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County homeless options stay elusive

Strategies reviewed amid proposed limits

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

As officials continue to consider county-wide public camping and loitering bans to deal with an influx of homeless people, Winnebago County held a meeting last

week to discuss the issues.

The County Board of Supervisors was expected to vote this past Tuesday on two ordinances that would ban camping and loitering on any county property, but those items were pulled from the meeting agenda.

Instead, a presentation by the Winnebago Housing Coalition called "The Face of Homelessness in Winnebago County"

took place last week, which included discussion on the proposed ordinances targeting the homeless.

Winnebago County housing grant specialist Lu Scheer told attendees that about 3,500 households in the county are living at or below the federal poverty income guideline, amounting to about 5% of

SEE **County homeless** ON PAGE 6

INSIDE



Rolling route

Segway tours offer scenic ride around town

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On to state

Area tennis teams competing in Madison

Page 11



Photo by David Hall

Harvest selections

The Future Neenah Farmers Market last Saturday attracted families looking for harvest and Halloween decorations and included painted pumpkins shown here. Last weekend's market in Shattuck Park was the final one for this season.

Family raises awareness amid increasing suicide rates

Proper medication part of overall treatments

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

When Brianna Adamski's brother attempted to end his life by jumping from the East College Avenue bridge in Appleton, it came as a shock to the family.

Though the 19-year-old Appleton East graduate was struggling with depression, Matthew Ilsley sought mental health treatment and was recently diagnosed with bipolar disorder and prescribed medication to stabilize his mood.

The family tried to have Matthew admitted for inpatient psychiatric treatment, but because he didn't have a plan to commit suicide, the doctors couldn't involuntarily commit him.

Adamski said Matthew wasn't offered

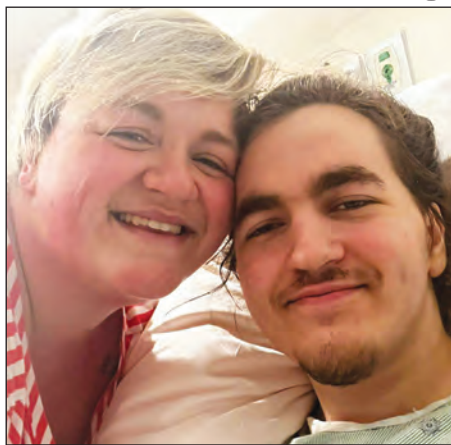
the option to voluntarily commit himself for treatment.

"He really, actually tried to get help," she said. "He was doing literally everything that they were telling him to do. He was doing the right things every step of the way, and they still failed him."

On Aug. 30, Matthew walked out onto a bridge overlooking the Fox River and hurled himself over the railing, 60 feet to the pavement below.

A downtown Appleton trolley driver was among witnesses who reported the incident to emergency services. A doctor driving by pulled over to provide medical assistance and a nurse walking past joined in.

Matthew was rushed to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah and then airlifted to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee. He died four times and was resuscitated. He stopped breathing for a total of



Submitted photo

Brianna Adamski is shown with brother Matthew Ilsley, who is recovering at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee after a suicide attempt in August.

more than six minutes.

He suffered a concussion with a brain bleed, facial fractures, multiple breaks in

both arms, a lacerated kidney, collapsed lung and shattered pelvis bones. He remains at Froedtert recovering.

Adamski said it's a miracle he survived.

"It's just like he's meant to be here, and we all really believe, and he believes, too, that he's here to try and help other people with the same thing," she said.

Suicide attempts from the East College Avenue bridge are so frequent that the city has installed multiple signs with resources for those who may be considering jumping.

"We can help you cross this bridge," the signs say. "Help is just one phone call away."

Adamski believes that her brother never would have attempted suicide if it wasn't for the mood stabilizer lamotrigine – brand name Lamictal – that he had

SEE **Matthew's story** ON PAGE 8



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Kwik Trip set to sell beer after ordinance change

Neenah News

Kwik Trip will be the first convenience store in the city of Neenah to sell beer and other malt beverages after a decades-old prohibition was recently overturned.

The Common Council was expected to vote this past Wednesday to approve a Class A license so Kwik Trip can sell fermented malt beverages from a 25-square-foot lockable refrigerator at its 903 S. Green Bay Road store, bringing parity with Kwik Trip locations in neighboring communities such as Menasha and Fox Crossing that already sell malt beverages.

The state defines malt beverages as “an

infusion in potable water of barley malt and hops” containing 0.5% or more of alcohol by volume. A law that went into effect in May broadened the definition to include gluten-free beer and hard seltzers.

For decades the city of Neenah has banned the sale of alcohol including malt beverages at gas stations and repeated attempts to overturn the ban, including four council votes in the past six years, failed.

In September, with two new aldermen recently elected, the Common Council again took up modifying municipal code to permit the businesses to sell malt beverages as long as they meet certain require-

ments and obtain a license.

Kwik Trip is a chain of convenience stores in the Midwest and also operates under the name Tobacco Outlet Plus.

Company representatives were among those who lobbied the council to overturn the ban, including employee Rob Albrecht who noted customers can't purchase beer from the Neenah Kwik Trip but can walk across the parking lot to CVS and pick up a 12-pack there.

Erich Lisser, who runs the Neenah Kwik Trip store, said permitting the sale of malt beverages would help the business and “overall makes it a fair and level playing field between areas around us ...”

Several residents and business owners were vocal in their opposition to the change, including Amritpal Gill, who owns Gill Liquor on South Commercial Street, who told the council that it will push small businesses out and cause more crime and other issues.

The Common Council voted 7-2 last month to change municipal code pertaining to convenience store malt beverage sales, effective immediately. Kwik Trip is the first to apply for a permit to sell it.

The Neenah Kwik Trip is on 2.4 acres near the Interstate 41 and Winneconne Avenue exit. The 6,650-square-foot building includes a 3,700-square-foot sales floor and outdoor gasoline pump islands.

As per the requirements of the permit, Kwik Trip will only sell 4-packs or larger and single-serve malt beverages in containers of 60 ounces or larger. Patrons will be permitted to purchase malt beverages between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Data exchange launched for tri-county area

Neenah News

The Fox Valley Data Exchange, a one-stop shop for community data covering Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie counties, was introduced this week with a focus on the vital factors behind personal well-being.

The exchange features hundreds of up-to-date indicators presented through charts, graphs and maps that can serve cross-sector organizations in the tri-county region.

ty region.

The Fox Valley Data Exchange is supported by the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, United Way Fox Cities, Thrivent, US Venture, the David L. and Rita E. Nelson Fund, ThedaCare, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Oshkosh Area United Way, Lawrence University and Oshkosh Corp.

For more information about the data exchange, visit vitaldata.fvdex.org.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Sheet metal operations

Valley Sheet Metal Works was owned and operated by Alvin J. Stiegler. He purchased the sheet metal business from William Krueger Co. in 1921 and was located on Canal Street. Expansion become necessary and in 1932, a new modern factory was opened at 315 Main St. The plant had 12,000 square feet of floor space, walls of brick and concrete, a steel structure and was equipped with modern sheet metal machinery. The company was dissolved in 1944 when Alvin moved to Waupaca.

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Calendar of events

Friday, Oct. 18

Rocket Players: “Guys and Dolls,” 7 p.m., Neenah High School PAC

Saturday, Oct. 19

Monster Mash Dance Party, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Rocket Players: “Guys and Dolls,” 7 p.m., Neenah High School PAC

Sunday, Oct. 20

Rocket Players: “Guys and Dolls,” 2 p.m., Neenah High School PAC

Thursday, Oct. 24

Oak Hill Cemetery: Uncovering 175 Years of History, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Pints for Polio, 6 p.m., Greene’s Pour House, 134 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Saturday, Oct. 26

Old Fashioned Saturday, noon, downtown Neenah locations

Unfinished Business by Fox Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines, 7 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center

Trunk or Treat, 6:30 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 S. Park Ave.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Trick-or-treating in Neenah and Fox Crossing, 4 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 2

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

Sunday, Nov. 3

Fox Cities Repair Cafe, noon, Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, Nov. 5

Election Day Chili Cookoff, 4 p.m., Out Saviors Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial St.

Hurricane rescue, recovery efforts include state teams

Neenah News

Wisconsin Emergency Management's Wisconsin Task Force 1, which included Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue members, spent a week in western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene devastated the region Sept. 27.

