycle

Neenah News

The Basic Needs Giving Partnership has announced the opening of its 2024 single-year grant cycle that will offer \$2.5 million in support of organizations meeting current needs in area communities.

Grants of up to \$50,000 will be available for general operating or project support to those actively working against poverty. The partnership focuses on organizations that offer direct services, lead community-driven and collaborative initiatives or deliver a combination of both.

Proposals must focus on one or more of these priorities: early care and education, housing access, mental health or substance use.

Grant awards last year went to organiza-

"Well,
ORAAGE
you just the
cutest thing?!?"

tions working in the partnership's Foundations to Thrive focus area, specifically housing access, early care and education, and mental health and substance use. Visit bngpwi.org/grants for guidelines or to register in the new grant portal by Oct. 4. Contact stephanie@bngpwi.org with questions.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Knitting operations

Jens Jersild began his knitting business in 1899 after returning to Neenah from a trip to his native Denmark. Operations began at 329 N. Commercial St. in a two-story frame building that had formerly served as St. Patrick's School. The company manufactured a line of high-grade knitted sweaters and sportswear.



Happy Birthday **ARLINE DABILL** 100-Years

karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027 editor@oshkoshherald.com

Corrections

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

About the newspaper

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September 18, 1924



Police note phone impostor scams on rise

Fraud attempts involve NPD, other businesses

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

Police are advising residents to be vigilant about phone scams after the Neenah Police Department's phone number was spoofed as part of an impostor scam to deceive people into making fraudulent payments.

With impostor scams, a caller pretends to be someone they're not, such as law enforcement, government personnel or a business employee. Scammers may use phone spoofing technology to manipulate caller ID information to make it appear as though a call is coming from a known source.

Community policing coordinator Joe Benoit said scammers use the tactic to gain trust and persuade people to divulge personal information or pay fraudulent fees.

"That's why spoofing has become more popular with the scammers, because it drastically increases the likelihood that somebody is going to answer the phone when they see a familiar name come up on the caller ID, as you could imagine," Benoit said. "You know, if you look at your phone and you see Neenah PD is calling you, you're much more likely to answer the phone than if it's from some obscure city out of state."

Last month, scammers spoofed the police non-emergency phone number and used a scare tactic to try to solicit payment. Typically that involves fabricating a legal issue like an outstanding warrant and requesting immediate payment to avoid consequences such as arrest and fines.

Adding more complications, Benoit said the scammers are becoming advanced and

may research the names of officers and use those names when they call from the spoofed number.

"It gives the scammer additional legitimacy with the potential victim," he said.

The Neenah News phone number was also spoofed recently. When scammers target a newspaper, the fraud usually involves calling a subscriber and requesting payment information for a subscription renewal. Neenah News does not call to solicit renewal payments over the phone.

Earlier this year, Wisconsin Public Services reported scammers were spoofing the agency's phone number and fraudulently threatening to disconnect customers' utilities unless payment was received. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) issued a consumer alert advising WPS customers who receive a call demanding payment over the phone or asking for personal financial information, hang up.

Complaints can also be filed with DATCP at ConsumerProtection.wi.gov, by phone at 800-422-7128 or by email at DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov.

Benoit said it may be difficult for a resident to determine whether a caller is legitimate.

"So what we always advise is, if anybody's asking you for personal information, identifying information, health insurance, Medicare, Social Security, date of birth, even physical address, any personal information, I would never provide that if that person is calling you," he said. "Only provide that if you call the place that you want to provide that information to."

He suggested that when a caller begins asking for information, to hang up and call the place back.

"The sheriff's department, the police department, Neenah News, whoever it is – you could just do an internet search for their number and call them back," he said.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, Americans lost nearly \$2.7 billion to impostor scams in 2023.

In Wisconsin, Gov. Tony Evers signed a bill into law in March that prohibits knowingly transmitting a misleading or inaccurate caller identification record with the intent to defraud or wrongfully obtain anything of value, including personally identifiable information, punishable with fines of up to \$10,000.

Benoit said there are challenges in prosecuting scammers who use phone spoofing. Many reside out of the country and may use technology that makes tracking and identifying them arduous.

If the person who received the spoofed call isn't out any money, Benoit said it can be difficult to prove the caller intended to commit fraud.

"The thing is, without there being an actual victim, you know, somebody that's out money or out identifying information, usually that's just documented, in case something happens again, we can look back and establish some kind of a pattern in tracking these calls down," he said.

Benoit advised the public to be aware that scammers are highly skilled at misleading people to obtain information.

"So many people think that they're way too smart and they're not going to get scammed, and that's not always the case, because there are professional scammers out there," he said. "So just be very careful and if you're out any money, we're not going to guilt trip anybody. We'll be happy to investigate it."

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- Why you shouldn't add a child to your bank account

Calendar of events

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., down-town Neenah

Neenah-Menasha Intertribal Powwow, 2 p.m., Shattuck Park

Monday, Sept. 16

Walk to Neenah Historical Society and Tour, 9:30 a.m., Neenah-Menasha YMCA

Tuesday, Sept. 17



Chasing Stars: Faces in Art with Ben Erickson, 6 p.m., Ballroom at The Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.

Wednesday, Sept. 18

Nutman sale, 10 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

True Crime Series: Father Alfred Kunz, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, Sept. 19

Nutman sale, 9 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

The Homefront: Neenah's Efforts During WWII, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, Sept. 20

Oktoberfest Celebration, 3 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewery

The Britins, 7 p.m., Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center

Saturday, Sept. 21

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

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- How planning in advance can help you and your spouse afford quality care.



Practicing Since 1996

Journalist's book seeks to heal other lives after abuse

Legal case details being pursued via fundraiser

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

With community support, a local woman is sharing her story of escaping the confines of an abusive religious cult perpetrated by her mother and stepfather while bringing hope to other survivors.

Darby McCarthy, who lives in Fox Crossing, has nearly completed "The Book They Said I'd Write," a memoir about the religious trauma, sexual and emotional abuse she endured while growing up in Tennessee.

"Even though the details of my story are highly specific, a lot of the manipulation I experienced and the abuses I experienced are not unique to me, and I think other people will either relate to it or find something familiar in it, and I think that alone is healing, too," she said.

To complete the book, she needs access to court transcripts that are pivotal to recounting the events with accuracy. A GoFundMe fundraiser titled "Bring Justice to Light: Fund the Trial Transcript," aims to raise \$7,500 to cover the cost.

After just a few weeks of fundraising, community supporters, friends and family have rallied to help her achieve more than 50% of her goal.

McCarthy, 29, opened up about her experience being raised in a Mormon cult and her second chance at a life free of abuse while speaking with Neenah News recently.

"I'm a survivor of one, and no, it's not like a big-name cult," she said. "But it was a cult and I wasn't willing to call it that for years, either; it was just a family with a really strong



Submitted photo

Darby McCarthy is writing a book about her life with family members who were part of a religious cult.

religious system that no one else was allowed to know about."

