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Photo by David Hall

Bot builders

The Neenah Public Library and Plexus Corp. kicked off the Tween Create Space series recently by inviting children to build their own robots. The series continues through the fall with haunted graham houses Tuesday, creative coasters on Nov. 5 and suncatcher chains Nov. 19. No registration or experience is required. Go to neenahlibrary.org for details.

Police to shift service time resources

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Police Department is planning to reduce its front desk hours next year as part of a reorganization to better support the public.

Front desk hours are currently from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. On Jan. 1, hours will be reduced to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday; and closed on weekends and holidays.

Neenah's new police lobby hours will align with those of Menasha and Fox Crossing.

Residents will be asked to wait to report non-emergency concerns and questions that occur in the evening or overnight until the front desk is open. For emergency calls, 911 will dispatch an officer.

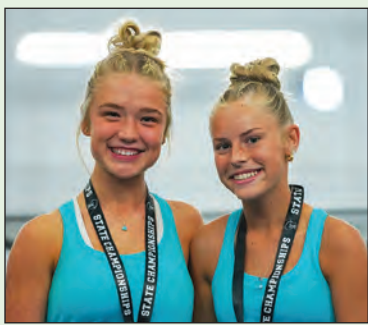
For non-emergencies after hours that require an officer to respond at that time, residents may call Neenah Police at 920-886-6000 and the call will transfer to the sheriff's office, who will dispatch officers.

Assistant Chief Jeff Bernice assured residents that the goal is to provide uninterrupted service to citizens.

"So, no matter what, a person is picking up the line and talking to the citizen," Bernice said. "In the big picture, there is no change to the citizen, only who is picking up the phone."

Bernice said police are focused on administrative questions that may come up
SEE **Police access** ON PAGE 5 after

INSIDE



Perfect pair
Zephyrs' tennis duo have special season
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Election goals
Candidates tell us why they're running
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Family hardware store unaffected by court proceedings

True Value announces sale to U.S. competitor

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

After 158 years in the community, the local Krueger True Value hardware store isn't going anywhere, despite a recent announcement that True Value is filing for bankruptcy and selling business operations to industry competitor Do It Best by the end of the year.

As True Value stores are independently owned, the 4,500 locations throughout the United States are expected to largely be unaffected by the change announced last week, other than one company-owned store in Palatine, Ill.

"From our perspective, it'll be business as usual," Krueger True Value co-owner

Brian Webb said.

Brian, 67, and Jim Webb, 73, are lifelong Neenah residents and the fifth generation to own the local hardware store. Jim's son and grandson are the sixth and seventh generations working there.

Brian and Jim were practically raised in the store, playing among the aisles. After graduating from Neenah High School, both briefly left the city to attend college – Brian at UW Madison, and Jim at UW Milwaukee.

As Brian explains it, after college the brothers felt compelled to return to Neenah and continue the family business.

"To me personally, I grew up in our store downtown and I just was in there frequently," he said. "I saw my father interact with customers, I saw how he treated cus-

SEE **Hardware family** ON PAGE 8



Submitted photo

Brothers Jim (left) and Brian Webb are fifth-generation owners of Krueger True Value and continue its day-to-day operations.

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General information/customer service: Jennifer Grunwald
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Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor

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

Corrections

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Battle of bands show to benefit Casa Esther

Neenah News

A first-ever battle of Neenah and Oshkosh big band jazz groups will provide an evening of musical entertainment and fundraiser from 6 to 9 p.m. today (Friday) at Becket's Atrium in Oshkosh.

Featuring the Oshkosh Water City Jazz Orchestra and Neenah's Big Band Reunion, the event will support the Casa Esther Catholic Worker House of Omro. Admission is free but donations will be appreciated.

Both bands will alternately play jazz classics during the evening that also fea-

tures a silent auction, craft sale, cash bar with bar snacks, and other activities. Becket's encourages reservations for those who wish to have dinner at the restaurant.

"We have wanted to have a battle of the bands event for a couple of years," said Kurt Shipe, co-founder of the Water City Jazz Orchestra, "but organizing the event was more than our group could take on. Connecting with Casa Esther, which was looking to host a fundraising activity, made the event a possibility."

Ken Skitch, co-founder of the Big Band Reunion, concurred.

"We're very excited to play alongside

the Water City Jazz Orchestra and do something to help Father Joe's Casa Esther. Father Joe and I have been playing with the Big Band Reunion since it began 33 years ago."

Casa Esther, founded in 2008 by Father Joe Mattern, provides assistance to the area's poor, with essentials from diapers to rental assistance as a way to lend a helping hand to those struggling on the path to self-sufficiency. Casa Esther works with other community groups, including St. Vincent DePaul, Winnebago County HELP, Advocap, Leaven and the Salvation Army.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Halloween decor

The stage was set for the annual Halloween party hosted by the Neenah Police Department in this undated photo.

Calendar of events

Saturday, Oct. 26

Old Fashioned Saturday, noon, downtown Neenah locations

Debunking the Paranormal with Barnaby Jones, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

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., Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial St.

Thursday, Nov. 7

Books Are Fun sale, 8 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

Downtown Neenah Shop and Stroll, 3 p.m., various locations

Neenah High School Boys Basketball Booster Club fish fry, 5:30 p.m., Best Western Bridgewood Resort Hotel

Friday, Nov. 8

Books Are Fun sale, 9 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

Saturday, Nov. 9

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Fall Craft Fair, 9 a.m., 1140 Tullar Road, Neenah

Neenah Historical Society fundraiser, 6 p.m., Alta Bank building, 101 W. Wisconsin Ave.

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Zuppa's still satisfying appetites with new owners

By Jenny Grunwald
NEENAH NEWS

Zuppa's new owner and head chef Alex Little had been the restaurant founder's right-hand man for almost two decades before taking over the iconic cafe and bistro.

Peter Kuenzi, who owned and operated Zuppa's for 25 years serving Neenah and the Fox Valley area, threw in the apron for retirement earlier this year and left it in the hands of Little.

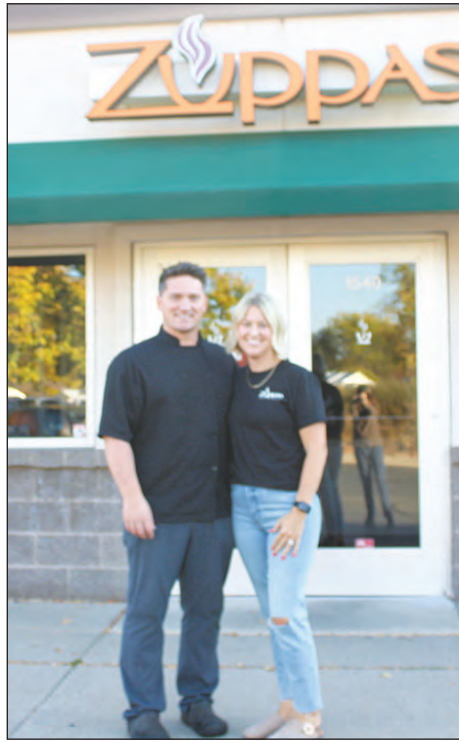
In 2003, Zuppa's moved to its current location at 1540 S. Commercial St. and in April was sold to Little, who has worked closely with Kuenzi since 2006.

"For almost a decade I have been assuming a lot of the responsibilities I find myself with now and (it) gave me the confidence that taking over was something I could do, but ultimately wanted to do as well," Little said.

Zuppa's will mark its 26th year in 2025 and has remained a community staple. Little acknowledges that one of the most challenging parts about owning and running a restaurant is the different options available. He said the best way to succeed in the food industry is to continue to put out a high-quality product and stay true to what the business has stood for.

Kuenzi graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. and after working in upscale establishments in Florida and Chicago, came back to the area to work as a chef at The Seasons in Appleton and Power Boat Club in Oshkosh. In 1999, Kuenzi opened Zuppa's in the downtown Marketplace where Broken Tree Pizza is now.

"The corporate catering business really



Alex and Katie Little are shown in front of their Zuppa's restaurant on South Commercial Street.