The 16-person team, which also draws from fire departments in Oshkosh, Appleton and Green Bay among others statewide, reported navigating difficult terrain to gain access to residents in mountain areas that were cut off from communications after catastrophic flooding. They also performed swift water searches in western North Carolina while working with local first responders and search-and-rescue teams from five other states.

"Wisconsin Task Force 1 is a state asset with specialized training and capabilities that not only helps protect Wisconsin communities, it can also respond throughout the country," said Wisconsin Emergency Management administrator Greg Engle. "States supporting one another during natural disasters or emergencies is a core emergency management value and helps make us a more resilient nation."

The water rescue team left Wisconsin from the Regional All-Climate Training (REACT) Center at Volk Field in Camp Douglas within 24 hours of Helene striking, bringing specialized equipment to assist with search and rescue – boats, water rescue gear, and communications equipment.

"This is an enormous undertaking and demonstrates the necessity and utility of such a uniquely skilled and capable team," stated Aaron Lipski, Milwaukee's fire chief and Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association president.

North Carolina made the request through a nationwide mutual aid system, something expected to recur in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton that struck Florida last week.

The Neenah Police Department has been working on a humanitarian effort with N&M Transfer Co. to collect donations of water and other essentials for those impacted by Helene with a collection drive this Wednesday that will be driven to North Carolina. It was one of many public and private initiatives in the region to collect truckloads of supplies for the wide-ranging needs of hurricane victims.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone involved with the recent hurricanes," Neenah police stated on their Facebook page.

Separately, more than two dozen Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) workers left for Florida last Wednesday to assist Florida utilities to help them on power outages and storm damage. Joining the WPS crews will be about 25 workers from the company's sister utility We Energies. About 100 WPS and We Energies contract workers helped utilities restore power after Hurricane Helene and remain in the Tampa area to help restore power outages from Milton.

The American Red Cross of Wisconsin is looking for volunteers interested in becoming a Red Cross Disaster Responder to serve at emergency shelters for hurricane disaster relief efforts. Free training is provided and Red Cross pays for travel and expenses. Those interested can use its volunteer management system Volunteer Connection on its website.



Photo from Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue

Members of Wisconsin Emergency Management's Wisconsin Task Force 1 were in western North Carolina to provide rescue and recovery support after Hurricane Helene hit a wide region of the U.S.

The Red Cross is also working to restock critically needed blood products uncollected due to the impact of the hurricanes. The nearest upcoming blood drives include the Oshkosh Community YMCA,

3303 W 20th Ave., from 1 to 6 p.m. today; 2 to 6 p.m. Nov. 7 at Calvary Lutheran Church, 2580 W. 9th Ave.; and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at American Legion Post 38, 3220 W. College Ave.



Submitted photo

Doty Island CROP Walk

The Fox Cities CROP (Community Response to Poverty) Walk was held Oct. 6 based at Congregational United Church of Christ in Neenah and went through the Doty Island neighborhood near the church with many people bringing their dogs along. The hunger walks were created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization, with 25% of the funds raised returned to the host community to support hunger-fighting efforts.

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Segway tours roll passengers past local landmarks

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

It may have been a chilly morning this past Tuesday ahead of a frost advisory, but that didn't stop a group of visitors from exploring Doty Island, downtown Neenah and the city's beautiful fall foliage-filled parks while riding around on segways.

For about 10 years Glide N.E.W. has been offering "Segway the Fox" guided tours in Neenah, Appleton and Green Bay, where guests ages 11 and older glide around on the two-wheeled stand-up devices while learning about the city's history. The company also operates segway tours in Door County, Manitowoc and Sheboygan County.

The Neenah segway tours start out at the Whiting Boathouse boat trailer parking lot where riders meet with a tour guide and learn how to safely operate the devices.

Tuesday's guide was Dick Luther of Green Bay, who's been leading segway tours since last August at Glide N.E.W. locations throughout the state.

Luther handed out helmets and gave a brief tutorial. He explained that segways require the rider to balance and lean forward to move and increase speed. Riders lean back to slow, stop or reverse and use handlebars to turn in the direction they want to go.

After only a couple of minutes of instruction the riders were cruising around the parking lot with ease.

For training, the devices were set to turtle mode, with a maximum speed of 2.5 miles per hour. Once the riders felt comfortable, Luther put the segways into speed mode, allowing them to reach up to 12.5 mph. The average speed of the segways during a tour is 7-8 mph.

Over the course of about two hours, Lu-



Neenah News

Riders on Tuesday glided through downtown during a two-hour segway tour of Neenah and Doty Island.

ther led a group through some of Neenah's highlights. Starting in Doty Park, the group made a stop at Doty Cabin before traveling to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center and making their way to East Wisconsin Avenue to admire several of the historic mansions.

The group traveled along the Lakeshore Drive trail fronting on Lake Winnebago, lined with trees boasting spectacular fall displays of yellow and red. Behind the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, riders were warmed by the sunlight streaming down while learning about the museum's history and famous paperweight collection.

Luther led guests to the Kimberly Point Lighthouse for a photo opportunity and a chance to rest their feet before gliding

through Riverside Park and admiring the fountain. Then guests traveled into the heart of the downtown, making stops to learn about the bronze statues, Legacy Park and its tribute to Fox Valley papermakers.

Other stops included the Statue of Liberty replica and a roll through downtown Shattuck Park with a pause near the military service flag memorial.

In true Neenah fashion, Luther was sure to point out a Neenah Foundry manhole cover during the tour.

Glide N.E.W. owner Nick Dokolas said people love the tours and the segways are a great way to get around.

"I have people often at the end of the tour say, you know, I never would have walked that route to see all the things that we saw on the segway tour. And so it is just extending their experience," he said.

With Bird e-scooters removed from the

Education advocates offer voter guides

Neenah News

In cooperation with the League of Women Voters in Winnebago County and Appleton/Fox Cities, Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education (FCA4PE) surveyed all legislative candidates in the area with their responses released in a K-12 Public Education Voter Guide.

Eleven legislative districts were surveyed with 13 candidates responding and nine others who did not respond. The nonpartisan group did not identify candidates by political party and encourages voters to use the issues to inform their opinions.

The survey asked for written responses

city this past summer, the segway tours give visitors and residents alike a unique way to explore.

Neenah Professional Staff Capt. Thomas Van Sambeek said segways are considered an electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD) and like e-scooters are permitted to operate on sidewalks.

While city ordinance prohibits e-scooters and bicycles from being used on downtown sidewalks and the parking ramp, Van Sambeek said the city does not have an ordinance limiting where segways may be operated.

Segway riders are required to yield the right of way to pedestrians and bicyclists and the devices may be parked on the sidewalk or at a bike rack as long as they are not impeding the flow of pedestrian traffic.

Dokolas said the segways bring tourists to the region.

"They see our tour and drive up, and so you get them there, we show them the different sites, and an hour and a half touring Neenah and they'll end up going to the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum or to eat downtown," he said. "So it is an attraction and it attracts people to Neenah."

The segway tours take place year-round unless the temperature is 40 degrees or colder and may be scheduled online at glidenev.com or by calling 920-376-0256. Dokolas said the business is often able to accommodate same-day tours.

The ladies taking the tour Tuesday included Barb Peterson and Sara Wright, both of Milwaukee, and 78-year-old Susan Rochon of Hilbert, who briefly attended Neenah High School.

The ladies confirmed they traveled to Neenah to see the sites via segway and then would be heading downtown for lunch. They said the tour was "great fun" and left with big smiles on their faces.

"Anyone can enjoy doing this," Peterson said.

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Business news roundup

Kundinger, a Wisconsin and Michigan-based company delivering products and solutions in fluid power, automation and process control to industries, has acquired **CCT Enterprises/Control Concepts Technology (CCT)**, based in Schofield. Kundinger officials said they remain committed to CCT's core values while expanding its reach and capabilities. The acquisition includes the Parker Store in Schofield. Kundinger will now operate four Parker Stores in Wisconsin; its other locations are in Neenah, Green Bay and Sheboygan.

Neenah author **Vivian Probst's** novel "Death by Roses" was being pitched to movie producers for a potential film adaptation at the 76th Frankfurter Buchmesse, considered the largest international book fair in Frankfurt, Germany, this week. Another of Probst's books, "Breaking the Bias of English," was also being featured at the five-day event.

Rachel Gauthier, a managing partner at **The Tolan Group** and an executive search professional based in Neenah, was featured in the national publication Hunt Scanlon Media about her firm's search execution metrics that have made it a leader in competitive private equity-backed health care position recruitment. The story, Search Execution: Achieving Rapid Placement in Private Equity-Backed Healthcare, can be found at huntscanlon.com.