McCarthy's biological parents divorced and her mother, Nancy, married her stepfather, Charles Aragon, when she was 6, "and it became two completely different worlds."

"It was (about) control, and it was maintained with the use of religious texts and dogmas," she said of her upbringing. "And I am lucky that I'm out."

From a young age, Charles began grooming McCarthy by having her sleep in bed with him and his wife.

While the other children received modest, practical gifts during the holidays, Charles showered McCarthy with extravagant pieces of jewelry.

Through a culture of secrecy and loyalty, Charles convinced McCarthy that she was special; an old soul chosen by God to marry him.

The sexual abuse perpetrated by Charles began when McCarthy was 14 and Nancy soon joined in. That year, her stepbrother officiated a marriage ceremony between Charles, who was 41, and McCarthy, at a hotel swimming pool.

"There was this chain that they wrapped around our wrists, and we said vows, and then we signed a paper with my mom signing as witness, and then put the chain around my neck," she said. "Instead of a ring, I had that chain."

She was told it was a "sister wife" arrangement with her mother.

"Those are the people who I loved more than anything in the world and I don't know if they ever cared about me, or if they did, it was in some sort of sick and twisted way – and always selfish," she said.

McCarthy and her brother were raised with her stepfather's four children from a previous marriage and one child the couple had together. With a blended family of seven children, it was a complex family dynamic.

While her siblings endured physical abuse, McCarthy was spared from the beatings, which caused psychological trauma and resentment among the children.

"It's hard to call that a privilege; it's like you were still getting abused," she said.

McCarthy sensed that her family's household was different, but she was led to believe that their unconventional practices were normal due to their religion. She likens her experience to a frog in a boiling pot, where gradual and subtle changes go unnoticed until they reach a critical point.

It was a tragic incident that happened to a friend that gave her the courage to speak up when she was 18.

"It made me realize that there is a time limit on justice and so, even though I wasn't ready to talk, I wasn't ready to accept that there would never be justice," she said.

About a year later, Charles Aragon was indicted on six counts of rape, two counts of sexual battery by an authority figure and six counts of incest. Nancy Aragon was indicted on two counts of sexual battery by an authority figure. By that time, the couple were living in North Carolina.

The two-week jury trial in 2017 was difficult on McCarthy, who said her character was attacked by the defense who portrayed her as an actress and writer who made up a story so she could write a book about it.

The jury came back hung and the case was declared a mistrial.

"I was frozen in a moment that was supposed to be, 'The moment,'" she said. "It was supposed to prove that the truth always comes out and that justice will win, and that – you know, maybe not the God I was raised believing in – that God had my back, and here I was trying to process it, understand it, and I couldn't."

The Aragons later entered into plea agreements, with Charles pleading guilty to sexual battery by an authority figure and Nancy pleading guilty to sexual battery. They were issued suspended sentences of four years of probation, with Charles required to register as a sex offender for life; and Nancy required to register for at least 10 years.

Assistant District Attorney Hugh Ammerman prosecuted the case against Charles and Nancy Aragon. As he explained it, what McCarthy experienced was a strong form

SEE McCarthy book ON PAGE 5



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Public Health strategies focus of meeting

Neenah News

Winnebago County Public Health staff will demonstrate some of the harm-reduction strategies used to prevent drug overdoses and decrease the spread of communicable diseases at noon Wednesday at the Oshkosh Food Co-op.

As the county gets ready to unveil its first public health vending machines (PHVMs), Amanda Tennyson and Maddie Breager will explain how they will work to increase access to supplies and decrease stigma to help keep people alive. The PHVMs were made possible by grant funds from the state Department of Health Services and will be stocked with nasal naloxone, fentanyl test strips, Deterra Drug Deactivation bags and other health supplies.

The event is part of the Food for Thought series sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County. Attendees may reserve a lunch by sending a message to wcLWVinfo@gmail.com by Sunday.

Public Health officials will unveil the new free community resources Sept. 20 at the Neenah Human Services Building at 211 N. Commercial St. with community speakers, resource tables from partners and the opportunity to see how the machines work.

The vending machines will be situated outside the David W. Albrecht Administration Building at 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh and at the Neenah Human Services Building.

Fox Cities Ale Trail guide features breweries

The Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau has created a Fox Cities Ale Trail as a guide to local breweries, tap rooms and craft beer.

Passport holders earn points when they visit the trail stops from now until Aug. 30 and can redeem them for Ale Trail stickers, beer bottle coolers, bottle openers, car coasters and playing cards.

The Ale Trail features 11 craft brew-

McCarthy book

from Page 4

of gaslighting and "religious-infused brainwashing" and he commended her for having the wherewithal to break free.

"Any time a victim chooses to do that, come forward, go through the process, take a stand against their abuser, in a way they're really helping all other victims," he said. "Darby is no exception, so I think her courage and intelligence should be recognized." eries in the Fox Cities: Appleton Beer Factory, Bare Bones Brewery, Emprize Brew Mill, Fox River Brewing, Hop Yard Ale Works, Lion's Tail Brewing Co., Mc-Fleshman's Brewing Co., Stone Arch Brew Pub, Stone Arch Tied House, TAQ Brewing, and Timber Tap Taproom and Brewery.

To join, sign up for the digital passport at foxcities.org/fox-cities-ale-trail.

McCarthy is now a journalist who moved to the Fox Valley to be a reporter at WGBA-TV NBC 26. She's currently in a career transition.

While some may consider the sentence given to Charles and Nancy Aragon unjust, Mc-Carthy has found justice in a different way: by writing the book they said she'd write.

"I used to focus on justice as hurting back the way that I was hurt, and instead, I think it's passing on the healing that I've done," she said. "So to me, justice is in the people I can reach, not in what I've left behind."



Neenah Police Department photo

Climbing team

Six Neenah Police Department members participated in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Lambeau Field last Saturday to honor the 343 firefighters killed on Sept. 11, 2001, in New York City. Each climber was issued a card with the picture and name of a firefighter lost and a bell was rung in their honor on the equivalent of the 78th floor – the highest point firefighters reached. Climbers then completed at 110-flight climb to simulate the 110 stories in the World Trade Center.



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ueen of Doty Island' prepares to celebrate her centennial

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

Locals affectionately call Arline Dabill the "Queen of Doty Island," and as she prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday next week the cherished matriarch is gearing up for the celebration of a century.

On Wednesday, make sure to drive by her home on East Forest Avenue, across from the former Roosevelt Elementary School. Look for the sign out front and honk your horn, or better yet, stop by the porch for a cupcake and a friendly chat with Dabill.

At 99, the Neenah resident, whose maiden name is Schroeder, remains as sharp as a tack with a keen memory for dates from decades past and a twinkle in her eye reflecting a kindness as warm as her laugh.