Neenah News

took off, so we kind of outgrew it," Kuenzi said.

In the midst of the recent pandemic the food industry and local restaurants were one of the hardest-hit industries, yet Zuppa's managed to maintain a successful, up-and-running business. The indoor set-up was workable within Covid standards and regulations at that time, with a glass shield running along the ordering counter to separate customers from food. It also worked as a separation divider between customer and staff.

Like every restaurant trying to get by

during that time, they also offered curbside pickup. But what really kept them operating was their family meals.

"Some days we would sell 30 to 35 family meals that served four people," Little recalled. "If we did that five days a week, that was making food for a wedding every day."

While Zuppa's menu stays consistent it also keeps it fresh with changing daily specials – anything from paninis to full entrees.

"One day you could get a hearty meatloaf and mashed potato meal, and later that night someone else could get an elegant pan-seared salmon with an Asian style flair," Little said.

Although Zuppa's main offerings have remained staples, an updated fall menu is in the works. Little said it will feature dishes that he enjoys making but remain what Zuppa's has always been: a cafe/deli/bistro.

Zuppa's has always offered grab-and-go lasagnas, soups, chicken pot pie and meatloaf entrees among its takeout items. Little is also trying to offer a mini-type market.

"Things that will be included will be different house-made dips, dressings, sauces, pasta salads, entrees that are ready to heat and eat," he said. "(We're) always trying to make it more convenient for our customers."

Little said their biggest change may be in their cocktail program. Zuppa's has always held a liquor license and Little wants to better implement it into the Zuppa's dining experience by offering craft cocktails. While Zuppa's has always been known for its lunch services he would like to get more customers in for dinner hours as well. Little explains that expanding the beer, wine, and cocktail program is the first phase of getting customers in the door to try Zuppa's out for dinner.

Little and wife Katie are Neenah natives who have been married for 11 years and have five children together.

"We were both raised in Neenah our whole lives and can't wait to serve the community that has given us so much and continues to be a wonderful place to raise our kids and be in business," Little said.

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Short story night makes for collaborative flow

By David Hall
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

People rely on their electronic devices not only for things to read but also for socialization through apps like Facebook, Tiktok and Instagram. With the advent of the digital age, fewer people are going to their public library to read books and magazines.

The Neenah Public Library has bucked that trend. Over the last couple of years under the leadership of director Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm and former director Gretchen Raab, the library has had a laserlike focus on using the library's prominent place in society to build community. In any given month, there are special events like the puzzle building challenge, Monster mash dance challenge and many more.

Regular activities such as mah-jong, chess and ukulele jam are designed to build community. Within this healthy ecosystem, Richie Zaborowske conceived Short Story Night. With a degree in English, Zaborowske moved to the Neenah area nine years ago taking a job as reference librarian in the adult section.

Six years ago, as a new parent, he did not have the time to read a full book for a regular book club and figured there were others who did not have the time as well. Zaborowske chose Lion's Tail Brewery as the perfect venue with its intimate space, welcoming atmosphere and of course beer, an ideal spot outside of the library for ruminations on literary works.

Short Story Night is like attending a fun college English class. Zaborowske does a tireless job each month combing literature for timely short stories where the author



Photo by David Hall

Participants in the monthly Short Story Night at Lion's Tail Brewery listen to host Richie Zaborowske at a recent session presented by the Neenah Public Library.

is willing to chat with the assembled local community. Once the story is chosen, however, his work has just begun. Building community is his goal.

"My goal is to make the Neenah Public Library a community hub," Zaborowske said, "a place where people from all walks of life can come, not only to check out books, but to have a conversation, get to know their neighbors. A place where people feel like they belong and can contribute."

He shares funny stories of his family life to warm up the audience, followed by a rousing game of multiple-choice trivia – not unlike "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me" on NPR – for prizes. He poses relevant questions about the short story and asks the audience to discuss in small groups.

Those discussions not only involve the story but also meeting members of the community one may not normally meet on the street or at the coffee shop.

A whole group discussion then ensues with people making observations and asking questions about the work. Toward the end of the hour, Zaborowske brings the author out, either in person or virtually, to foster the discussion. He does his homework on the author, often reading multiple other works and preparing insightful questions about the work and the author's background as well.

"One of the most popular stories we ever did was 'On the Rainy River' by Tim O'Brien. The story is about the Vietnam War," Zaborowske recalled. "When we

discussed the story, Lion's Tail was standing room only. I had men who served in Vietnam, sitting alongside college students. And everyone was talking and sharing their perspective.

"It was a remarkable thing to witness, and it still gives me goose bumps to think about. Because where else can you get that? Where else can you go on a Monday night and flex your intellect? Where else can you go where others are going to listen?"

City resident Mark Neuman has been a regular participant and said the monthly gathering brings back memories of the late '70s at UW Madison campus watering holes where people convened to discuss a variety of topics, including literature.

"This opens your mind to consider what libraries have evolved to and what they could possibly become," Neuman said. "They're no longer the dusty old Carnegie book vaults of the last century, but rather incubators for ideas and social interactions."

As Zaborowske artfully brings the discussion to a close, he reveals next month's reading and also makes it available online. Despite the show being over, he and many other attendees linger and chat about a multitude of topics before the community event concludes.

Zaborowske likes to develop other nontraditional programming with game themes when he's not being a DJ for weddings, and put together a Taylor Swift themed party at the library in December that drew more than 500 people.

The monthly stories can be downloaded from the Neenah Public Library's website or copies are made available on the library's second floor.

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Police access

FROM PAGE 1

hours, such as residents asking about ride-alongs, hiring and school projects, and noted residents can wait until the lobby is open to get those types of questions answered.

The new hours are part of an employee restructuring that will reduce the number of full-time communications technicians staffing the front desk from three employees to one.

One full-time communications technician position will be eliminated and another redefined to assist in the open records department, which is seeing a higher number of records requests.

Police Chief Aaron Olson noted in a memo that the open records clerk received 1,744 records requests last year, which resulted in 2,166 responses.

“For one open records clerk who works 1,950 hours (fewer when accounting for vacation and sick leave), it is no longer sustainable for one person to handle this extremely important task, which brings great risk to the city of Neenah,” he wrote.

Police are also planning to eliminate a part-

time administrative assistant position as it is no longer needed due to police switching to a web-based timesheet program. The assistant’s duties will be taken over by the existing full-time executive assistant.

By eliminating the two positions and redefining another, police expect to have enough funds to create a new community service aides (CSA) supervisor position to oversee the CSA and crossing guard staff and assist with routine code and parking enforcement needs.

Olson wrote that CSAs, who take minor calls such as barking dog complaints, locked vehicles, traffic control and parking complaints, are future police officers and “one of our most underutilized and under-supervised units . . .”

“To hire, train, retain and make our CSA program better, we must create a full-time supervisor,” he wrote.

The restructuring is expected to save the city more than \$10,000 of its operating budget, increase CSAs effectiveness and make the open records process more efficient.

“I am saddened by having to vacate two positions, but to make our organization the best, most effective and efficient that we can be, it is necessary,” Olson wrote.



Submitted photo

Halloween musical

The Fox Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines will present their Halloween show “Unfinished Business” at 7 p.m. Saturday at St. Mary Catholic High School. The chorus’ spooktacular performance will be interactive and filled with ghosts, ghouls and humor. Guest performers will include Missfits, Fox Sounds, Baritones, Sweet Addiction and It’s about Time. For tickets, call 920-851-6364.

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Candidates for state, national offices share priorities

Neenah News

As the Nov. 5 general election approaches, the Neenah News reached out to candidates running in our coverage area. Each candidate was sent identical questions and were given time to submit responses. Some did not respond.

Senate District 18

Kris Alfheim (D-Appleton) is a lifelong Wisconsin resident and currently serves on the Appleton Common Council and is a small business owner.

Why are you running for this office?