Bergstrom Automotive recently held its annual Drive for a Cure event at dealerships across the Fox Valley and raised \$40,750 through the weekend's events supporting breast cancer research programs in Wisconsin. The majority raised came from guest test drives and the remaining \$8,250 from donations and social media actions. Since the program started, it has raised more than \$660,000. All of the money will be donated to the Medical College of Wisconsin's breast cancer research programs.

New North Inc. is working with 12 of its local partners to hold pitch events during Startup Week in the state. The event winners will advance to a regional pitch event Dec. 4 at TitledTownTech in Green Bay. Entrepreneurs within the New North who are interested in participating in the qualifying, local pitch events are asked to upload their pitch ideas at startupwi.org/new-north by Oct. 31. The local contests are open to all residents in northeast Wisconsin or those who will be launching their businesses in the region.

Omni Glass & Paint, a contractor specializing in residential and commercial glass, architectural panels, specialty and OEM glass and commercial and industrial painting, is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Neenah location at 2444 Industrial Drive. Company officials said the past 10 years have been driven by ongoing investment in advanced technologies and automated equipment, including computer numerical control (CNC) systems for product cutting and transforming operations from manual to software-driven processes. The Neenah facility has seen a 20-fold increase in sales and production, going from three to nearly 30 employees.

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County homeless

FROM PAGE 1

households. Scheer said for a single person, that's \$1,255 per month; for a family of four, \$2,600.

Scheer said people are comfortable with paying 30% of their income for housing, otherwise they're considered cost burdened, and 1 of every 8 Wisconsin residents are paying more than 50% of their income for housing.

About 40% of children in Winnebago County are eligible for free or reduced lunches.

"It's not surprising that there's an increase of households who are at risk of being unsheltered," she said.

In 2022, the county was awarded a \$10.3 million grant through the Neighborhood Investment Fund to create and expand hous-

ing and services, which Scheer said was used to build the Day By Day Shelter in Oshkosh, "which actually made a significant difference in getting people off the street."

The county also invested in 32 small houses in Oshkosh; provided support to Solutions Recovery to add new residences and purchase a shelter in Oshkosh to help people get and stay sober; and supported the Oshkosh nonprofit Covey to add housing for people with disabilities.

Some of the grant money went to Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh to build eight houses and purchase land in Omro for 14 more lots and Scheer said Habitat is in the process of purchasing the Washington Elementary School property in Oshkosh for 17-19 lots.

The county also developed the HELP (homeless, eviction and loss prevention) program to provide services to keep people in their residences and reduce the amount of

people entering the homeless community.

"Yet despite this, we continue to see more people who are unhoused or at risk of being unhoused," Scheer said.

Representatives from Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care, Winnebago-land Housing Coalition, Day by Day Shelter, Pillars, Father Carr's, Salvation Army, Casa Esther, Advocap, COTS and HELP provided information at the meeting.

District 7 Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke stated the housing shortage is what is causing more people to be homeless, "the fact that we do not have enough housing."

She added that the city of Neenah had the opportunity to bring more housing that failed due to a "not-in-my-backyard attitude," referring to the rezoning of the Shattuck Middle School site in 2022 so that Northpointe Development could construct 89 apartments inside the building and 49 single family homes on the site.

Following outcry from residents, the city voted against rezoning the site and Northpointe backed out on the sale. The Neenah Joint School District later sold the 27-acre parcel to Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations for \$500,001; \$1 more than Northpointe's offer.

The closed middle school has since remained vacant other than the school district's Health and Wellness Center which continues operating out of a small portion.

Neenah passed an ordinance in March banning public camping due to concerns over homeless people concentrating in the right of way in front of businesses in the 900 block of South Green Bay Road. Fond du Lac passed a similar ordinance in September. The ordinances are expected to limit the places where homeless people can sleep and set up camp.

Pillars executive director Lisa Strandberg is a Neenah resident and said after the city passed its public camping ban she met with Mayor Jane Lang and members of the police department to discuss other tools available to them to deal with homelessness.

"The struggle that I have with a camping ban in my community where I live is that it sends a message that homelessness is not

the city of Neenah's problem," she said. "What I know to be true, though, is that last year the Neenah Joint School District had 100 students identified as homeless in its school district over the course of the school year."

She added that homelessness is neither an Oshkosh problem nor a Winnebago County problem and is increasing everywhere.

Sheriff John Matz provided a differing opinion, stating that homeless people are concentrating in Oshkosh after Neenah and Fond du Lac recently passed public camping bans.

After a press conference in June, officials said several unhoused people were camping on the west side of the Orrin King building in Oshkosh, which includes the district attorney's office and other county departments and were causing challenges by using drugs and relieving themselves in public.

"I think one thing that you'll have to consider is, the individuals that we're coming in contact with, and (Oshkosh Police Department) is coming in contact with, they don't want services," Matz said of the homeless. "They don't want mental health services; they don't want (alcohol and other drug abuse) services; they don't want housing. They want to do the things that they want to do; they don't want to live by any rules, et cetera."

Scheer argued that the people causing problems in Oshkosh who don't want services amount to about 1% or 2% of the hundreds of homeless people in the community, while Matz countered that the 1% or 2% are what the ordinances are about.

County Executive Jon Doemel said he wants to discuss solutions rather than the proposed county ordinances. He introduced Daniel Middleton, who is unhoused and has been sleeping in the outdoor courtyard near the parole office in Oshkosh.

Middleton gave his personal perspective on homelessness in Oshkosh, noting that late at night when gas stations are closed there are no places for people to relieve themselves except for in bushes.

"If everything is shut down, where are you going to go?" he said.

He added that he's been turned away from some area homeless shelters due to having felony convictions on his record.

Though he was briefly staying at the Day By Day Shelter, he said he voluntarily left due to incidents there, but said the shelter has offered him other services such as sleeping bags.

Doemel encouraged attendees to understand the various perspectives from law enforcement and the homeless population and come up with solutions "that can hold people accountable, but also get people the services they need."

"It is us versus the issue, not us versus each other," he said.



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Former circuit judge turns to writing with ‘Purple Martins Sing’

By Jennifer Parmley
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A former Winnebago County Circuit Court judge and longtime family law attorney in Oshkosh has turned to published author with a historical fiction book set in the pre-Civil War South.

Published by Divine Publishing, “The Purple Martins Sing” by Teresa Basiliere tells the story of the bond between characters Tessa and Chancey, one a slave owner’s daughter and the other a slave.

Basiliere credits her love of storytelling to her mother, Jessie Branch Basiliere.

“She was notorious for telling stories,” Basiliere said. “She was always telling us about her childhood and the things she experienced in her life and I kind of inherited that from her.”

Born in the 1930s and raised in rural Georgia, Basiliere said her mother witnessed the prejudice and racism of the time.

One of the stories she heard as a child related to her mother’s friendship with a Black girl, the daughter of the woman who took care of her while her mother worked outside the home, Basiliere said.

“She was going to have a birthday party when she was 5 and she wanted the little girl to come because they were best friends, but she wasn’t allowed to have her because she was a Black child,” she said. “So she observed a lot of it and even though she was very young she had a sense that it just



Photo by Jennifer Parmley

Teresa Basiliere holds a copy of her new fiction novel “The Purple Martins Sing.”

wasn’t right or fair.”

Although the story is a work of fiction, the dialogue stays true to the way some Southerners spoke at the time, which could be offensive to some readers.

While she herself disavows such language, Basiliere wanted to be historically accurate, so she includes a cautionary note at the start of the book, saying she did not want to “minimize the harshness of the reality of the characters of the story.”

“I knew that I wanted to deal with racism, and the courage it took to deal with that from the character standpoint, and the development of the friendship between the two of them,” she said. “Some of the characters are awful, but it’s true that you take little bits and pieces of people and you have to build that emotion. I kind of feel like there is a little of Tessa and Chancey in all of us.”

The title, Basiliere said, refers to a bird that Native Americans regard as symbols of good luck and messengers of information.

This is the third book she has written, but the first to be published. She got the idea for the book and began to write without an outline or real plan with how it would go.

“This was quite an adventure because when you start to write, the story continues to develop, and then you wonder how do I end this,” she said, “because I get to love my characters.”

Basiliere said she sees writing as a way to unwind.

“This was my downtime,” she said. “I relax by sitting and developing a story and so that was why I was able to find the time to do it. It was a journey.”