Dabill's mannerisms are a nod to a bygone era, before concerns of global pandemics, when kissing a visitor's hand or cheek was considered customary as a sign of respect and courtesy.

As Dabill nears her 100th birthday, she's enthusiastic about celebrating not just the length of her life but the richness of her experiences and wisdom.

For 64 years, Dabill has resided in her green, wood-frame home across from Roosevelt. Many of the original furnishings remain, including a rotary telephone on the wall and an elegant upholstered chair in the front window, where she sits to enjoy the view when it's too chilly to use the front porch swing.

Looking back on her life, Dabill recalls

her formative years as the happiest. Growing up in the Town of Center, about seven miles north of Appleton, she worked on the farm alongside her father.

"We didn't know what it was to worry," she said. "None of these awful things were going on."

In her 20s, Dabill ventured to the city and briefly worked as a short-order cook at a restaurant before she and her sister both found employment at Kimberly-Clark. Dabill worked there until marriage and motherhood became her focus.

"In those days, when you got pregnant, you couldn't work," she said.

Dabill and husband David were married for 67 years and together raised five children.

Dabill fondly recalls that when she first met David, he bore a striking resemblance to Elvis Presley - a sentiment confirmed by a photo shared by their daughter, Mary Bayer.

"He was sweet through and through," Dabill reminisces.

He was also a touch stubborn. Bayer shared the story of the beautiful elm tree that towers over the house. Along with the porch swing, the glorious tree was one of the reasons David and Arline purchased the Doty Island home.

About 40 years ago the tree was marked to be removed due to Dutch elm disease, but David wouldn't let it be taken down and was determined to save it. Trees slated for removal were marked with a red circle, and David would secretly paint over the markings at night.





Arline Dabill, shown at her Doty Island home, holds a photo of herself at age 16.

David drilled holes into the tree and used medicine cups to administer treatment for years. He also began spraying the tree with a special medicine provided by the Department of Natural Resources. His efforts paid off, and the elm still stands tall and proud.

Though the elm survived, living to a century means that you'll outlive many of those you love. David passed away in 2017 at age 89.

Throughout her life, Dabill's greatest joy has been watching over the children at Roosevelt. All her children attended the school and she's been like a grandmother to countless others who knew her home as a safe place.

"I never realized how touched I was with the children," she said. "I baby-sat children all the time for many years. Their moms would have to go to work too early and they'd come and stay with me and when I shipped mine off to school I sent them along. After school was the same; they would just come here. And I loved them all so dearly."

In her 70s, Dabill worked as a playground attendant at the school, often bringing hats, mittens and gloves for the children during winter.

The closure and demolition of the school last year was particularly hard for her.

"It was the saddest day when they closed that school," she said. "I loved those children."

Each year for about a decade, staff and students would walk across the street and sing "Happy Birthday" to Dabill. Despite the school's closure, the tradition of sing-

BRAZEE

ing to her continued.

On her 99th birthday last year, a school bus full of children arrived at her home to sing to her, a gesture that brought tears to her eyes and warmed her heart.

Out of all her birthdays, Dabill's favorite was her 90th. That year, her daughter Sandra Dabill Taylor, who lives in Menasha, hosted a party at her home, which attracted 100 guests. A photo from the celebration captured Dabill with her husband, a daughter, and two son-in-laws - all of whom have since passed away - making the memory even more special.

Working into her 80s, Dabill attributes her longevity to her strong work ethic. Her unconventional diet during her working years? "Big Red gum and Circus Peanuts."

Dabill has a unique bedtime ritual: three scoops of ice cream instead of a sleeping pill. And if someone brings her ice cream at any time of the day, she's happy to indulge.

As she's aged, she appreciates the important part that friends and family play in her life and she looks forward to the times that people stop by to chat with her.

To the younger generations, "Take time and smell the roses," Dabill advised.

As you stroll down East Forest Avenue, be sure to wave and stop for a chat with Dabill, the Queen of Doty Island who will be on her front porch swing overseeing her kingdom. It's not the original swing from when she moved in 64 years ago she's outlived that one - but a smaller, newer version.

"I don't need riches," she said. "I just need hugs and common sense."

HARDWARE

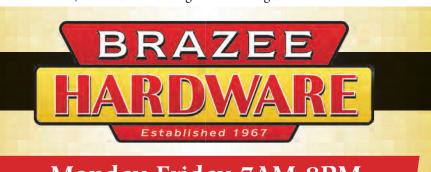
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Mini truck carries flowers where they're needed

By MaryBeth Matzek News contributor

Sami Schmidt was so excited to launch Mobile Mini Truck that she started before finding the truck she needed for her mobile flower truck business.

In April 2023, Schmidt began meeting with people about different events they would need flowers for as she and wife Emily hunted to find the right truck, which they would use to take to events and display their flowers. They found the



lowers. They found the vintage pale yellow 1969 Dodge pickup truck that July while seated in a diner scrolling through Facebook Marketplace.

"Another possibility fell through. We saw the ad and went to look at the truck and everything fell into place,"

Sami Schmidt said.

Schmidt

Schmidt, who has an interior design degree from Fox Valley Technical College, worked in interior and commercial design when she decided to launch her own business.

"I knew I wanted to work for myself and looked at several different options and settled on the mobile flower market," she said. "The truck is great. It's mobile so we can take our business to different places and it's a great way to meet people. People either come up to ask questions about the truck, the flowers or both."

The distinctive truck includes custom-built holders in the truck's bed that fit Mobile Mini Truck's flower buckets that Schmidt handpicks at various flower



Sami Schmidt's mobile flower business visits a variety of Fox Cities locations.

farms to create the overall display that can be rented out for different events.

Mobile Mini Trucks can be booked for special events such as bridal showers, weddings and birthday parties. The truck also attends events such as farmers markets where they sell flowers.

Coming up, the business will attend multiple fall-related events as well as License to Cruise and Octoberfest in downtown Appleton.

The truck is in operation from May through the end of October. During the rest of the year, Mobile Mini Trucks focuses on indoor activities such as birthday parties, weddings, indoor classes or bloom bars, where people can put together their own bouquets using the flowers provided. "We're excited about the exposure we

will have at the upcoming events. Our business continues to grow through word of mouth or people see us at an event, start asking questions and that leads to more bookings," Schmidt said, adding the truck is "pretty booked" for September and October.

She gets her flowers from a handful of women flower growers, including one wholesaler. Schmidt chooses the flowers based on the growers' input and what's in season.

"I think it's important to support other women-owned businesses," she said.

As the only flower bar with a truck in

the area, Mobile Mini Trucks stands out, Schmidt said.

"We are pretty unique and get requests to travel to the Milwaukee or Madison areas for events," she said.

While Sami handles the customer-facing side of the business, Emily focuses on the behind-the-scenes activities, such as billing. She also led the truck's build-out.