I have the necessary experience and skill set to move Wisconsin forward and leave the partisan gridlock in the past. Throughout my entire life, I've served the people of Wisconsin: in my career, as a retirement planner helping hard-working, middle-class families navigate the complexities of retirement, and in my free time as an advocate for both the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA) and the Alzheimer's Association.



Alfheim

As an advocate, and later as an alderperson on the Appleton Common Council, I learned how to effectively work with community leaders and legislators on both sides of the aisle to get legislation passed that actually supports our communities, and that is exactly what I plan to do as your state senator.

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

My top priority is kids. We have a responsibility as a community to keep our children fed, housed, healthy and educated. Investing in our kids is the best and most important investment we can make, and we should start by properly funding our public schools.

My second priority is one that weighs on the minds of many women, regardless of political affiliation: reproductive health care. We must empower the women of Wisconsin to make the family planning choices that are right for them by ensuring that they have access to affordable contraception and safe abortions.

Finally, we must expand BadgerCare. We are one of only 10 states that have not done so, even though it would save the state \$1.7 billion in just two years. That's just fiscally responsible, not to mention that it would help ease financial burdens on both consumers and healthcare providers.

Anthony Phillips (R-Appleton) is a cancer physician serving the Fox Valley for more than 30 years and is a small business owner.

Why are you running for this office?

Having raised five children and practiced medicine for 25 years in the Fox Cities, I've grown to love this region of Wisconsin, and I'm proud to call it home. I'm running for the 18th state Senate district because I want to keep serving the people of my community by demonstrating that we can work together to curb the ever-rising cost of living, create a business environment in Wisconsin, promote a strong education system, and improve job training for our citizens so they can be independent of government. I'm running to support our law enforcement who put their lives on the line to keep us safe.



Phillips

And as a physician, I'm running to have a positive impact on our health care system at a time when we're seeing spiraling health care costs and shortages of physicians and other health care staff.

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

The top issue I'm hearing about is the high cost of living that is causing harm to all our citizens, from the youngest to the oldest. As a state senator I'd combat inflation by limiting government spending and cutting taxes, allowing Wisconsinites to keep more of their hard-earned money. We need to look at ways to find efficiencies in government and cut down on wasteful spending.

The high cost of health care and lack of accessibility is also a major issue. As a physician, I'd seek out ways to improve health care availability and affordability in Wisconsin, without reducing the quality of care our citizens receive. I'd start by working with stakeholders to find efficiencies in the health care system, which will help reduce costs in the long run. I'd also take steps to improve physician recruitment and retention, to ensure positions in the medical field are well staffed.

Assembly District 53

Dean Kaufert (R-Neenah) is a native of Neenah and Menasha, a former state Assembly representative and from 2014-2022 was the mayor of Neenah.

Why are you running for this office?

I'm running for the 53rd Assembly District because I love the Fox Valley and I want to make a difference. I consider my-

self a common-sense leader with a proven and effective record. My past experience as state representative and as Neenah mayor has shown that I get things done by listening and working with people in both parties.

During my eight years as mayor the community grew and experienced many positive results for the citizens and area. I helped convince ThedaCare hospital of their importance to our community and worked with the governor, Kimberly-Clark and the local unions when the company wanted to relocate the Cold Spring Manufacturing Plant out of state. I was successful in convincing them to stay after working with all parties on an incentive package, saving 408 union jobs.



Kaufert

I have a reputation of being well respected on both sides of the aisle and prefer my "No Political Games, Just Positive Results" mantra. I believe we must work together to make positive changes within our state and communities.

I enjoy public service and would appreciate your consideration for state representative.

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

Over the past three months I have been walking the district, knocking on several hundred doors per day. Folks tell me they are concerned about protecting jobs and strengthening our economy, lowering taxes, increasing access to quality, affordable health care, helping to slow down child care costs and increase availability. I have also heard from folks that want to make sure we protect our borders and hold criminals accountable.

Having policies in place that lower the tax burden for business, industry and our workforce will help continue to move this state and district forward. There can be creative ways to help families that are struggling with child care costs such as increasing the child care tax credit.

Lastly, using my many years of experience to convince members of both parties they can work together, compromise and negotiation can work and make any issue a winner for all sides. I look forward to solving problems that come before us in a bipartisan fashion.

Duane Shukoski (D-Neenah) is a lifelong Neenah resident who was a longtime employee with Kimberly-Clark Corp. He also worked with the state Department of

Natural Resources on better environmental practices and effective sustainability initiatives.

Why are you running for this office?

Shukoski: I was born and raised in Neenah and grew up in foster care. I worked at Kimberly Clark for 37 years and worked my way through the company and received six patents. For over a decade, it has become partisan in Madison. I want to bring our community together and work on bipartisan common-sense solutions to address the issues facing my community. I want to give back to the community that raised me and am proud to be running for the 53rd Assembly District.



Shukoski

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

Families are struggling to make ends meet. I will reach across the aisle to find long-term solutions to address the cost of child care, prescription drugs and lowering the cost of health care. These are not partisan issues – the Legislature should work together to address these issues to find sensible long-term solutions.

Another issue I hear a lot about is the right to reproductive health care. I do not belong in a doctor's office. This is a private decision between a woman and her physician. I've sat down with all of the mayors in the district. They all said there needs to be more support from Madison to help keep our communities healthy and safe. I will work in a bipartisan manner to secure more funding for our essential services like police, fire and EMS.

Assembly District 54

Lori Palmeri (D-Oshkosh) is seeking a second term as District 54 representative in the state Assembly. She previously served on the Oshkosh Common Council and as Oshkosh's mayor.

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

I'm running for office to continue representing the 54th Assembly District. There is much work to be done. Being in the minority did not give opportunity to get hearings on bills that



Palmeri

SEE **Candidates** ON PAGE 7

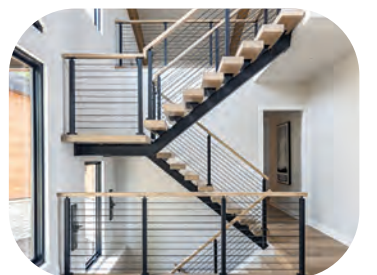


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Candidates

FROM PAGE 6

would make a difference in the lives of district constituents.

I'm running to continue to provide servant leadership to everyone in my district.

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

My top priorities when re-elected will be access to affordable housing, health care, strong public education, a clean environment and reproductive freedom.

Tim Patterson (R-Oshkosh) is a veteran of the Army National Guard, Army Reserves and was deployed overseas twice. He currently serves on the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors. Patterson did not respond to the News' questions.

Assembly District 55

Kyle Kehoe (D-Neenah) is a former police officer and now works in real estate.

Why are you running for this office?

Kehoe: I'm running for office because I believe it's time for leadership that focuses on the needs of the majority, not just a select few. I started my career in law enforcement, serving my community and ensuring public safety. Later, I moved into real estate, where I've spent years helping people make informed decisions about one of the most important investments in their lives. Through these experiences, I've learned the value of clear communication and problem-solving. Now, I'm ready to give back to my community in a bigger way – by advocating for policies that benefit everyone. My goal is to help create opportunities and improve the quality of life for all of us in the district.



Kehoe

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

As a candidate for the 55th Assembly District, I'm focused on three key issues that impact our community. With over 10 years of experience in real estate and a background in law enforcement, I've seen firsthand the challenges people face.

First, I'm committed to tackling affordable housing. With prices continuing to rise, I'm advocating for smarter investments in infrastructure and development to lower costs and make housing more accessible to everyone.

Second, I'm focused on protecting women's reproductive rights. I believe women should have the right to make their own health care decisions and I'll work to ensure they have access to safe and legal reproductive care here in Wisconsin.

Finally, we have to fund public education better from the state level. For far too many years our communities have had to bear the brunt of these costs through referendums. I support increased funding for K-12 schools and the expansion of early childhood education. Every child, no matter their ZIP code, deserves a quality education.

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

Nate Gustafson (R-Fox Crossing) is seeking a second term representing the 55th District and also serves on the Winnebago County Board. He did not respond to the News' questions.