“I write a lot of poetry, and I’ve animated 10 children’s books, but I have not published them. This was on my bucket list to get done so it’s always been there inside of me. But you get busy having a family, raising children, practicing law and going to the bench.”

Basiliere was elected judge in 2018 for Winnebago County Circuit Branch 1 and did not seek re-election this year. Now working at Belville, Brown, Bauer & Basiliere LLC, she said her goal is to work fewer hours as an attorney and also work on getting another book published, the next being a nonfiction work based on her relationship with her grandfather.

She said she is happy to do appearances at book clubs if requested, either in-person or via Zoom.

“I love to talk about it because it’s a passion of mine,” she said. “When you write you hope it’s good and when you start to get feedback it feels really good. That’s really rewarding.”

“The Purple Martins Sing” is available for sale online at Barnes & Noble.

Metro area jobless rate for August falls to 2.5%

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw its unemployment rate drop from 3.1% to 2.5% between July and August, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Last August’s jobless rate in Oshkosh-Neenah and the county was 3.3%.

The preliminary, nonseasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in metropolitan statistical areas decreased in all Wisconsin metropolitan areas over the month.

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GET CARE NOW

Matthew's story

FROM PAGE 1

recently been prescribed. The medication is used to treat epilepsy and seizures and is approved for the treatment of bipolar disorder.

On Jan. 31, 2008, the Food and Drug Administration issued an alert that the use of anti-epileptic drugs can increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior.

"He should have had proper screening," Adamski said. "He should have had gene



Bassing-Sutton

mapping done to make sure that he was being prescribed a medication that would suit him, especially because mood stabilizers can cause these bad effects. If somebody is already feeling suicidal, putting them on a med that could make it worse is

just not ideal."

Adamski said her brother is one of the best people she has ever known.

"He is a writer and an artist, and he is an incredibly kind, very gentle soul," she said. "He loves helping people."

She shared an essay that Matthew wrote about his mental health challenges. In it Matthew describes writing as putting his thoughts of destruction into fictional characters.

"To bring the pain you have onto things," he wrote. "To scream it out and let out the pains you have burrowing inside of you; the things that control your actions. Your thoughts, your feelings, the things that bring something called suicide as an option to escape the reality you yourself created. The world is a cruel thing, yet it is so beautiful."

Suicide warning signs

- Talking about killing themselves/wishing it was over/never waking up
- Feeling hopeless
- Unbearable pain
- Feeling like a burden to others
- No reason to live
- Increased use of drugs/alcohol (other risky behaviors)
- Talking about specific ways to take their life
- Aggression/irritability
- Isolating from friends/family
- Saying goodbyes/giving things away
- Dramatic relief from sadness/agitation/anxiety/aggression/irritation

(N.E.W. Mental Health Connection)

For those struggling with suicidal thoughts, dialing 9-8-8 will connect you with the national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline or texting HOME to 741741 will connect you to the Crisis Text Line.

Matthew has a long road to recovery. The family has started a Facebook page called "Matthew's Miracle" to share updates on his prognosis. A fundraising campaign at gofundme.com/f/support-matthews-miraculous-recovery seeks to raise money to support his ongoing medical needs.

Adamski has also started the Fox Valley Suicide Awareness and Advocacy group on Facebook to provide support for others who may be thinking about ending their life.

"I think that it's really important for all



Neenah News

A sign ahead of the College Avenue bridge in Appleton offers support for people who may be considering suicide.

of us to lean on each other," she said.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control shows that in 2022, 49,000 people in the United States died by suicide, the highest number since 1941.

Though the official data for 2023 won't be released until later this year, provisional data indicates the number of suicide deaths will likely surpass those in 2022.

Suicide was the 11th leading cause of death for all ages in the United States in 2022, the second leading cause of death for ages 10-14 and 20-34, and the third leading cause of death for ages 15-19. People ages 85 and older had the highest rates of suicide in 2022.

Nationally, suicide rates declined from 2018-2020, before steadily increasing each year, indicating the COVID-19 pandemic, with its social isolation and economic uncertainty, may have played a factor.

The national trend mirrors local trends, with Winnebago County seeing an increase in suicides this year, with 19 deaths to date. In 2023, the county recorded 27 suicide deaths, up from 23 in 2022.

That's according to Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer, who spoke at the county's Judiciary & Public Safety Committee meeting in September. The timing of the announcement was especially poignant as September is National Suicide Prevention Month.

Brehmer said this year the county has seen a significant decrease in suicides by firearm and an increase in suicides by hanging. According to the CDC, firearms were used in 55% of suicides in 2022, while suffocation was the cause of 25% of deaths.

The county refers families who have lost a loved one due to suicide to Community for Hope or N.E.W. Mental Health Connection.

"As our office is considered the 'last responders,' we try to work closely with partnering agencies by providing data regularly to those that specialize in the efforts of suicide prevention," Brehmer said.

Sarah Bassing-Sutton is the Community Suicide Prevention Coordinator with N.E.W. Mental Health, commonly called "The Connection." The organization serves Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie counties and deals with mental health problems by "improving how the system functions to serve everyone better, rather than one individual's mental health needs."

"So suicide, for example, is a wicked problem that no one organization is going to solve on their own, but through collective impact, we work together to coordinate the system to improve the care such that we're implementing evidence-based best practices and serving folks to improve the outcomes of all," she said.

She explained that suicide is the result of prolonged stress.

"Whether it's chronic pain, whether it is financial stress, whether it's relationship stress, these things that go on for an extended period of time, and there is a seeming hopelessness of them ever improving, that can kind of culminate in a risk for suicide," she said.

Though there's not a particular factor that experts blame for the increase in suicides, Bassing-Sutton said there are recurring themes that could contribute to reducing suicide rates.

"Some of those are simply addressing folks' basic needs and the impact of basic needs not being met on mental health and suicide rates," she said. "Access to care is another one of those overarching themes that when people are not able to get the care that they need for whatever the reason might be."

Social connection is also critical "and really is an impactful lever that we can look at improving and working on as a community that might also impact the suicide rate significantly, just by doing some simple things," she said.

That includes providing support to a person who is experiencing distress.

"Sometimes people need someone to listen," she said. "Sometimes people just need someone to walk alongside them. Sometimes people need to just be heard and validated and to know that they're not alone."

Bassing-Sutton said access to lethal means is often a factor in following through on a suicidal act and she encouraged people to be aware of how firearms and medications are stored.

She noted that Winnebago and Outagamie counties have public health vending machines that include lock bags and gun locks, free to the public. Each county website has information on using the machines under the Public Health Vending Machine tab.

When speaking with people who've survived a suicide attempt, Bassing-Sutton said they tend to be in a place of tunnel vision, where they can't see any other way to solve their pain.

Adamski confirmed that in her brother's case, that's true.

"He did not want to actually die," she said. "He just didn't want to feel that way anymore."

Matthew's suicide attempt has inspired Adamski to return to college and become a mental health advocate. She and Matthew have also discussed working together to try to use his experience to help others once he's further along in his recovery.

"There are always people out there who care," she said. "Even if you don't feel like you have a support system, there are people out there who will support you. And Matthew's story has really proven that."

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Reading about beer nearly as much fun as drinking it

With fall weather upon us – it’s 50 degrees, sprinkling and breezy as we write this – nothing feels better than to cozy up with a good book and a tasty beverage. Of course, that beverage should be beer, and that book should have something to do with beer.

Yes, searching the internet is the quick way to consume any information, beer included. Yet, there’s a certain warmth and peace that only comes from sitting on the couch, sliding on a Snuggie – the original wearable blanket – and opening an actual book.

Wife: Hold on! You won’t catch me in a Snuggie. It’s a Slanket or nothing.

Husband: Well, wear whatever you want. And, however you get your hands on a great beer book is your choice (a local bookstore such as Thomas A. Lyons Fine Books on Wisconsin Avenue, a delivery online or a search at Goodwill).

Wife: We’re not judging; just get something that’s interesting.

Husband: We’ll get to specific book recommendations in a minute, but please remember that our wonderful Neenah Public Library is loaded with beer-related books that won’t cost you a dime to check out. The section we explored had dozens of books that covered the history of brewing, beer tours, homebrewing, beer tasting and much more. It’s an affordable way to explore all the ways beer enhances our lives.

Wife: We’re so fortunate to have our library and all the people who work to make it amazing! I know they’d be eager to help folks navigate the shelves.