"We are definitely more experience orientated with our activities during the winter," Sami Schmidt said. "We have threetiered stands that hold our flower buckets that we can easily bring indoors for events or classes."

Schmidt envisions the flower truck as the first in what she hopes is a business featuring several different types of trucks.

"I could see us having a book truck or a tap truck," she said. "This is just the beginning, which is why I named the business Mobile Mini Trucks instead of having the word 'flower' in the title."

For more information, visit mobileminitrucks.com.



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Canary Fund sows seeds of change in communities

By Bethanie Gengler **Oshkosh Herald**

When 60-year-old Jim Rivett took his own life, his husband, Pete Angilello, felt a profound need to find purpose in the tragedy and honor his memory.

Six years later, The Canary Fund is doing just that: sowing seeds of change in 12 northeast Wisconsin counties to transform the loss into a beacon of hope.

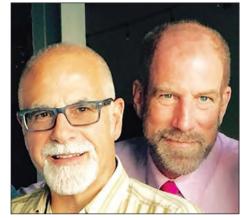
Rivett, whose professional career was in advertising, was well known in his Green Bay community. A business owner, entrepreneur, community organizer and activist, he advocated and supported services for abused children, the homeless and those experiencing addiction. He was passionate about the arts, migrant and immigrant communities and LGBTQ+ issues.

"He held on to found photos of total strangers and cared about their mysterious legacies. He embraced the homeless, inviting them into his kitchen for a meal and a haircut. Jim cherished the old and the forgotten, the wrecked and the ruined," according to his obituary.

It was a major depressive episode that led to his death in 2018, a huge loss for the community.

Brian Johnson, Green Bay alderman and executive director of On Broadway Inc., told the Press Gazette that Rivett had the ability to convert concern to action.

"He helped so many people in need and personified a larger-than-life reputation that has touched the hearts of every person in our community," Johnson told media. "Because of this, we don't mourn Jim's loss as individuals, we mourn as a community full of love and gratitude that we had the honor to know someone so creative,



Submitted photo Pete Angilello (left) and Jim Rivett are shown on their wedding weekend in 2016.

brilliant and nurturing."

Shortly after Rivett's death, a group of friends got together to discuss a way to turn the tragedy into something positive.

"We were all pretty stunned at what happened," Angilello said. "We thought about what we could do in his memory and we started talking about all the different things that he was interested in."

It was a suggestion from that group that sowed the seed for an idea that began to grow.

"One of our friends at the table said, 'How about if we just find other people like Jim, people who don't look away when there is a need in our community, and honor those individuals."

That led to the formation of The Canary Fund in 2019, a nonprofit that funds the ideas of changemakers, activists and visionaries in northeast Wisconsin by providing seed grants to support early-stage, grassroots projects.

The name comes from a eulogy that was





Children create art at Urban Cultural Arts in Green Bay, an organization that received a seed grant from The Canary Fund.

given at Rivett's funeral, referring to the historical practice of bringing a canary into a coal mine.

More sensitive to dangerous gasses than humans, the birds were used as a warning system and if a bird showed distress or died, it indicated the air quality in the mine was unsafe.

"(They) talked about how he was like a canary in the coal mine, very sensitive to his environment, sensitive to the needs of other people," Angilello said.



BAR & GRII

The fund has awarded more than \$156,000 in seed grants of \$1,500-\$5,000 to more than 80 individuals and emerging nonprofits.

"They've been student-led projects, community-based projects, projects that have stemmed from loss or struggle," he said.

Grants are awarded twice a year, with winners announced in August and Janu-

SEE Canary Fund on Page 9

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Local college graduates

Avery Bauman of Neenah graduated with a bachelor of fine arts-applied media arts - cinema from Pennsylvania Western University on May 4. Bauman, who studied at PennWest's Edinboro campus, was among nearly 1,800 students who received undergraduate, masters and doc-

Canary Fund

FROM PAGE 8

ary. About 70% of the grants go to individuals not affiliated with a nonprofit and the remainder go to newer nonprofits in existence for less than five years.

The organization focuses on funding projects in areas that were important to Rivett. Those include human services and basic needs, youth leadership and development, indigenous and emerging populations, human rights, programs for seniors, arts and culture, mental health and wellness, environmental sustainability, animal rights and economic empowerment.

"We're just looking for people who really see a need and then they kind of approach it in a real creative or innovative way," he said.

In Winnebago County, that included providing a grant to Fox Cities Roller Derby for a "Learn To Love Your Body" event for young women; Webster Stanley Elementary in Oshkosh for a winter weather closet for students; Project OWEN in Oshkosh that provided sailing instruction to low-income youth and their families; Libraries in Bloom, an initiative that recruits young adults of color to explore librarianship; and several pop-up exhibitions on the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

toral degrees.

Hope Tower of Neenah earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Cedarville University in southwest Ohio, which is an accredited Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,456 undergraduate, graduate and online students.

"It's interesting how the projects kind of have a life of their own, and it stems from all different kinds of things, but it's interesting what people come up with, and that's the thing that we love, is these stories that we can tell other people about who we've supported."

To raise funds to support the various causes, volunteers for The Canary Fund hold fundraisers, with emphasis on the fun. Lip sync contests, raffles, a kayak concert and other innovative and creative events bring in revenue, along with donations collected at thecanaryfund.org.

"It's just people who want to honor and recognize the people in their communities who are doing some really good work and making their places where they live more compassionate and just places," he said.

Angilello believes Rivett is there in spirit when volunteers are working on various projects. He shared that at an event in Green Bay, one of Rivett's counselors handed him a note that mentioned that in one of their final conversations, Rivett expressed a desire to assist people in starting a nonprofit or contributing positively to their community.

"So, we must have been kind of nudged by him when we were trying to think of what we wanted to do," Angilello said. "Because this is what he would want us to do."

Beer sales

from Page 1

it just really helps us in the business end of things and overall makes it a fair and level playing field between areas around us," he said, "because you can drive over to Fox Crossing, you can drive over to Menasha and get the beer and the rest of the menu; where at our store we're not able to do that."

Heidi Keating, who works at the Winnebago County Health Department, was among those who spoke against the change.

"So this issue, it's bigger than Kwik Trip," Keating told the council. "There's a problem statement in our state: Excessive alcohol use remains a significant threat to the health, safety and prosperity of our residents and that's statewide, including Neenah."

Alderman Dan Steiner said the arguments against the change would resonate more if the council were first introducing alcohol to the community.

"We are far from doing that; you can buy alcohol at any number of establishments as has been mentioned ...," he said. "To me, allowing from a fairness perspective gas stations - on a pretty limited basis quite frankly – to sell some beer is consistent with the overwhelming majority of communities across Wisconsin."

Aldermen Lee Hillstrom and Cari Lendrum both spoke against allowing convenience stores to sell beer and voted against the change.