U.S. Congress 6th District

Glenn Grothman (R-Green Bush) currently serves as U.S. representative for 6th Congressional District in the House and is seeking his sixth term. He previously

served in the state Assembly and Senate.

Why are you running for this office?

America is in deep trouble, and we need more voices advocating for the form of government that our founders intended. Federal government spending is so great that now we are spending more on debt interest in Washington than on the Department of Defense. The national debt is now over \$100,000 for every American.



Grothman

I've established myself as a fiscal conservative, but we have deeper problems than just overspending. We need people who understand our issues stem in part from government programs that disincentivize work as well. We need reformers and champions to get our nation back on the right track, and I believe I am the right choice for that.

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

The largest issue is the southern border. At its peak, we had over 350,000 illegal crossings a month. Not only do we miss potential terror suspects and illegal drugs, but this is a humanitarian crisis. This is also unfair to people who work hard to become naturalized citizens.

The second major issue is inflation and debt. Outside of regular spending, three bills were passed which piled onto the debt (ARPA, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the Inflation Reduction Act). I voted against all three. We now have over \$100,000 of national debt for every American. We must cut spending.

We must also address the number of government bureaucrats that touch education and business. They slow down progress and growth while raising the price of government, education, and goods (not to mention the divisive agenda that the Biden-Harris Administration has pushed over the past four years as well).

John Zarbano (D-Oshkosh) is a retired

attorney who currently teaches at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and Fox Valley Technical College.

Why are you running for this office?

I wish to represent the citizens of Wisconsin's 6th Congressional District because the five-term incumbent, Glenn Grothman, does not.



Zarbano

What are the key issues in the district and how do you plan on addressing them?

Protecting our democracy and our personal freedoms. The armed insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, proved President Ronald Reagan's statement: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." We must be ever vigilant to prevent wannabe dictators from public office.

In the U.S., women and men possess the personal, fundamental right to make their own decisions about their lives, which decisions include health care. For a woman, her decisions about health care include access to contraception, access to in vitro fertilization, and access to abortion. I would like to accomplish the reintroduction, passage and signing into law of the Women's Health Protection Act of 2023.

Immigration control and our southern border. The 2024 bipartisan Senate compromise bill tackled immigration control on our southern border with dignity and due process. This bill ended "catch and release," rapidly adjudicated migrants' claims, massively increased border agent hiring, instituted strict asylum screening and more. In my first 100 days in Congress, I would dust off this bill and introduce it in the House of Representatives.

For more information on what is on your ballot, how to register to vote and other voter information go to myvote.wi.gov.

Early voting underway at municipal locations

Early in-person voting in Wisconsin opened Tuesday. Hours and locations for casting an early vote are set by municipal clerks, with hours and locations found at MyVote.wi.gov.

City of Neenah hours at 211 Walnut St. are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 1; Village of Fox Crossing, 2000 Municipal Drive, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 1; Town of Neenah, 1600 Breezewood Lane, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 1.; Town of Clayton, 8348 Hickory Ave., 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon Nov. 1.

A voter can request and cast an absentee ballot at a polling location during the two weeks before an election. The in-person absentee process includes checks of a person's voter registration and identity.

The deadline to register to vote online or by mail has passed, but people can still register in-person at their municipal clerk's office. Wisconsin also has same-day voter registration at the polls on Election Day. Wisconsin requires voters to show a photo ID to register and vote. Acceptable IDs include driver's licenses, Department of Transportation-issued identification cards, student IDs from Wisconsin universities, passports and military ID cards.

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Hardware family

FROM PAGE 1

customers and how he was respected in the community, and I liked all our associates. Our team members at the time were always very kind to me as a little kid, getting underfoot, and it always had an appeal to me.”

Jim, who has worked at the store for 57 years and is one of the longest tenured employees, said the business is similar to farming in that it’s passed down through generations.

“When I was born, the business was up and running and when my father was born, the business was up and running,” he said. “It’s as much a fabric of my life as a farmer. I’ve often considered this store to be my living room and all the customers are guests in my house.”



Neenah Historical Society photo

A historic photo shows William Krueger Co., now called Krueger True Value, located at the site of what is now the Alta Resources building in downtown Neenah.

William Krueger opened the store in 1866 under the name William Krueger Company. MW Krueger was the second generation of ownership, followed by Jim Webb and Jim Webb Sr. The original storefront at 107 W. Wisconsin Ave. is the

current site of the Alta Resources office building.

The hardware store is one of the oldest businesses in Wisconsin. Its initial tax exemption number used to purchase products for resale was 8, indicating the business was likely the eighth in the state to obtain a tax exemption certificate.

True Value was started in 1948 as a member-owned cooperative. Local store owners that join the cooperative purchase merchandise from True Value at competitive prices and receive retail support in areas such as marketing, merchandising and the True Value Rewards program.

Krueger hardware joined the True Value cooperative in 1951, before Brian and Jim were born.

“Back in my grandfather and great-grandfather’s era, they didn’t have large distributors,” Brian explained. “There were a series of generally much smaller distributors that were back in the day called ‘jobbers,’ and store owners got their merchandise from a variety of different sources.”

The business gets truckloads of merchandise from True Value twice a week and there’s been no interruption in service.

“Their recent announcement, it doesn’t affect the individual store, so we’re planning on continuing serving our community like we always have,” Brian said.

At this time there are no plans to change the True Value name or loyalty program.

“Do It Best has a long history of supporting independent retailers, as well, so I think it should be a good fit,” Brian said.

Jim was more apprehensive, noting he has concerns over what will happen when True Value’s warehouse inventories begin to dwindle amid bankruptcy proceedings.

“Right now, we’re a little bit in the dark about what is going on behind True Val-



Neenah News

Krueger True Value employees help customers Monday at the sporting goods counter.

ue,” he said.

Do It Best’s acquisition of True Value will bring the hardlines wholesaler to more than 8,000 stores nationwide, which Brian said will provide better buying power.

“That’s the reason we joined True Value generations ago, and the same fundamentals apply today,” he said.

With Big Lots and Walgreens the latest retailers with local storefronts announcing nationwide closures, and the closest home improvement stores for Neenah residents in Appleton and Oshkosh, independently owned retailers are even more important.

“We still remain a very convenient spot,” Brian said. “We still offer a personalized service. We like to think it’s easy to come in here and get what you need and go, but if you want to come in and take your time and browse and visit with us, you can do that, too. So I think it’s important for independent retailers, regardless of the categories, to stay strong and support their communities.”

In the 1800s, there were five hardware stores in downtown Neenah competing for business. In 1910, the hardware store’s biggest competitors were the Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck mail order catalogs. In recent years, the emergence of online retailers such as Amazon have impacted business.

“What’s happening in retail is probably the most dynamic – not only in True Value, not only in the hardware business – many businesses are struggling right now,” Jim said.

But he added the competition has made Krueger’s strive to improve.

“Business is not given to you; you have to earn it,” he said.

Special at the store is the free popcorn offered to customers as they shop or when they’re leaving. Though other hardware stores offer free popcorn, the tradition may have originated in Neenah. A search of historical newspaper archives indicates the practice became popular in the 1980s, though Krueger’s began giving away popcorn in 1972.

“I think, inadvertently, I may have started something,” Jim said. “I could be the father of free popcorn.”

Jim explained that the tradition began when the store moved to its current location at 999 Winneconne Ave. On the first day the new storefront opened, his father sent him over to greet customers. When he arrived, an employee began popping popcorn.

As customers filled the store, they asked how much the popcorn was and Jim didn’t know what to charge so he let them take it for free and said he’d let them know the cost the next time they stopped in.

“From that point on, we gave away popcorn,” he said. “To this day, and my father

passed away, he never told me if he intended on selling the popcorn or not. I never found out.”

The tradition of free popcorn has continued as a thank you to customers. Brian said it also serves a secondary purpose, similar to the longstanding tradition of hardware stores handing out lollipops at the front counter.

“Many young parents are shopping with their children, and when you give them a bag of popcorn, it keeps them engaged, and then they’re not messing with merchandise or putting all of our nuts and bolts in the wrong place,” he explained.