Shelves at the Neenah Public Library offer an impressive selection of beer-focused books waiting for you to discover.

Husband: OK, I’ll share some books, and Wife will add some comments. This should be fun.

Husband: “State of Craft Beer” (shown in this article’s main photo above) by writer/photographer Mathew Janzen is a gorgeous book, featuring photos of Wisconsin brewers, farms, equipment and freshly poured beers. It’s also informative, with each chapter covering a different aspect of the brewing process, from the grain to the growler. The copy isn’t lengthy, but it is well written.

Wife: This is definitely a “coffee table” book you can show off.

Husband: Another beautiful book you’ll want to savor, “The World Atlas of Beer,” takes you around the globe and transports you to faraway lands that all appreciate a good beer. Authors Tim Webb and Stephen Beaumont must have loved doing research for this one, covering 35 countries and 500 beers. Beer meccas (Germany, Belgium, England, U.S.) are fully explored but so are some hidden gems (Iceland, China, New Zealand and



Photos by Eric Severstad

Books about beer can range from food pairings to historical references to advice for brewing at home.

others).

Wife: I gave you that book for Christmas years ago! Glad you still like it so much.

Husband: Beaumont makes another appearance in this article (this time with chef Brian Morin) for “The Beerbistro Cookbook,” one of hundreds of books about beer and food. Soon after you crack the cover, you’ll be convinced that beer complements every food style imaginable, and it’s all incredibly mouthwatering. You don’t need to be a foodie to make Beer Butter Tarts or Stout Macadamia Nut Brownies.

Wife: Cooking with beer should be as natural as it is with wine. It really adds flavor.

Husband: Those sweet treats remind us that “Cookies & Beer” by Jonathan Bender is a collection of cookie recipes that either pair well with craft beer or use it as a tasty ingredient. How about Rye IPA Apricot Crumble Bars or Ginger Lemon Radler Cookies or Smoked Porter Mocha Chocolate Cake Cookies? You’ll be the talk of the holiday party with one of these.

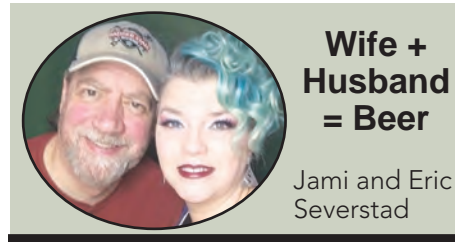
Wife: I’d be putty in your hands if you made those smoked porter cookies for me.

Husband (taking notes): If anyone is interested in brewing beer at home (it’s legal and safe), the go-to book for decades has been “The Complete Joy of Homebrewing” by Charlie Papazian. Sure, it was first published 44 years ago – right when homebrewing was made legal – but the detailed information is still relevant, and it’s a charming read. “Relax, don’t worry, have a homebrew” remains some of the best advice we’ve ever read.

Husband: In “Ambitious Brew,” Maureen Ogle explains the history of brewing in our country, especially the large breweries producing American-style lager beers, and how they were so important to Wisconsin’s economy and reputation. This book isn’t just informative, it’s an eye-opener. Learning how and why innovators and entrepreneurs shaped the industry into what it’s now become is essential reading for beer geeks.

Wife: That was another gift I gave you! As a history lover, I’m thrilled that book shared some new insights.

Husband: One book on my wishlist is “Al Capone’s Beer Wars: A Complete History of Organized Crime in Chicago During Prohibition” by John J. Binder. The title really says it all, but a detailed look at the colorful and deadly under-



Wife + Husband = Beer

Jami and Eric Severstad

world from 1920 to 1933 sounds fascinating.

Wife: Is this a hint for a holiday gift? It sounds like a hint.

Husband: If books about beer history are up your alley, the only digital recommendation from Wife+Husband=Beer this month is the Oshkosh Beer blog (oshkoshbeer.blogspot.com) expertly written by Lee Reiherzer. His book “Winnebago County Beer,” featured in a photo in this article, shares entertaining stories about local legendary breweries such as Walter Brothers, Peoples and the Oshkosh Brewing Co.

Wife: If you made those cookies for me, I would eat them while reading Lee’s blog.

Husband: Speaking of making history, here are Wisconsin’s medal winners awarded during last weekend’s Great American Beer Festival in Denver. The gold in the American Amber/Red Ale category went to Third Space Brewing (Milwaukee) for a beer called “Pretty Good.” The gold Oatmeal Stout award was won by Vintage Brewing (Madison) for “Scaredy Cat.”

Wife: I bet “Scaredy Cat” would be excellent in some cookies, too.

Husband: Brewed in Waunakee, Octopi Brewing/Untitled Art’s “Non-Alcoholic Oktoberfest” won silver in the Amber to Dark Non-Alcohol category. Oliphant Brewing (Somerset) won bronze for its “Brown Ale” in the English-Style Brown Ale category. Lastly, Third Space’s “Cucumber Lime Blonde” won a silver in the field beer category. Full transparency, we had to look up “field beer” and found they are “any beers incorporating vegetables as flavor or carbohydrate adjuncts in either the mash, kettle, primary or secondary fermentation. Vegetable aromas, ranging from subtle to intense, should be present, but hop and malt aromas and flavors are very low to medium.” (thank you, beermaverick.com)

Wife: “Cucumber Lime Blonde” sounds wonderful ... even without cookies.

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



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Rockets can clinch FVA title with win over Polar Bears

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

It doesn't get any simpler for the Neenah High School football team Friday.

Get a win at home against Hortonville in the regular-season finale and the Rockets will earn at least a share of the Fox Valley Association title.

"Obviously that was one of our goals at the start of the season so to be able to accomplish it is big for us," senior Luke Jung said. "(After the loss to Kaukauna) we thought if we could win out we would have a shot at it, and that's what we did."

Neenah, Kaukauna and Kimberly all enter the final week of the regular season with 5-1 conference records, meaning whichever of the three teams win – unless all three were to lose – will share the FVA crown.

The Rockets last earned a share of the

conference title in 2022 when they ended the season tied with Kimberly for the top spot.

"It feels great to be in this position. We were able to do that two years ago and I remember the feeling," senior Grant Dean said. "To be able to do that again, twice in your four years, is amazing."



Dean



L. Jung

Neenah put itself in the position to share the crown following a 25-7 win over Fond du Lac last Friday in which the Rockets had to overcome a sluggish

start to earn the victory.

Fond du Lac scored the only touchdown in the first quarter to take the lead and had a shot to enter halftime with the advantage after Neenah tied the score. But a defensive stop left the game tied at 7 at intermission and the Rockets erupted for 18 points in the third quarter to take control.

"We prevented them from scoring late in the first and that was big. Then we were able to come out and dominate the second half," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "Against Fond du Lac, we got off to a slow start and they controlled the first half. It would be nice to come out with the momentum and take control of the game early (against Hortonville)."

Dean rushed for 149 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries – his 81-yard scoring run in the third quarter capped the scoring – while quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven ran for two touchdowns and completed all seven of his pass attempts for 132 yards.

Getting the offense cranked up early will be a key against Hortonville, a defense which has allowed an average of 28 points over the last four games and has given up at least 35 points three times this season.

"We really want to get out early and put them on hold the rest of the game," Dean said. "I think we have to be really physical up front on both sides of the ball. We have to execute everything we've been coached on this week and if we do, I think we will be in a good spot."

The Polar Bears are coming off their highest-scoring game of the season – a 27-26 win at Oshkosh West a week ago – but hadn't topped the 18-point mark in the first seven weeks of the season.

Hortonville is led by running back Tristan Berrens, who ran for 228 yards and averaged 11.4 yards per carry in the win over Oshkosh West, while quarterback AJ Pheifer threw for 178 yards and a touchdown.

"We just have to be ready. We can't allow any big plays, just hold them to small chunks and then stop them and get our offense on the field," said Luke Jung, who

Week 9 games

Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games)

- Hortonville (2-4) at Neenah (5-1)
- Appleton North (4-2) at Kimberly (5-1)
- Kaukauna (5-1) at Appleton East (0-6)
- Fond du Lac (2-4) at Oshkosh West (1-5)

Eastern Wisconsin Conference

(records reflect EWC games)

- New Holstein (4-2) at St. Mary Catholic (0-6)
- K/SL/SC (3-3) at Kiel (6-0)
- Roncalli (4-2) at Chilton (2-4)
- Brillion (4-2) at Valders (2-4)

led the Rocket defense with 11 tackles and an interception against Fond du Lac. "Just playing together, sticking together and staying disciplined – doing what we are supposed to."