With the ban overturned, convenience stores selling beer and malt beverages will need to meet the following requirements:

• Obtain a special use permit and a class A license and submit floor plans detailing the store layout.

• Only sell fermented malt beverages.

NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM | PAGE 9

• Tasting events are prohibited.

• No more than 10% of the total sales floor area or 750 square feet (whichever is less) may be allocated to alcohol sales.

• Alcohol can only be sold and displayed from a lockable area such as a cooler, cage or similar fixture; open floor displays prohibited.

• The fixture that the alcohol is displayed in must be locked and inaccessible to the public from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m.

• Advertisements for alcoholic products are not permitted in any exterior location of the business, including pump islands.

· Businesses may not sell single-serve fermented malt beverages in bottles or cans of fewer than 60 ounces.

• Malt beverages cannot be sold or given away in less than a four-pack of 12-ounce cans.

• Keg sales are not permitted.

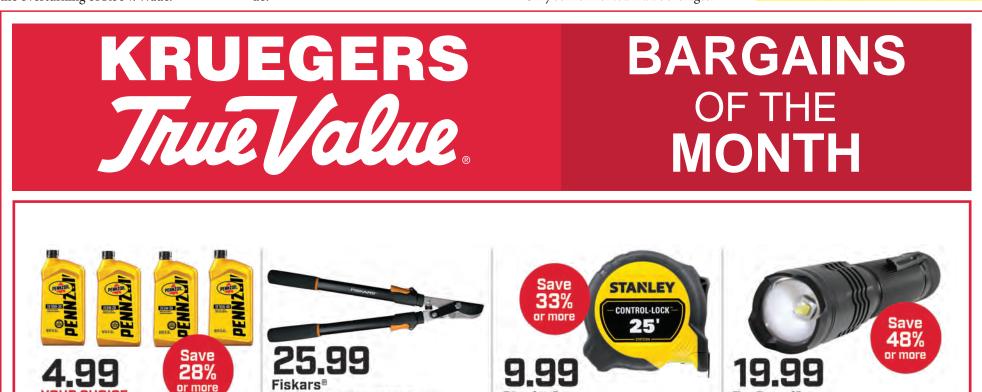
• A cashier selling alcoholic beverages must be at least 18 years old and at least one on-duty employee must have a legal bartender's license while alcohol is being sold and must be within sight of the sale.

• If the convenience store discontinues the sale of gasoline, the liquor license is forfeited.



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Helping veterans

from Page 1

home as needing repairs. Replacing the 24-year-old roof was the most pressing priority, with Security-Luebke noting that the typical lifespan of a roof is 17-25 years.

Siding and roofing are considered some of the most expensive exterior home repairs. An estimate for repairing Roesler's roof came in at much more than the \$10,000 maximum that Habitat was able to offer in assistance through Rock the Block, which focuses on critical home repairs and community projects to keep homes and neighborhoods safe.

Upon learning about the situation, the Owens Corning Roof Deployment Project offered to partner with Security-Luebke Roofing to cover all costs associated with the roof replacement. Owens Corning donated the roofing materials, while Security-Luebke donated the labor.

The Owens Corning Roof Deployment Project partners with Habitat for Humanity to identify military veterans with homes in need of a new roof. The organization uses its Platinum roofing contractors for labor donations, helping more

More information

The Houses Into Homes Program debuted in March and several projects have been completed or are in the works, according to Neenah's Community Development department. Grant projects include garage builds, new roofs, painting, front porch repairs, tree removals, and interior remodels of kitchens and bathrooms.

The two sub-programs are Curb Appeal, which deals with outdoor aesthetic-type projects; and Refresh and Renew, a loan program that owners can use for larger projects. Funds are derived through a tax incremental financing (TIF) affordable housing extension that allows for a TIF to improve a municipality's housing stock. Eligibility is based on location and the property's assessed value. Go to ci.neenah.wi.us under the Community Development page for more information.

than 575 military members receive new roofs nationwide since the project began





Security-Luebke Roofing donated the labor to replace the roof on a veteran's home on Doty Island this week. The home will also undergo additional repairs funded by the city of Neenah's Houses Into Homes program and Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity.

in 2016.

Ethan Hanson, marketing and events manager for Security-Luebke, said Roesler's roof was the second that the Appleton-based contractor has replaced for a veteran through the program this year and the seventh since the company began participating.

"This is our 90th year anniversary, so we've been able to help a lot of customers, including veterans," he said. "To be able to give back to the community, it's a pleasure to be able to do so."

Roesler served as an Air Force loadmaster on a C-5 Galaxy military transport aircraft and was honorably discharged in 1997 following an off-duty automobile accident that paralyzed his right hand.

"So knowing that places like this still care about veterans regardless of their overall status in the military, that's heartwarming," he said.

Lakeland, city present School for Seniors

Lakeland University's Lifelong Learning program returns with its School for Seniors from 8:45 a.m. to noon Sept. 26 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 140 S. Green Bay Road.

The university and the city of Neenah's Committee on Aging are co-sponsoring the free classes in the church's fellowship hall.

Presentations and discussions are held in an informal setting hosted by community experts with topics including memory loss, transportation, the YMCA of the Fox Cities and community safety.

Sign up for the sessions by Sept. 23 by calling 920-886-6125. Registration, refreshments and information tables will be available beginning at 8 a.m.



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Zephyrs' Barrientos carries on family tradition



Kieran Barrientos scored 41 goals for St. Mary Catholic last season and is the reigning Offensive Player of the Year in the Big East/Eastern Wisconsin Conference.

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

It's not hard to see why Kieran Barrientos has gravitated to the sport of soccer.

"My first baby gift was actually a soccer ball," Barrientos said. "I have been playing ever since I could walk. I've been playing soccer ever since I can remember."

Coming from a soccer family where his father, Hernan, was a professional goalkeeper in Europe, Barrientos got a start in the sport from a young age and is thriving as a four-year varsity player for St. Mary Catholic.

The senior midfielder has scored more than 60 goals in his prep career and was a key figure in the Zephyrs runner-up state finish last season. He is coming off a season where he scored 41 goals and was named Offensive Player of the Year in the Big East/Eastern Wisconsin Conference.

In addition to his goal-scoring prowess for St. Mary Catholic, Barrientos also lends his talents to his club team, SC Wisconsin, and yet finding the net never gets old.

"Of course it's always exciting to score a goal," Barrientos said. "Every time I can score it's a great win for me and the whole team."

Barrientos grew up in Florida and moved to Wisconsin in fifth grade but by then he was already very comfortable on a soccer field.

He said he played in the local rec leagues in Florida as a youngster, but re-



ally learned the game by practicing with his father. Barrientos started out as a goalkeeper like his father but then switched to the player scoring goals, rather than stopping them.