Reflecting on the history of the business, Brian and Jim said the biggest change over the past 60 or so years are the advances in technology.

Gone are the days of handwriting price tags and placing red sale stickers on items; replaced with barcodes and shelf labeling.

Instead of bringing in items for assistance, customers can bring in a picture on their cellphone.

“It’s just really neat when you have an encyclopedia in your pocket and you can help customers faster,” Brian said.

These days there’s not much guesswork when it comes to ordering merchandise and maintaining inventory. Though hardware stores are known for selling products with a slow turnover, advances in technology and computer systems provide retailers with more accuracy in ordering.

“Now it’s right at your fingertips, and you can make far more intelligent decisions about the appropriate inventory level in your store,” he said. “That’s one thing we can sort of control is having the right amount of products.”

The brothers are past retirement age but continue working at Krueger True Value, helping customers find the random and obscure items they need.

“We’re very hands-on owners here, and we still enjoy, very much, what we do,” Brian said. “Just today, I ran into an old high school teacher of mine, just minutes ago. And so that’s the best part of our business, is interacting with our great customers.”

Jim shared that he gets a sense of accomplishment knowing that someone can come in with a problem and leave with a solution.

“My father told me, ‘Jim, you don’t have to make money on people every day. You value the relationship you have with a client over a lifetime,’” he said.

Though much has changed, customer loyalty to Krueger True Value remains strong, maintaining the business’ position as a staple in the Neenah community for nearly two centuries.

“Customers prove time and time again that they’re willing to come in and support us, and I just hope they continue to do that,” Brian said.

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Zephyr doubles team captures state tennis title

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

St. Mary Catholic girls tennis coach Lizzy Auth admits that her No. 1 doubles team isn't the most physically imposing duo around.

But the pairing of five-foot freshman Vivie Auth and junior Adel Schneider at 5-foot-3, certainly puts on an impressive show when they step on the court.

Auth and Schneider entered the WIAA Division 2 state doubles tournament as the No. 1 seed and simply breezed through the field to claim the championship last Saturday afternoon at Nielsen Tennis Stadium in Madison.

"When people see them in stature, they don't realize how many hours and hours these two young ladies have spent on the tennis court," Lizzy Auth said. "When they went in undefeated and the No. 1 seed, I think they realized these girls are pretty darn good at tennis. That put pressure on them to live up to the No. 1 seed. They both handled it beautifully. They both went in with confidence and played their game and never once did I see them nervous on the court. They played like they know how to play."

The duo becomes the first girls state tennis champion for the program since Tess Reddin won three straight singles titles from 2003-05. Mick Kelly won a boys singles title in 2006.

Auth and Schneider also finished their first season as a doubles pairing in high school with a perfect 31-0 record.

"It's really exciting. I couldn't ask for better people around me - my amazing friends and family, great coaches and a great partner," Schneider said. "I'm just



Photo by Jim Rabitoy

The St. Mary Catholic No. 1 doubles team of Adel Schneider (left) and Vivie Auth captured the WIAA Division 2 state doubles title last weekend. The duo won all four matches at state in straight sets and finished the season with a 31-0 record.

thankful we had this season to spend together and I'm still just taking it all in."

Although this was the duo's first state tournament experience together, Schneider had played at Nielsen Tennis Stadium the last two years in singles competition.

She said that helped settle the nerves some when it came to this year's trip.

"Obviously, (the experience) helps you

a lot," Schneider said. "Playing at Nielsen is a unique environment and so by getting adapted to that the past two years that really helped me."

With Vivie Auth joining the Zephyrs' high school program this season, the two were immediately matched at No. 1 doubles and had success right away.

An early season tournament when the

pair knocked off three Division 1 opponents was an indication of how good these two could be together.

"I think (our chemistry) came pretty naturally. We've known each other since middle school so we had a friendship going into it so I think that made it easier," said Vivie Auth.

The Zephyr pairing beat three seeded opponents en route to the championship, however, the team's first match of the title-winning run may have been the toughest.

After getting a first-round bye by virtue of their No. 1 seed, the first state match together for Auth and Schneider was against teammates Emily Vogel and Nadia Alexander. Vogel and Alexander had beaten Greta Boettcher and Aquila Palacios of Watertown Luther Prep in the first round 6-0, 6-1.

"It was definitely very difficult. That was probably the match I was most nervous for," Schneider said. "It was our first match playing at state together but it was also stressful playing our own team because they are our friends."

Vivie Auth echoed her partner's feelings.

"I think our toughest match was against our No. 2 doubles team because we didn't know what (playing them) was going to be like," Vivie Auth said.

Lizzy Auth had hoped for a different layout to the bracket.

"We were happy excited for them. We just wish we were on different ends of the draw," Lizzy Auth said. "That match brought the most uneasiness because it

See **State tennis** ON PAGE 15

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Bauman carries on strong swimming tradition at Neenah

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

When Neenah's Rylie Bauman was growing up, she tried a number of different sports to see which would be the perfect fit.

She didn't have to look far for the answer.

Bauman followed two older siblings into the swimming pool to find her match and she has turned that into a stellar career as part of the Rockets' program.

"Both of my older siblings swam so it felt like a natural progression," Bauman said. I tried a bunch of other sports throughout my childhood and swimming is just the one that stuck around. It's been a constant for me."

Bauman started swimming competitively at age seven and has been in the pool turning laps ever since.

She was part of Neenah's varsity lineup as a freshman and swam on the team's 200-yard freestyle relay that qualified for the state meet. She returned with the same relay as a sophomore and then made it to state in four events last year, including competing as an individual in the 50-yard freestyle.

Bauman finished 19th in the event at state last year and loves the all-out rush of competing in the shortest race in a meet.

"There is a lot of adrenaline and every little detail matters. My start, my strokes, my turns, every breath I take. It all counts toward the final time," Bauman said. "You know every split second is going to count



because that's how close those times are at the end of the season."

Bauman, who swam on all three relays at state last year, hopes to qualify for state in a second individual event this season.

She has competed in a number of different races throughout the season but believes the 100-yard freestyle may be her best chance to advance.

"We'll see by the end of the season. Hopefully I will have the chance to make it to state in a second event. Every season is different and the competition changes every year," Bauman said. "I never had the endurance to be a distance swimmer so the (shorter races) is what I do. I love to swim fast."

As much as she enjoys her individual races, Bauman appreciates being part of the relays just as much.

She said that although the strokes and distances may be the same, there is certainly a different feeling being in an individual race compared to being part of a foursome.

"When I'm in a relay and I have my people around me and when I have people counting on me to swim fast, I definitely get a little more hyped up. I get a little more



Photo courtesy of Rachel Kephire Council photography

Rylie Bauman is already a three-time state qualifier for Neenah and looking to make her fourth trip to the state meet later this fall.

energy before that race. I have to swim not just for myself but for them," Bauman said. "Individually, it's a little more lonely in the water. You have to rely on yourself to get the energy and to swim fast and swim the way you want to swim."

Neenah's 200-yard freestyle relay – which Bauman anchored last year – nearly came away with a state medal finishing seventh overall, less than two-tenths of a second behind the sixth-place team.

Coming so close to a medal is disappointing but Bauman was also thrilled to swim such a strong race.

"I had never placed that high and so it was good but you are always hoping to make the podium, so maybe a little disappointment, too," Bauman said. "You have to take a look at the times and that's something to be proud of regardless of our overall placement, whether that was seventh or 24th. If it's a good race, it's a good race."

Whether it's as an individual or as part of the relay, Bauman is focused on capping her career at her fourth state meet later this fall.

"Mainly I would be disappointed if I

didn't get to go," Bauman said. "I've had a chance to swim state since my freshman year and it would be a nice way to wrap up the season. It's always nice to have another meet to swim at and another chance to prove myself. Finish the season with a bang."

A state meet might be Bauman's final meet as a prep swimmer but it certainly won't be the end of her competitive career.

Bauman recently committed to continue her career at Fairfield University, an NCAA Division I university in Fairfield, Conn.