Neenah has already wrapped up its 10th straight WIAA playoff berth and will learn this weekend what lies ahead in the post-season, but Steve Jung doesn't think that wanting to know their playoff opponent will affect the Rockets' mindset this week.

The head coach said the team has had a strong week of practice and knows it has to be focused against the Polar Bears.

"Our focus has been really good this week. We're getting a lot done at practice," Steve Jung said. "When we lost to Kaukauna (earlier in the season), that took a little mojo out of our sails. Since then, I think the guys have been really focused and dialed in on getting better each day so we can finish strong at the end of the season."

SEE **Football** ON PAGE 15

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Rockets, Zephyrs gear for individual state tennis meet

Neenah News

This week's WIAA State Individual Tennis Tournament will definitely have a bit of a Neenah area flavor to it.

Both the Neenah High School and St. Mary Catholic programs had strong performances at last week's sectional tournament and were well represented in the Division 1 and Division 2 fields as the state individual tournament began Thursday at Nielsen Tennis Center in Madison.

The Rockets won the sectional title at the Division 1 Oshkosh West sectional last week, dominating the field to earn its 21st trip to the team state tournament next weekend. Neenah won individual titles at all seven flights and will have its top two singles players and top two doubles teams competing in Madison this weekend.

Izzy Murray won the sectional title at No. 1 singles outlasting a trio of opponents on the way to the title. She breezed past Mckennah Orth of West Bend East, 6-1, 6-0, in the first round but had to bounce back from a first-set loss to beat Slinger's Rachel Olafsson 1-6, 6-2, 10-6 in the semifinals. In the title match, Murray – who earned her second trip to the individual state tournament – topped Xavier's Dana Keesler, 6-4, 6-2.

Joining Murray at the state meet will be No. 2 singles player Celia Gentile who dropped only one game in two matches at sectionals, beating West Bend West's Ashley Wick 6-0, 6-0 and Xavier's Sophia VanStraten 6-1, 6-0.

Neenah's No. 1 doubles team of Meredith Werner and Sydney Michalkiewicz not only captured the sectional title but earned the No. 7 seed in the state doubles field. The duo won all three matches at sectional in straight sets, topping Xavier's Kate Jannette and Mariel Pante, 7-6, 6-1 in the finals.

The Rockets' No. 2 pairing of Ava Motto and Rebekah Thomas earned the trip to state by winning the sectional title in its bracket, knocking off Xavier's Gabby Stammer and Grace Ogden 6-4, 6-2 in the finals.

Completing the sweep of sectional champions for the Rockets were Ella Motto at No. 3 singles, JB Kennedy at No. 4 singles and the No. 3 doubles team of Josie Kohlbeck and Evelyn Buss.

Ella Motto earned her title with a 6-1, 4-6, 10-4 win over Sheboygan North's Thea Bates, while Kennedy stopped Slinger's Natalie Stuetgen, 7-6, 6-1 to win her title. Kohlbeck and Buss won both of their sectional matches in straight sets and beat Sheboygan North's Reese Tevsh and Aoife Meyer 6-0, 6-2 in the finals.

Murray, Gentile and the duo of Ava Motto and Thomas took to the state tournament courts Thursday and results were not available for this issue. Werner and Michalkiewicz were set to take the court for the first time Friday morning.

St. Mary Catholic also had an impressive performance at the Division 2 Kohler sectional, headlined by the No. 1 doubles pairing

of Vivie Auth and Adel Schneider.

Auth and Schneider improved to 27-0 on the season by winning three matches at sectionals, including a 7-6, 3-6, 10-4 triumph over Sophia Torke and Grace Villwock of Kohler in the title match. Those two pairings are the top two seeds in the state doubles bracket with Auth and Schneider earning the overall No. 1 seed in the field.

Auth and Schneider earned a first-round bye at the state tournament and will take the court for the first time Friday and could face a familiar opponent in their first match.

The Zephyrs' No. 2 doubles pairing of Emily Vogel and Nadia Alexander also qualified for the state meet after winning their sectional title and if they advance past the first round at state Thursday, they will face Auth and Schneider.

Vogel and Alexander are 24-3 on the season and won a pair of straight-set matches at sectionals to earn the crown and automatic state tournament bid.

The two St. Mary Catholic doubles teams will be joined by senior Audrey Wanless, who will compete in singles. Wanless is 7-3 on the season and earned her trip to state with an at-

large bid after falling in the first round at sectionals.

The Zephyrs had one other flight win a sectional title last week as the No. 3 doubles pairing of Nolie Anderson and Lorelai Miller won a pair of straight-set matches to win in the title.

St. Mary Catholic was also represented at sectionals by the rest of its singles lineup with Ella Chier taking second at No. 3 singles, while Erin Blaney at No. 2 singles and Alice Cole at No. 4 singles each finished third.

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Healthy Vanevenhoven at home at QB for Rockets

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah High School's talented dual-threat quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven was posed with the question of whether he likes running the ball or throwing the ball more.

There was a pause and then a smile from the 5-foot-11, 175-pound senior.

"That is a tough one," he said breaking the brief silence. "I don't know."

After a few more moments of silent thought.

"I definitely like running the ball," he said, "but I really like throwing it, too."

Good thing for the Rockets Vanevenhoven does both really well.

Entering this Friday's season-finale against Hortonville, Vanevenhoven stands third on the team in rushing with 331 yards and seven touchdowns on 83 carries. He also has completed better than 71 percent (69-of-97) of his passes for 1,040 yards, six touchdowns and two interceptions.

Vanevenhoven said that the way the Rockets run the ball actually helps the team's passing game as defenses get lulled into trying to stop the ground attack.

"(They are) always seeing run and then eventually when we pop up and do throw the ball they are not ready for it," said Vanevenhoven, who was a perfect 7-of-7 for 132 yards, while rushing for two touchdowns in last week's win over Fond du Lac. "It keeps the defense guessing."

Vanevenhoven has been a quarterback since he first strapped on the flags for flag football as a youngster and there has never been consideration in switching to another position along the way.

"I just always liked throwing the ball and I think I could always throw the ball decently well," Vanevenhoven said. "I have just always been a quarterback."

After living in Texas for two years, Vanevenhoven and his family returned to Wisconsin and he began to follow the Neenah program intently.

That continued into middle school when he would attend games and sit in the middle school section at the old Rocket Stadium. As a freshman, he would be on the sidelines for the games getting a closer look at where he hoped to excel.

"It's something I always saw myself doing," Vanevenhoven said of playing for Neenah High School. "It's definitely a dream come true to be out here. It's what I



Neenah News

Evan Vanevenhoven has bounced back from an injury-plagued junior season to help lead the Neenah offense this year as the Rockets' dual-threat quarterback.

always wanted to do."

Vanevenhoven got his shot with the Rockets as a sophomore when he was named the starting quarterback prior to the start of the season.

Most sophomores playing in a talent-rich league like the Fox Valley Association on a team that would eventually tie for a conference title, might be a bit overwhelmed jumping into a starting quarterback role.

And it did take Vanevenhoven some time to get comfortable being out on the field against the FVA's best. Not much time, but some.

"After that first snap in the first game, I was fine. You just kind of get sucked into

the game and you kind of forget about everything else," Vanevenhoven said. "There were definitely some butterflies at times, but mostly just excitement. I was just excited to be able to be out there experiencing that."

Vanevenhoven certainly had a breakout season.

That sophomore year he rushed for 1,185 yards and 14 touchdowns, averaging better than eight yards per carry. He also completed 63-of-94 passes for 995 yards and 11 touchdowns.

It was a good enough season to earn honorable mention all-FVA honors – one of two sophomores to be recognized by the league along with teammate Grant Dean – and set the stage for what was expected to be an even better junior season.

That never happened.

In the season-opener against De Pere, Vanevenhoven injured his right wrist and was forced out of action.

He returned to play against Appleton North in Week 6 and then started against

Senior Standout



Kimberly the following week, but was injured again and would not play the rest of the season.

"I was always trying to stay as active as possible with the team," Vanevenhoven said. "I was talking to Ashton (Van Beek, who replaced him), talking to the whole offense trying to keep them focused and locked in. I just wanted to do whatever I could to help."

And even if he couldn't suit up or play, he always had a bit of the game with him.

"I always had a football in my hand," Vanevenhoven said. "I was itching to get back and play."