"When I stopped playing goalkeeper, we would go to the fields and do drills together. We would set up cones and I would shoot on him," Barrientos said. "I would say I did pretty good against him."

Barrientos carries his family's expectations for him whenever he plays and said there is motivation to succeed because of his upbringing.

"Every time I step on the field, I know my dad's watching, my family's watching and I don't want to let them down," said Barrientos, who is a fan of Manchester City in the English Premier League and names Roncaldo as his favorite professional player. "I want to do my best so they can see all of the practice and effort that they have put in to helping me has paid off."

Barrientos said that when he moved to Wisconsin he had to find a new club team as well as adjust to playing in colder

SEE Senior Standout ON PAGE 15



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Rockets' defense ready for big test against Ghosts

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

Neenah's defense was certainly stout in a shutout win over Appleton East last Thursday night.

The Rockets held the Patriots to just over 100 yards and forced a couple of turnovers in the 42-0 win last Thursday. East completed just 3-of-11 passes and was held to 2.4 yards per rushing attempt in suffering its first loss of the season.

This week that unit figures to face a bit of a tougher test.

Neenah will travel to face fifth-ranked Kaukauna on Friday in a showdown between two of the top teams in the Fox Valley Association and the Rockets' defense will need to play big against a potent Ghosts' offense.

"They do a really nice job controlling the ball and scoring points," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "We have to make them work on offense. Keeping them in check will be the key."

Week 4 games

Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games) Neenah (1-0) at Kaukauna (1-0) Kimberly (1-0) at Fond du Lac (0-1) Appleton North (1-0) at Oshkosh West (0-1) Hortonville (0-1) at Appleton East (0-1)

Kaukauna has scored 35 points in each of the last two games and feature a balanced attack in a unique offensive approach.

Jung said the Ghosts' running game uses a zone approach instead of the typical gap offensive, which is unique in the FVA.

"It's hard to defend. It's different than what we usually see," Jung said. "They do a really good job of running their zone and then marrying it with the passing game."

Aiden Reardon is the Ghosts leading rusher having racked up 244 yards in three

games, including a 110-yard effort in a win over West De Pere in Week 2.

Quarterback Bron Schaefer is completing better than 63 percent of his passes and has thrown for five touchdowns, while also averaging nearly six yards per carry.

"You really have to be concerned with both (running and passing)," Jung said. "If you're going to try to take away the run, they are going to throw the ball 80 percent of the time."

The Rockets' defense is led by linebackers Luke Jung and Cole Fenske, who each have posted 26 tackles in three games. Jung also has a sack, while Fenske has recovered a fumble.

Jung also said that defensive lineman Nathan Kramp, linebacker Jonah Ritner who is third on the team in tackles - and cornerback Brandon Price have been key contributors on defense in the first three weeks.

"Some of the new guys on defense have been playing really well for us," Jung said.

Offensively, the 1-2 punch of running back Grant Dean and quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven has been tough to stop and combined for nearly 150 yards and three touchdowns on limited carries against the Patriots.

Dean picked up both of his rushing touchdowns and returned a punt for a touchdown in the first quarter against Appleton East as the Rockets built a 28-0 lead after the opening period and rolled to the win. Dray Hannan added a pair of touchdown runs in the game for the Rockets, while Caleb Schaefer had two catches for 61 yards.

The offense has scored 113 points through the first three games and Jung said that the unit is still improving as it prepares to run up against Kaukauna.

"The biggest thing we have going for us is that our kids are working hard in practice and practices are really going well," Jung said. "The kids want to be there. It's not a chore. They want to get better."

Zephyrs take aim at first EWC victory against Chilton

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

It wasn't the Eastern Wisconsin Conference debut the St. Mary Catholic football team wanted in a 24-15 loss to Valders last Thursday.

But getting a win in their second week of conference games would still be pretty sweet for the Zephyrs.

Maddox Dwyer threw for more than 250 yards in the loss last week, but couldn't get the ground game going against the Vikings - something that head

coach Josh Young hopes his squad can fix heading into the showdown against the Tigers.

'We have to control the line of scrimmage and push some guys around," Young said. "We are going to try to establish the run to open up our passing game a little more. It should be a good matchup for us."

Chilton, which enters the game still searching for its first win of the season, surrendered 327 yards rushing last week in a 42-7 loss to Brillion and have allowed

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REEVE UNION, ROOM 307 5 - 7 P.M.

Join us for a Whitburn Wednesday event.

Join us the evening of September 25th for a moderated discussion with former Indiana Governor and Purdue University President, Mitch Daniels.

Governor Daniels will discuss the future of higher education, his experiences in public service, and the state of civic engagement in our current moment.

The discussion will be moderated by Public Administration Professor and

Week 4 games

Eastern Wisconsin Conference

(records reflect EWC games) St. Mary Catholic (0-1) at Chilton (0-1) Brillion (1-0) at Kiel (1-0) New Holstein (0-1) at Valders (1-0) Roncalli (0-1) at K/SL/SC (1-0)

nearly nine yards per rushing attempt over the last two weeks.

The Tigers have been outscored 109-7 over the first three weeks and the Zephyrs hope to add to that margin this week and earn their first EWC win.

"A win is would be big for us," Young said. "Obviously we are in conference play now and they're counting toward making the playoffs. The kids are well aware of it."

Daniel Harness leads the team in tackles while Dominic Todd is second on the team in stops and making an impact on the defense.

"Todd has been stepping up at linebacker and playing really well," Young

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said. "Brennan Dupont is a freshman and had an interception for us (against Valders). He's been stepping in where we need him to."

The Zephyrs will try to get its running game cranked up against the struggling Tiger defense with Gavin Post and Anton Jackson leading the charge at running back.

Dwyer can add to the run game but does most of his damage through the air, where he has completed better than 50 percent of his passes and thrown for six touchdowns. His top two receivers have been Harness and Mason Wagner, who combined for 17 receptions last week against Valders. Tarver Trinkner is also a big factor in the Zephyrs' passing game.

"What I like about our guys is that they didn't give up. They had some opportunities and had to deal with some of the setbacks, but they will fight until the end," Young said. "They just have to keep working hard. We're fixing some of the mistakes we've made and we look to be better going forward."



Whitburn Center Director, Michael Ford.



This event is being co-sponsored by the Tommy G. Thompson Center for Public Leadership.



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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Zephyrs down Blue Bombers in four sets

St. Mary Catholic opened the Big East Conference season by beating Kohler, 25-15, 25-19, 23-25, 25-20 last week.

Luci Nackers and Autumn Crowe each had six kills to lead the Zephyrs, while Eliana Brenn added five kills and a teamhigh six aces. Nackers added four aces in the win.

Ava Rankin paced the team with 14 digs, while Sammi Weiss tallied a teambest 20 assists.