Bauman had looked at a number of different schools to continue her career before deciding on Fairfield.

"The recruiting process was long and a little bit stressful," said Bauman, who chose Fairfield over Macalester University and Florida Southern. "To have that all sorted out and to know that I am going to be at a good school, some place where I can push myself and grow to be better, is a very exciting feeling."

"I always planned to keep swimming because it has been a part of my life for so long. What would I do without it?"

Being able to swim gives Bauman an outlet to get away from the stresses of everyday life, which is one of the things she likes most about the sport.

And it's one of the reasons she believes that she will be in the pool even after her competitive days are done.

"When I'm practicing I don't have anything to worry about. I can just focus on the water. It's just a calming place for me," Bauman said. "It will be nice to know I will always have that with me. If I were playing another sport, maybe I wouldn't be able to do it for a long time but I don't know if I'm 70 I will want to be (competing)."

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Neenah gets rematch with Notre Dame at Team State

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

When Neenah hosted its tennis invitational during the regular season, one of the matchups the Rockets had over that weekend was with perennial state powerhouse Green Bay Notre Dame.

The Tritons won the match, 4-3, with a number of individual matches stretching into super tiebreakers.

The two teams will lock horns again in the first round of the WIAA Division 1 state team tournament on Friday at Nielsen Tennis Stadium in Madison. The Tritons come in as the No. 4 seed in the eight-team field, while the Rockets are the fifth seed and taking aim at opening the tournament with an upset.

"It was a tough match for us and we have improved since so we're excited to play," said senior Meredith Werner, who teams with freshman Sydney Michalkiewicz at No. 1 doubles for the Rockets. "Where the team was at – same thing with where we were at as a doubles team – at that time of the season, was a lot different from where we are now. We are excited to take on the

WIAA Team State

Division 1 quarterfinals

Friday, 4 p.m.

Nielsen Tennis Stadium, Madison
(seeds in parenthesis)

Arrowhead (1) vs. Monona Grove (8)

Notre Dame (4) vs. Neenah (5)

Middleton (3) vs. EC Memorial (6)

Brook. East (2) vs. Westosha Cen. (7)

challenge."

This is Neenah's 21st trip to the team state tournament and third trip in the last four years. The Rockets won their first match at state last season – upsetting third-seeded Whitefish Bay – before falling to Arrowhead in the semifinals.

Five of the players are returning from that team, but only No. 1 and No. 2 singles players Izzy Murray and Celia Gentile, respectively, will be playing at the same flight as a year ago.

Werner played at No. 2 doubles a year ago, while Rebekah Thomas and Ava Motto are teaming up at No. 2 doubles this season after playing No. 3 singles and No.

3 doubles a year ago.

The rest of the Neenah lineup will have Ella Motto at No. 3 singles, JB Kennedy at No. 4 singles and Josie Kohlbeck and Evelyn Buss at No. 3 doubles.

"I think we have a great group. We are working hard and everybody is playing well right now," Neenah head coach Dan Grassl said. "We are really motivated so I feel like we have all the things in place to make some noise so we are going to come out swinging."

Neenah is coming off a successful showing at the individual state tournament last weekend.

Both Murray and Gentile won their first-round matches in singles before losing to seeded players in the second round. Werner and Michalkiewicz reached the third round after receiving an opening bye before bowing out, while Thomas and Ava Motto won their first-round match before getting knocked out by the tournament's top seed and eventual state champion.

More than the experience on the court, having the whole team at the event is something that could benefit the Rockets.

"Having our whole team down there to get the vibe of what it was like, even with just cheering us on, I think that helped out a lot. Everybody knows and we are going to be ready for it," Murray said. "I'm really excited. Tennis is a lot more fun when I'm with my team."

Having the entire team being able to participate also showcases one of the strengths of the team.

As solid as the top flights are for the Rockets, one of the team's biggest assets is the depth that they can trot out onto the court.

"Depth is critical in the team situation," Grassl said. "Having three or four singles who can all play against anybody and three strong doubles teams really makes a difference of a team versus a couple of good individuals."

So even if the Rockets may drop a match at one of the top flights, Neenah is confident that the lower flights can come through to deliver a win.

"Our depth is a big advantage and as a team we do rely on them. Having them pulling out a win for us is really helpful," Werner said. "We are 100 percent confident and so are our coaches. We are excited to see what happens."

First and foremost, Neenah will have to get past Notre Dame. If the Rockets do that, top-seeded and defending state champion Arrowhead likely awaits.

Getting another shot at Arrowhead would be special but the Rockets know they have to conquer the Tritons first and only have that match in mind right now.

"We're just really excited and keeping focused. We are ready to play on Friday," Michalkiewicz said. "We want to step on the gas pedal and not let it go."

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Rockets open postseason path against speedy Wildcats

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

By virtue of last Friday's 43-14 thumping of Hortonville in the regular-season finale, Neenah's football program can add another Fox Valley Association title to its resume.

It was the fifth straight win for the Rockets, who started the season 2-2, and left Neenah in a tie with Kimberly and Kaukauna for the top spot in the final standings.

"It's a great feeling and credit to this class," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "After the Kaukauna game (in Week 4), we questioned where we were at for the season and we fought through it. It feels really nice."

The share of the conference title marks the second time in three years Neenah has claimed part of the FVA crown. The Rockets shared the title with Kimberly in 2022.

The two titles in three years is the Rockets best showing since winning three titles in a span of four years in the late 1970s, including back-to-back outright championships in 1976 and 1977.

"It's an amazing accomplishment. It is a great conference and something that we have to work really hard for," said senior linebacker Andrew Carlson. "We feel like we earned this and we want to set the standard for years to come."

Neenah had little trouble dispatching the Polar Bears, racking up more than 400 yards of total offense and building a 36-point lead at one point late in the third quarter.

Grant Dean rushed for 121 yards and a pair of touchdowns, including a 53-yarder for the Rockets' final score that earned them a 43-7 lead. Evan Vanevenhoven

added three touchdowns and 111 yards on the ground, while Cooper Sieck added the remaining touchdown.

Vanevenhoven also finished 7-of-8 passing for 144 yards with Luke Jung catching three passes for 77 yards.

Cole Fenske led the defense with nine tackles, while Luke Moran had an interception.

That win was the Rockets' final tune-up for the postseason as the Rockets will host Milwaukee Hamilton in a Division 1 first-round playoff game at Rocket Stadium on Friday.

The Wildcats, who are the sixth seed in the eight-team regional grouping, finished second in the Milwaukee City-Richardson Conference and are 7-2 on the season. They are coming off a 44-36 win over Milwaukee Bradley Tech and have scored at least 42 points in three straight games.

"We know that offensively they have been highly successful," Jung said. "They have run for more than 3,000 yards already this season so they have speed and that's concerning."

Milwaukee Hamilton is led by running

Level 1 games

Division 1

All games Friday, 7 p.m.

(region seeds listed in parenthesis)

Fond du Lac (8) at Franklin (1)

Oak Creek (5) at Muskego (4)

Milwaukee Hamilton (6) at Neenah (3)

Appleton North (7) at Kimberly (2)

back Latayvious Brown who has 1,396 yards on the season and is averaging 15.7 yards per carry. Quarterback Jacob Lockwood has added nearly 700 yards on the ground and has thrown for 589 yards, while the Wildcats have two other ball carriers averaging more than 10 yards a run - Malik Blockman at 16.6 and Terrence Simmon at 12.2 - while combining for nearly 800 yards rushing.

It's going to fall on a Neenah defense - which held Hortonville to less than 60 yards rushing - to keep that contained.

"We know they are a very explosive offense but we are looking forward to the matchup," Carlson said. "We have to come

with a focused mindset and be very disciplined in our keys and our reads, but we are excited for this matchup."

One of the ways Neenah hopes to combat the Wildcats' speed is by exerting its physicality in the game.

"That's something we take pride in being a part of the FVA. You have to be a physical team to win in the FVA so we know that is something we are going to rely on heavily this week and moving forward," Carlson said. "We want to be just as physical or more physical than any team we play."