That would have to wait for the 2024 season and Vanevenhoven has shown no ill-effects from the injuries last season.

He said that he worked hard in the off-season to get stronger and ready to go and there was no tentativeness when he stepped on the field for the opener.

"I felt good going into the season," Vanevenhoven said. "It wasn't a concern. I was ready to go."

The return of Vanevenhoven teaming with the talented Dean give the Rockets one of the most versatile and explosive backfields in the state.

And since Dean has returned from an injury suffered in a Week 4 loss to Kaukauna, the Rockets have rattled off wins over Appleton North, Kimberly and Fond du Lac – all playoff teams from last season – and can clinch at least a share of the FVA title with a win on Friday at home against Hortonville.

"I think we're in a groove right now," Vanevenhoven said. "We are starting to understand each other and I think we are working together well. We're having fun in practice and playing well as a team right now."

Vanevenhoven isn't sure what lies beyond his high school days as far as football goes. He hasn't decided if he wants to continue playing or what he might be doing post-graduation.

Yet, he will certainly take plenty of fond memories with him from his stellar prep career and lessons learned on the gridiron that can become part of his everyday life.

"It's great being a part of Neenah's football tradition. It's special," Vanevenhoven said. "Just the discipline to your team and yourself is something I will take away. Being disciplined every day, I think that is something I can carry on the rest of my life."

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Frightfully Good Friends

Edsel is a vampire. Agnes is a ghost. They're best friends at Ghoul Night School.



How many bats can you find on this page?

The two friends have a lot of things in common, but they also have some differences. Do the math to complete this Venn diagram to discover what they have in common. If the answer is between 1 and 9, that's something Agnes likes. If the answer is between 10 and 15, that's something Edsel likes. If the answer is 16 or above, both like it.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Waking up early = 1 + 1 | Old music boxes = 4 + 3 |
| Reading scary stories = 8 + 8 | Rocking chairs = 10 - 5 |
| Ketchup = 5 + 5 | Mirrors = 2 + 6 |
| Creaky doors = 4 + 2 | Dark clothing = 20 - 5 |
| Surprising people = 9 + 10 | Moonlight = 15 + 10 |
| Garlic = 12 - 4 | Sleeping late = 7 + 3 |
| Dusty attics = 11 + 11 | Playing piano = 11 - 2 |
| Dark corners = 23 - 4 | Sunsets = 7 + 1 |
| Singing in basements = 20 - 2 | Foggy nights = 7 + 9 |

Extra! Extra! Scary Search

Look through the newspaper to circle:

- Three words that rhyme with the word GHOST
- Three words that rhyme with the word SCREAM
- Three words that rhyme with the word FRIGHT

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify rhyming words.

Play Problems

Sometimes friends disagree. Agnes wants to play casket-ball at recess. But Edsel wants to dig in the sandbox. Use the code to see how they settled this dilemma.

After flipping a coin, they agreed to



- | | |
|-------|-------|
| ■ = A | ■ = N |
| ■ = B | ■ = O |
| ■ = D | ■ = P |
| ■ = G | ■ = R |
| ■ = I | ■ = T |
| ■ = L | ■ = W |
| ■ = M | ■ = Y |



Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow written instructions.

Hide and Shriek

Agnes hid some things in the cemetery for Edsel to find. He needs your help to find these items:

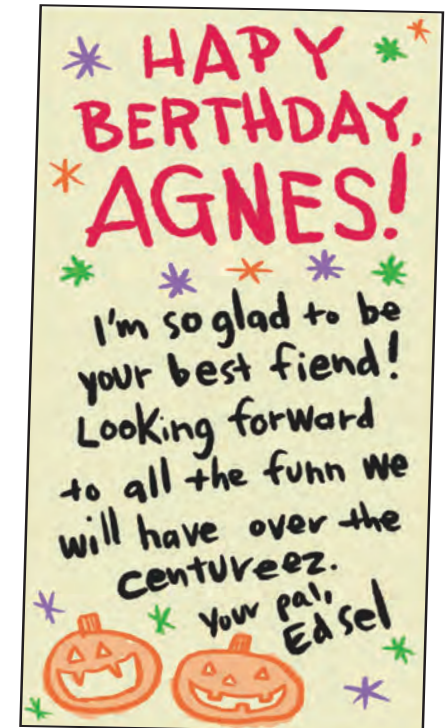
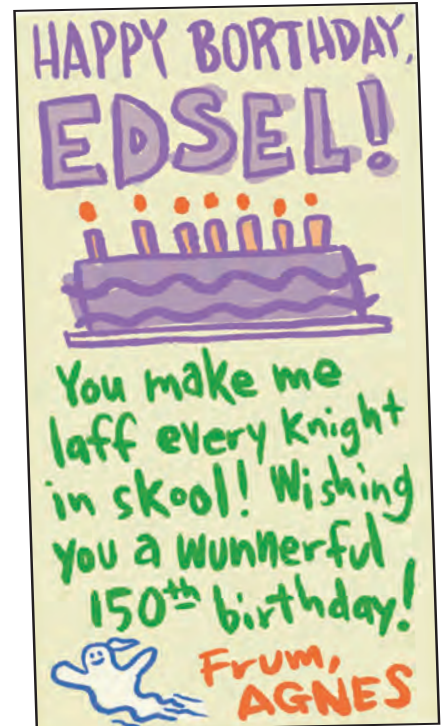
- BASEBALL
- SHOE
- TOOTHBRUSH
- PAINTBRUSH
- PENCIL
- MITTEN



Standards Link: Use observation skills.

Kid Scoop Together What a Card!

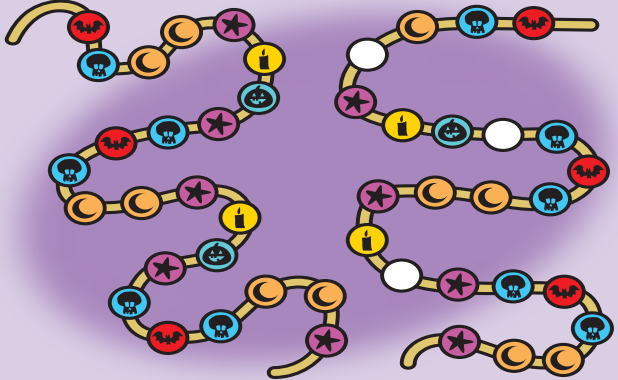
Agnes and Edsel share the same birthday: October 31. They made birthday cards for one another. But both cards have some spelling errors. Can you circle their mistakes? Rewrite the messages on another sheet of paper.



Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Edsel and Agnes are making friendship bracelets. Draw the missing beads that will make them exactly the same pattern.



Standards Link: Complete patterns.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

- BALL
- CREAKY
- DARK
- DIG
- DUSTY
- FOGGY
- GARLIC
- GHOST
- HIDE
- LATE
- MUSIC
- MOONLIGHT
- SCARY
- SUNSETS
- VENN

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

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

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Rockets top Terrors for Senior Night win

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Neenah boys volleyball sent its trio of seniors out on a high note Tuesday. Miles Weaver, Julian Kuehn and Ben Donaldson helped the Rockets bounce back from a first-set loss as Neenah knocked off Appleton West 22-25, 25-22, 25-18, 25-20 on Senior Night inside the Neenah High School gym. "I was really pleased how we responded after dropping set one tonight," head coach Jake Coenen said. "We struggled with some mental errors that allowed West some momentum."

After dropping the first set to the Terrors, the Rockets trailed 8-4 early in the second set before a big kill from Weaver ignited the Rockets. Led by Weaver and Trevor Ricketts, Neenah built an 18-13 lead on the Terrors.

Appleton West answered by scoring eight of the next 11 points to tie the set at 21 apiece, but kills from Weaver and Donaldson – the first following an impressive dig by Spencer Schidemeyer – helped the Rockets close out the set and even the match.

"Our seniors brought our guys together strong the rest of the way, and it was good to get back in the win column in conference play," Coenen said. "Miles kept us on pace with his offense once again but Julian Kuehn I felt had a very good night to build off of moving forward."

Weaver's kill capped the third-set win for the Rockets, who led by as many as seven points before the Terrors pulled to within five points late.

Neenah then built a 16-10 lead en route to winning the fourth set and closing out the victory.

Weaver led the Rockets with 26 kills, while also picking up 10 digs in the match. Julian Kuehn added 13 kills, while Cam Diekfuss chipped in a whopping 55 assists and four aces for Neenah.