Neenah suffers FVA loss to Kimberly

The Rockets won the first set against the Papermakers but couldn't collect the overall victory falling on the road 23-25, 25-15, 25-19, 25-23.

Ella Nigl led the way with 11 kills, while Elaina Kramer added eight. Paige Hoelzel, Sophie Krema and Lily Romjue each added five. Hoelzel and Romjue led the team with six and three blocks, respectively.

Ella Lindgren finished with 20 digs to pace Neenah, while Romjue added 14. Nadia Marchionda and Ally Corrente totaled 16 and 13 assists, respectively, to lead the Rockets.

<u>GOLF</u>

Rockets split pair at double dual meet

Annika Searles led Neenah with a round of 44 at Ridgeway as the Rockets split a pair of Fox Valley Association dual meets. The Rockets edged Appleton North 199-205, while falling to Hortonville 182-199.

Lilly Quella added a 50 for the Rockets, while Jordyn Brokman shot a 52 and Adrianne Oitzinger chipped in a 53.

Earlier in the week, the Rockets finished fourth out of 16 teams at the Sheboygan North Invite held at Town and Country Golf Course.

Searles led the way with a top-five finish, placing fifth among all individuals with an 88. Quella took 13th with a round of 96, while Oitzinger was 17th with a 99.

The Rockets finished with a team total of 401, finishing behind Kaukauna (338), De Pere (382) and Sheboygan North (388). **SWIMMING**

Rockets cruise to win in first dual meet

Kacie Stamm, Anna Mulroy and Rylie Bauman each won two individual events to lead the Rockets to a 125-64 win over Appleton East/Hortonville/Kaukauna.

Stamm won the first individual race of the night in the 200-yard freestyle and picked up a win in the 100-yard backstroke, while Mulroy's victories came in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly. Bauman finished first in the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke.

Breleigh Maurer in the 200-yard individual medley and Bridget Bloomhuff in the 500-yard freestyle also added wins for Neenah. The Rockets also finished first in all three relays.

Maurer in the 100-yard butterfly and diver Sydney Hansman each earned second places.

SEE **Prep roundup** on Page 14



Walk-In Interviews

Full & Part Time Positions:

- Resident Assistants
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- Housekeepers

Batke notches hat trick in Rockets win over Lightning

By Dustin Riese News contributor

The Neenah soccer team christened its new field with a big win Tuesday night.

Playing their first game on the field at the new high school, the Rockets got a hat trick from Ian Batke to lead a 4-1 win over Appleton North as the Rockets improved to 4-0-1.

"It was a perfect way for a home opener to go but also the very first game ever played on the Neenah Rocket soccer stadium," Neenah's first-year head coach Martin Valenzuela said. "A great crowd, control of the game and win."

The Rockets controlled possession from the outset and sustained pressure on the Lightning defense, eventually leading to Batke notching the first goal at the field. He would add another later in the first half to give the Rockets a 2-0 lead at intermission.

"The boys worked hard and were able to fully dominate possession of the ball,"

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Valenzuela said. "After several attempts to get a goal early it finally happened."

Batke finished off the hat trick early in the second half to extend Neenah's lead before Preston Schamens added the final Neenah goal on a free kick from about 50 yards out.

The Rockets outshot the Lightning 12-3 with Neenah getting a save apiece from Julian Gallmeier and Pierce Hanson, who split time in goal.

Ethan Merges collected two assists in the win while Trey White added an additional assist.

In addition to Batke's goal-scoring performance, Valenzuela praised the play of captains Schamens, Nick Kaiser and Grant Romjue for keeping the team focused.

"This was a huge game from our captains," Valenzuela said. "This was an awesome game and we're excited to stay focused on every objective ahead of us this season."



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 GUARANTEE

 - 25
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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

<u>CROSS COUNTRY</u> Neenah girls dominate home invitational

The Neenah girls had four runners in the top 10 and five in the top 15 as the Rockets cruised to the team title.

Neenah finished with 41 points, easily ahead of Appleton North with 67 points and Kimberly with 87.

Mazie Olkowski led the way for the Rockets by placing seventh overall. Natalie Schultz was next to finish in seventh place, followed by Elsa Gruber and Maddie Schoonover in ninth and 10th, respectively. Eme Olkowski rounded out the scoring runners for Neenah in 13th place.

The Neenah boys took third overall, finishing with 114 points to come in behind only Stevens Point (32) and Brookfield East (73).

Zach Verhagen led the Rockets with an eighth-place finish with Bly Wheeler plac-





The Neenah girls cross country team won their own invitational last week with a team of (from left) Izzy Malloy, Elsa Gruber, Maddie Schoonover, Mazie Olkowski, Natalie Willes, Natalie Schultz, Eme Olkowski and Brooke Veith. Plaques and medals were furnished by the Neenah Foundry.

ing 19th, Braedy Klawikowski coming in 23rd, Nolan Smith finishing 32nd and Harmon Posegate taking 35th. **TENNIS**

Doubles sweep helps boost Rockets to win

Neenah won all three doubles matches in straight sets to bolster a 6-1 win over Kimberly in an RVA dual meet.

The Rockets dropped only six games in the three doubles matches with Meredith Werner and Sydney Michalkiewiz at the No. 1 flight and Josie Kohlbeck and Evelyn Buss at the No. 3 flight each winning by 6-0, 6-1 margins. Ava Motto and Rebekah Thomas win 6-4, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

Earning singles wins for the Rockets were Celia Gentile, Ella Motto and JB Kennedy.

The Rockets also collected 7-0 wins over both Oshkosh West last week and Hortonville on Tuesday.

Gentile at No. 2 singles and Ava Motto and Thomas at No. 2 doubles each earned 6-0, 6-0 wins against the Wildcats, while Ella Motto and the No. 3 doubles team of Kohlbeck and Buss each only dropped one game.

Singles players Izzy Murray and Norah Spanbauer also picked up wins, as did the No. 1 doubles team of Werner and Michalkiewicz.

In the win over the Polar Bears, the Rockets dropped a total of two games in the seven matches, including winning all three doubles matches by 6-0, 6-0 margins.

Zephyrs top Kewaskum in EWC dual meet

St. Mary Catholic Central dropped only one set in earning the 7-0 sweep over Kewaskum last week.

Ella Chier at No. 3 singles and Alice Cole at No. 4 singles along with the No. 3 doubles team of Lorelai Miller and Nolie Anderson lost only one game in winning their matches.

Audrey Wanless added a 6-2, 6-0 win at No. 1 singles, while the top two doubles

teams of Vivi Auth and Adel Schneider and Emily Vogel and Nadia Alexander each lost only two games.

Erin Blaney added a win at No. 2 singles for the Zephyrs.

SOCCER

Zephyrs edge Bluejays in nonconference match

Kieran Barrientos scored the lone goal as St. Mary Catholic downed Menasha 1-0 in a physical match last week.

Wes Auth assisted on the goal.