The winner of this game will play the winner of Appleton North and Kimberly in a second-round playoff game next Friday.

The Rockets beat both teams during the regular season and will have the advantage of facing a familiar opponent.

"It's easier (to face a familiar opponent) because you don't have to put as much thought into what you are going to do and you have your gameplan half done," Jung said. "No question when you are playing a team you haven't played before it takes more time but (Milwaukee Hamilton) do that much different than what we've seen."

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Strong serving night sparks Zephyrs to WIAA tourney win

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Every point in a volleyball match starts with a serve.

St. Mary Catholic made the most of theirs in a regional win on Tuesday night.

The Zephyrs racked up 16 aces and had even more tough serves that left Omro scrambling as St. Mary Catholic picked up a 25-18, 25-20, 25-19 win to advance in the WIAA Division 3 tournament.

“We relied on our serving tonight to keep us in the game,” St. Mary Catholic head coach Mike Mauritz said. “We did a nice job of hitting seams and forcing out-of-system balls and had a couple of short serves in there to get them off balance. I thought we served pretty aggressively which is what we need to do to be competitive.”

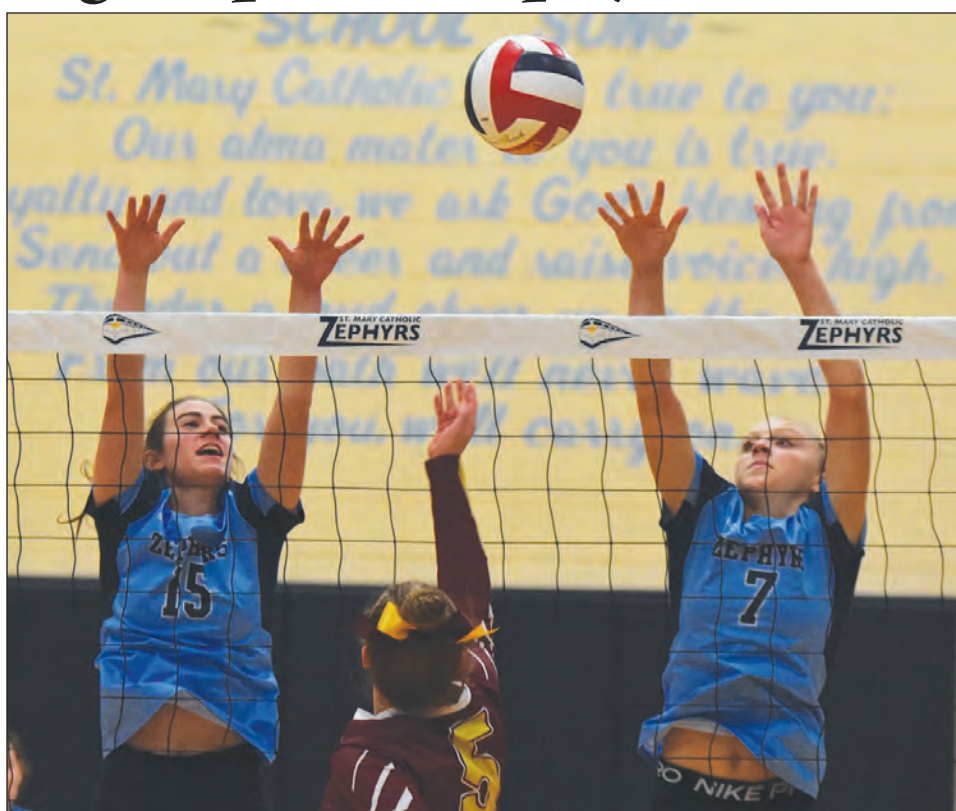
St. Mary Catholic advanced to a regional semifinal on Thursday at Amherst with the winner of that match moving to Saturday’s regional final.

Eliana Brenn led the Zephyrs with eight aces and had a key stretch in the first set to help boost the squad.

St. Mary Catholic trailed 15-12 when Brenn hit the service line and proceeded to score seven straight points – including one ace – to put the Zephyrs in the lead for good.

Autumn Crowe chipped in a tip for a kill and a block in that stretch to highlight a strong first set for the sophomore.

“We had to bring a lot of energy and I was really excited for this match,” Crowe said. “I was really proud of all of us.”



Kate Nackers (15) and Autumn Crowe go up for a block against Omro in a WIAA Division 3 regional match Tuesday.

A Stella Virlee ace and a Crowe kill highlighted a three-point surge by the Zephyrs that stretched the lead to 22-16 before getting to game point on a kill from Maria Johnson and an ace by Crowe.

Omro extended the set with a sideout but missed a serve for the final point to give St. Mary Catholic a 1-0 lead.

“I think it helps a lot,” Crowe said. “If you have the first set won, you can take a

little step back. Still keep going but really try to hit your spots.”

Maurer agreed that winning the first set was important for the Zephyrs to emerge with the win.

“I think it was important to persevere and come through and win that set,” Mauritz said. “Especially with an atmosphere like this. Being down after that first set would have been tough.”

St. Mary Catholic rode that momentum into the second set as the Zephyrs scored the first five points on Sammi Weiss’ serve and took an 11-2 lead after an ace from Brenn.

Omro chipped away and got as close as five points but back-to-back aces from Virlee and then a string of five straight points on Crowe’s serve gave the Zephyrs a 19-7 lead. The Foxes, however, scored 10 of the next 11 points to cut St. Mary Catholic’s lead to 20-17.

The Zephyrs never surrendered the lead and Weiss rattled off four serves to get the team to game point before Brenn eventually ended the set with a big kill for a 2-0 lead.

St. Mary Catholic trailed briefly early in third set before Brenn posted three aces during a seven-point stretch that gave the Zephyrs a 16-10 lead.

Omro rallied to tie the match at 17 before Crowe served six straight points – two on kills by Lucy Nackers – to put the Zephyrs ahead to stay and kills from Johnson and Brenn finished off the win, sending St. Mary Catholic further in the tournament.

“We just need to bring a lot of energy and stay confident in what we do,” Crowe said about the Zephyrs’ getting on a tournament run. “As a team and as a whole, we need to keep each other up and do what we do.”

Crowe finished with 10 kills and Brenn had eight to lead the Zephyrs, while Weiss and Virlee finished with 11 and 10 assists, respectively. Virlee also added four aces.

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Prep sports roundup

SOCCER

Neenah advances with win over Oconomowoc

The Rockets scored a pair of goals in each half and scored a 4-0 win over Oconomowoc in a WIAA Division 1 regional soccer match at home on Tuesday night.

Neenah, the No. 4 seed in the sectional, will be back at home on Saturday afternoon to host fifth-seeded Sussex Hamilton in a regional final. Sussex Hamilton beat Appleton East 3-0.

Ayden Weisbrod got the scoring started on a feed from Ben Mainville in the 10th minute. Ian Baetke made it 2-0 in the 25th minute, securing a failed clearing attempt and putting it in the net for a goal.

Weisbrod bent in a corner kick early in the second half for a 3-0 lead before Trey White would get the final goal of the match for the Rockets.

Julian Gallmeier earned the shutout in net for Neenah.

Barrientos fuels Zephyrs' win

Kieran Barrientos finished with four goals and one assist as St. Mary Catholic capped the regular season with an 8-0 win over Freedom last week.

Jacob Hall added a pair of goals and two assists, while Wes Auth and Alexei Quinonez also scored for the Zephyrs. Auth also added three assists in the win.

Aaron Ruppert made four saves in goal for the shutout.

CROSS COUNTRY

Neenah sweeps titles at FVA meet

Both the Neenah boys and girls cross country teams cruised to titles at the Fox Valley Association meet held last week at Countryside Golf Course.

For the boys it was their fifth straight crown, while the girls claimed their third straight title.

The boys title came in impressive fashion as the Rockets totaled 15 points – the lowest point total possible in a cross country meet – to win the crown. Kimberly was a distance second with 55 points.