Levi Stecklking led Neenah with 18 digs.

"Some things we need to improve heading into the playoffs are bringing down our errors, whether they are in serve receive or at the net," Coenen said. "We need to just become more consistent in those areas moving forward. We have some really good stretches of play that we need to build off of and know the type of team we can be."

Prep sports roundup

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Neenah topples West, rolls at tournament

Five different players finished with at least seven kills and Neenah stayed on a roll in the Fox Valley Association with a 25-19, 25-23, 21-25, 25-19 win at Oshkosh West last week.

"It's a huge win," Neenah head coach Nate Leitermann said. "The girls came in here and understood what we wanted to do. They carried all of the momentum. That first set win helped us get the victory."

Neenah led almost the entire first set, taking a 10-9 lead on a kill from Paige Hoelzel off a Wildcat block and never trailed after that. Ella Nigl got the final two points for the Rockets on kills.

The Rockets trailed 23-22 in a seesaw second set before scoring the final three points to take a 2-0 lead. After West missed a serve for a side-out, Elaina Kramer's tip found the floor to get the Rockets to game point and Ally Corrente finished things out with an ace.

The Wildcats came back to take the third set but Neenah used a five-point run – ignited by a Corrente kill and blocks from Hoelzel and Nigl – to take a 15-7 lead. West would get as close as 18-16 but the Rockets scored the next four points and were able to finish off the win.

Nigl led the way with 11 kills while Kramer, Sophie Krema and Lilly Romjue each had nine. Corrente also chipped in seven kills.

"That's what makes us so hard to play against. We have five or six girls with eight or nine kills. We have so many star players, you never know who is

going to lead us," Leitermann said. "Props to our setters for spreading the ball out and to our hitters for putting it away."

Corrente led the Neenah setters with 17 assists, while Nadia Marchionda added 13. Ella Lindgren chipped in eight assists while also leading the team with 17 digs.

Neenah also had a strong showing at the Kettle Moraine Invitational on Saturday, scoring wins over Greendale, Fond du Lac twice and Union Grove, while the loss the Rockets suffered was to Slinger.

On Monday, the Rockets dispatched Howards Grove in a nonconference match 25-19, 26-24, 25-19.

Nigl had a huge night for Neenah, totaling 17 kills in the match, while Romjue had the next highest total with six. Corrente led the team with 23 assists, with Marchionda posting 14 assists.

Aubrey Lindgren led the team with four aces, while Romjue and Ella Lindgren finished with 17 and 13 assists, respectively.

Zephyrs notch pair of nonconference wins

St. Mary Catholic picked up a pair of nonconference wins in the past week, including a five-set marathon against Lourdes Academy which the Zephyrs won 25-22, 21-25, 25-21, 23-25, 15-10 on Tuesday.

Autumn Crowe and Elianna Brenn led the way with 14 and 11 kills, respectively, while Sammi Weiss finished with 18 assists. Ava Rankin led the team with 15 digs.

Last week, the Zephyrs posted a 23-25, 25-15,

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 15

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 14

25-22, 25-17 win over visiting Iola-Scandinavia. Crowe finished with 11 kills and 19 digs, while Brenn totaled five kills and five blocks. Weiss and Stella Virlee finished with 14 and 10 assists, respectively, while Virlee also had a team-high four aces.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Neenah breezes past Sun Prairie United

Miles Weaver finished with 18 kills, two aces and two blocks as Neenah rolled past Sun Prairie United 25-16, 25-8, 25-22 in a nonconference match last week.

Trevor Ricketts and Julian Kuehn each had seven kills, while Ricketts chipped in four blocks and Kuehn added seven digs.

Cam Diekfuss had 38 assists in the win.

SWIMMING

Bauman posts two wins to lead Rockets

Rylie Bauman won a pair of events and Neenah swept the top three places in the diving competition to edge Fond du Lac 102.5 to 79.5 on Tuesday.

Bauman finished first in the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard backstroke for Neenah, which also got individual event wins in the pool from Anna Mulroy in the 50-yard freestyle and Breleigh Maurer in the 100-yard freestyle.

The Rockets' Hannah Slabbert in first, Sydney Hansman in second and Ceci Pirwitz in third grabbed the top three places in the diving competition.

Earning second-place finishes for the Rockets were Mulroy in the 500-yard freestyle, Maurer in the 100-yard backstroke, Bridget Bloomhuff in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle, and Aubrey Murwar,

who tied for second in the 50-yard freestyle.

Neenah also won the 200-yard medley relay with Mulroy, Bauman, Stamm and Maurer.

On Saturday, Neenah finished second at the Oshkosh West Invitational, led by a pair of first-place finishing relays.

The 100-yard freestyle relay of Kacie Stamm, Evie Geiger, Sophie Wypiszynski and Bauman won their race, while the 100-yard medley relay team of Mukroy, Bauman, Maurer and Bloomhuff also finished first.

Bauman picked up the lone individual first place by winning the 25-yard freestyle, while adding a fourth place in the 50-yard freestyle, Mulroy picked up second-place finishes in the 50-yard freestyle and 50-yard backstroke.

Other top finishers for Neenah were Sydney Hansman, who tied for third in diving; Stamm, fourth in the 50-yard backstroke; and Sienna Kodama-Forget, fifth in the 25-yard freestyle.

CROSS COUNTRY

Ripley, Higgins lead St. Mary Catholic girls

Lauren Ripley placed 11th and Claire Higgins took 12th to lead St. Mary Catholic at the Brillion Invitational last week.

Claire Mislinski was the next Zephyr runner to finish in 47th place, followed by Alice Troian Mello (57th place) and Addison Moder (62nd place).

St. Mary Catholic placed eighth of the nine complete teams.

The Zephyr boys did not compete as a complete team but had Ethan Auer finish in 32nd place and Brady Deleeuw take 42nd place.

Neenah girls, boys finish third at Port Washington

Both the Rockets girls and boys squads finished in third place at the 44th annual Port Washington Invitational held last week.

Brooke Veith turned in a strong race for

the Neenah girls finishing just outside of the top 10 in 11th place.

Elsa Weiland was the next Neenah runner to finish in 17th, two spots ahead of teammate Callie McElroy. Elise Braaten in 26th place and Claire Gloudemans in 33rd place rounded out the scoring runners for Neenah, which finished behind powerhouses Slinger and Brookfield East.

Hartford won the boys title while Neenah finished just seven points behind Germantown for second place.

Zach Verhagen led the Rockets with a third-place finish, finishing only about 12 seconds behind the individual winner.

Aidan Apa was the second Neenah runner

to finish, placing 20th, followed by Nolan Smith in 26th place, Jackson Holzhaus in 27th place and Nathan Johnson in 36th place.

SOCCER

Barrientos tallies goal as Zephyrs notch tie

Kieran Barrientos scored the lone goal for St. Mary Catholic in a 1-1 tie with Cedar Grove-Belgium last Thursday.

Barrientos scored off an assist from Nathan Sieske.

Zachary Beyer made seven saves in goal for St. Mary Catholic.

The Huskies feature one of the top running backs in the conference in Erick Burns, who has rushed for 856 yards and five touchdowns this season. Quarterback Landon Floyd has thrown for 888 yards and 13 touchdowns, but has also tossed 10 interceptions this season.

The loss to the Raiders halted a four-game winning streak for New Holstein, however, the Huskies weren't totally dominant in that stretch. Three of those wins came by three points or less and four of the five wins for New Holstein this season have come by less than 10 points.

Football

FROM PAGE 10

St. Mary Catholic

The Zephyrs will wrap up the season with a home game against playoff-bound New Holstein on Friday.

St. Mary Catholic suffered its largest loss of the season and was shutout for the first time this year in a 42-0 loss to Brillion last week and will try to bounce back against a New Holstein team that is coming off a 35-0 loss to Kiel last Friday.

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: KOLTEN JEFFREY ALTFIL-LISCH

By (Petitioner) EMILY ALTFIL-LISCH GRASEE

By (Co-Petitioner) PARIS A.L. DREIBELBIS

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2024CV000948

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Kolten Jeffrey Altfillisch To: Kolten Jeffrey Grasee Birth Certificate: Kolten Jeffrey Altfillisch

IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. Michael S. Gibbs

Place: 415 Jackson, Room 211


Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: November 18, 2024 Time: 9:00 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4868 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Neenah News a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin.




BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: October 9, 2024 /s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch IV Runs: October 18, 2024, October 25, 2024 and November 1, 2024 WNAXLP



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