Zach Beyer made 10 saves to earn the shutout in net for St. Mary Catholic.

The Zephyrs also lost a conference match, 4-0, to Sheboygan Falls on Tuesday.

Rockets earn shutout win over DC Everest

Neenah rolled to a nonconference win at DC Everest posting a 6-0 victory.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Rockets roll past Patriots at home

Miles Weaver finished with 10 kills and five aces as Neenah topped Appleton East 25-12, 25-19, 25-16 in a Fox Valley Association match Tuesday.

Julian Kuehn added nine kills and five digs for the Rockets, while Cam Diekfuss finished with 23 assists and six aces.

Over the weekend, the Rockets went 3-2 at the Brookfield Clash led by Weaver and Kuehn with 38 and 36 kills, respectively. Ben Donaldson added 21 kills and seven blocks, while Diekfuss finished with 90 assists and seven aces.



Neenah swimmers take aim at another successful season

Neenah News

With three swimmers with state meet experience returning from last year and a crew of young divers expected to be improved, the Neenah High School girls swim team is likely to make waves once again.

The Rockets haven't won a Fox Valley Association title since 2018 but could be in the hunt to challenge reigning champion Appleton North with a talented and balanced lineup.

Leading the list of returning swimmers for the Rockets is senior Rylie Bauman,

Senior Standout

from Page 11

weather but it didn't take too long to get comfortable.

"Once I was signed up and I got onto my club team, I made a bunch of friends and started to fit in," Barrientos said.

Barrientos' comfort level continued to blossom when he started at St. Mary Catholic, playing on the varsity squad as a freshman and then earning second-team all-Big East honors as a sophomore.

That set the stage for last season when the Zephyrs were one of the top teams in the state, losing just two games, the second coming to Shoreland Lutheran in the WIAA Division 3 state title game.

"It was the best feeling ever to play for the state title. All of those people watching. It was a great moment for us," Barrientos said. "It really hurt (when we lost). We worked so hard and then we finished second. It motivated me to try to get us back this year."

who swam in four events at last year's state meet, including the 50-yard freestyle where she placed 19th overall. Bauman also swam on the Rockets 200-yard medley and 400yard freestyle relay teams, as well as anchoring the 200-yard freestyle relay team that finished less than two-tenths of a second out of earning a medal in seventh place.

Junior Anna Mulroy swam on both freestyle relays for the Rockets last season and narrowly missed qualifying for state in the 100-yard butterfly.

Senior Kacie Stamm also returns, hav-

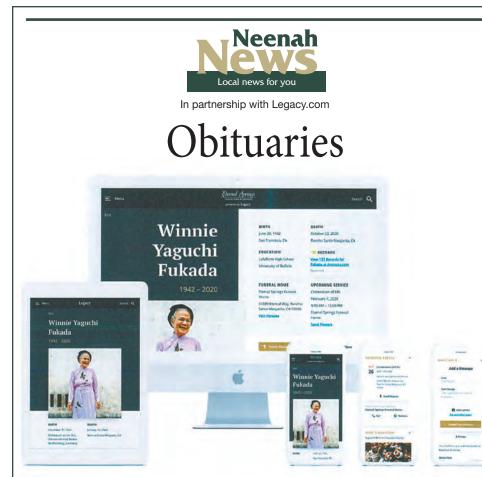
Barrientos has kept up his goal-scoring ways this season, even though there is a different feel with the team.

St. Mary Catholic was a senior-dominated squad in the 2023 season leaving Barrientos with almost an entirely new roster of teammates to take the field with. But he believes this year's group can grow into a group that will maintain a high level of success.

"We have a lot of new players and right now, we're trying to gain chemistry as a team and I think by the end of the year, we are going to be a completely different team," Barrientos said. "Last year, I had to be a leader as well along with the others. This year, obviously we don't have those same guys, so I've really tried to step up as a leader because I know I'm a role model for the younger kids and other players on our team. I want to set the best example and show them how we do it."

Another difference that Barrientos has had to adjust to this season is the attention he gets from other teams.

This season, opponents are aware of his



ing competed on Neenah's 200-yard medley relay team at state last year.

The Rockets also return sophomore Breleigh Maurer, who was a regular in the Rockets' lineup as a freshman last season.

Head coach Carrie Raeth expects those four to be the leaders in the pool this season, while freshman Bridget Bloomhuff will be counted on to contribute.

"The great thing about our Neenah team is that the upperclassmen really rise to the occasion and realize it is their turn now to set the pace and lead others through their

abilities and are sending multiple defenders at him - even when he doesn't have the ball.

"I try and convince them to lay off me but that doesn't always work," Barrientos said with a laugh. "Every step I take on the field, I have three guys following me."

Barrientos is also sharing his kicking talents with another St. Mary Catholic team this fall.

At the urging of his friends, Barrientos has joined the Zephyr football team and has already made multiple kicks in three games, including a 48-yard field goal.

"(My friends) were like we need a kicker, we need a kicker, so I just decided to go for it and I've had some success," said Barrientos, who said he made a 60-yard field goal in practice. "A football is a smaller target because the ball is not as wide as a soccer ball but it's pretty similar. Giving long balls, you kick it at the bottom so it goes over everyone and that's the same as kicking a field goal."

Barrientos is no stranger to tackling, either. But the tackling he does on a soccer field is a little different than when he suits up for the football team.

"I had to make a tackle in a game and it was a little scary for me to be honest," Barrientos said. "But I did it and it's not that bad."

Despite the fun and success he's had on

Classifieds

work ethic, team spirit and dedication to team goals," Raeth commented. "We're excited to see how we progress throughout the season. It's a fun hard-working group of girls."

Neenah will also have experience on the diving board where a trio of athletes return from last season.

Senior Hannah Slabbert and sophomores Ceci Pirwitz and Sydney Hansman each competed at sectionals last year and look to be improved this season. Hansman led the team at sectionals last year.

the gridiron, soccer remains his No. 1 focus and where he believes his future lies.

Barrientos is hoping to play at the Division I level next fall for starters and then find somewhere to follow in his father's footsteps.

"To play professionally is my ultimate goal. My dad's done it. Other people in my family have done it so I really want to make it there. That would be really awesome," Barrientos said. "For me, one of the main things I have to do is to stop doubting myself and to always have confidence in everything I do. I know I have good talent and communication and skills but sometimes I get in my own head. If that's something I can stop, I can have more success as a player."

What lies ahead for Barrientos remains to be seen because right now he is focused on leading the Zephyrs to another successful season.

"I know a lot more eyes are on me and there is a little more pressure and I don't want to let the team down or anyone down. I really try to always be the best I can," Barrientos said. "I think it's going to take lot of hard work obviously, focusing at practice, bringing 110 percent. But I think if we all work together starting now and we keep this going throughout the season, I think we do have a good chance of making it back (to state) this year."

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