Neenah's five scoring runners finished in the top five positions to reach that total, while the Rockets had the top six finishers overall at the race.

Zach Verhagen won the conference title by finishing 31 seconds ahead of the rest of the field, while the next five Neenah runners all finished within 16 seconds of one another. Braedy Klawikowski was second followed by Carson Verhagen, Bly Wheeler, Oliver Steiner and Finn Lettau.

Lettau edged Oshkosh West's Celso

Collins by seventh-tenths of a second to give Neenah the top six places.

On the girls side, Mazie Olkowski repeated as the individual conference champion in leading Neenah to the title.

Elsa Gruber finished third overall as the Rockets had all five scoring runners in the top 10. Natalie Schultz placed fifth followed by Maddie Schoonover in eighth and Natalie Willes in ninth.

Kimberly was also second in the girls race with 78 points.

Zephyr girls seventh, boys tenth at Big East meet

Lauren Ripley and Claire Higgins each finished in the top 10 to lead St. Mary Catholic to a seventh-place finish in the girls race at the Big East Conference meet held on Saturday in Cedar Grove-Belgium.

Claire Mislinski was the third runner to finish for the Zephyrs in 36th place, while Alice Troian Mello was 40th and Addison Moder placed 44th.

The St. Mary Catholic boys finished 10th among the 13 teams led by Nathan Seiske in 24th place.

The other scoring runners for the Zephyrs were Ethan Auer in 42nd place, Brady DeLeeuw in 46th place, Brandon DeBaal in 76th place and Anderson Homburg in 86th place.

FOOTBALL

Zephyrs' season ends in loss to Huskies

Maddox Dwyer threw a pair of touchdown passes as St. Mary Catholic had its season end in a 44-14 loss to New Holstein last Friday.

Dwyer connected with Ezequiel Earwood in the third quarter for a 16-yard touchdown after New Holstein had taken a 35-0 halftime lead. Daniel Harness caught the second touchdown pass and finished with five catches for 45 yards in the game.

The Zephyr defense was led by Alex Alvarez and Mason Wagner with eight tackles apiece, while D. George Voss and Max Vosters each had seven. Wagner also had an interception in the game.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Neenah rallies to beat Appleton North

The Rockets came storming back from a 2-0 deficit to beat Appleton North 20-25, 21-25, 25-16, 25-18, 15-7 in a Fox Valley Association match last Thursday.

The Rockets finish the FVA season in a three-way tie for second place in the conference with Kaukauna and Oshkosh West with a 7-2 mark.

Ella Nigl and Ella Romjue each had 10

Schneider said. "That gave us motivation to complete the job and it was satisfying we were able to do that."

Since both players have the potential to return next season, the opportunity will be there to go for a second straight title.

If they do, the pairing will have a pretty big bull's-eye on their backs.

"It felt good to win. It went pretty smoothly," Vivie Auth said. "I think there will definitely be more pressure next year but that's good. That pressure is a privilege."

In addition to the two doubles teams, the Zephyrs' Audrey Wanless participated in singles competition but was ousted in a close first-round match.

Wanless lost to Kohler's Vivian Torke, 7-5, 4-6, 10-8.

kills to lead the Rockets, while Paige Hoelzel finished with eight and Sophie Krema added seven. Ally Corrente paced the team with 25 assists with Nadia Marchionda adding 19. Corrente also had a team-best four aces.

Krema led the team with six blocks in the match, while Romjue had five with Ella Lindgren posting a team-high 19 digs.

Zephyrs wrap up regular season with win

Autumn Crowe had 19 kills and eight digs, while Eliana Brenn chipped in eight kills and three blocks as St. Mary Catholic edged Weyauwega-Fremont 25-22, 25-22, 25-23 in a nonconference match last week.

Kate Nackers added four kills in the win for St. Mary Catholic.

Stella Virlee and Sammi Weiss finished with 12 and eight assists, respectively, with Ava Rankin leading the team in digs with 11.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Neenah downs Kaukauna in three sets

Miles Weaver finished with 14 kills and 10 digs as Neenah topped Kaukauna 25-19, 25-19, 26-24 on Monday night.

Julian Kuehn added eight kills and Ben Donaldson finished with seven for the

Rockets.

Cam Diekfuss racked up 31 assists and three aces for the Rockets, who will face the Ghosts in a WIAA regional match on Friday.

Neenah also finished 2-1 as hosts of an invite on Saturday, beating Appleton East and Madison East before falling to Madison West.

SWIMMING

Wildcats edge Rockets in FVA dual meet

Anna Mulroy was a part of three Neenah victories but the Rockets came up just short losing to Oshkosh West 96-90 in a Fox Valley Association dual meet on Tuesday.

Mulroy won the 100-yard backstroke, finished 1-2 with Breleigh Maurer, respectively, in the 100-yard butterfly and joined Maurer, Bridgett Bloomhuff and Rylie Bauman in taking first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Neenah's only other victory on the night came from Bauman in the 100-yard freestyle.

Bauman added a second place in the 100-yard breaststroke, while Maurer in the 200-yard individual medley, Kacie Stamm in the 50-yard freestyle and Sydney Hansman in diving also added second-place finishes.

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COLLECTIONS OF OLD BASEBALL & FOOTBALLCARDS. From the 1950s, 60s, 70s & older. Vintage sport memorabilia autographs bobbleheads & Packers/Braves items. Check your attic, basement & closets. We pay in CASH call Jeff 608-438-7702

AUCTION... (COINS-COMICS-COLLECTIBLES) Sat. Nov. 2, Preview 9am, Auction 10:15am Shawno Community Hall 115 E Division St Shawno. Info.. www.zurkospromotions.com 715-526-9769

Real Estate/Rental

5.5 ACRE HORSE HOBBY FARM. Newer 2 story house 36x100 Barn w/Horse Stall's 30x50 Barn for storage 715-823-3052

Legal Notice

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

By (Petitioner) EMILY ALTFILLISCH 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

State tennis

FROM PAGE 9

was never fun to beat your own teammate."

Auth and Schneider beat their teammates 6-1, 6-0 and continued to roll from there.

The duo dropped just one game in a quarterfinal win over eighth-seeded Chloe Roberts and Amelia Lerret of Martin Luther and then toppled Columbus Catholic's Maria Elizabeth Garcia and Akosua Yeboah, the fifth seed, 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals.

In the title match, Auth and Schneider dispatched sixth-seeded Natalie Cooper and Lauren Loesl of Pacelli, 6-0, 6-3.

"Yeah, there definitely was pressure,"

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at www.kidscoop.com
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Kid Scoop News Navigator

Newspapers Know How To Get Around

Imagine you have just moved to a new town. The newspaper will help you get to know your new town! Look through the newspaper to find and list the following:

- The number of movie theaters.
- The names and locations of grocery stores.
- Two apartments to rent.
- Two homes for sale.
- Name of a person who works for the city's government.
- Headline of an article about a local school.
- Score of a local sporting event.
- A job that is available in town.

Standards Link: Language Arts/Research: Use newspapers to locate information.

OCTOBER 21-25, 2024 IS: National School Bus Safety Week



This year's theme for National School Bus Safety Week is **Safety First - Safety Always**. While National School Bus Safety Week is always the third week of October, bus safety is a year-round subject.

School Bus Map
 Read the list of places where the school bus picks up students of Acorn Elementary. Mark on the map places the bus stops, then draw the route the bus will take.

432 Cherry St.
 567 Sycamore Way
 222 Maple Dr.
 848 Manzanita Ave.
 747 Pine St.
 449 Acacia Ct.

Bus Safety Rules Match Game

These are some safety rules from Robin Padgett, a school bus driver from Lynchburg, Virginia. Write the number of the rule each student is talking about next to each student's face.

- Be at the bus stop early.
- Wait for the bus in a safe place—away from the road.
- Listen to the bus driver and follow directions.
- Keep hands, arms and head inside the bus at all times.
- Please don't eat or drink on the bus.

Make a safety poster for your class illustrating one of these rules.

A bus is wider than a car, it gets very close to trees and poles, you could be seriously injured if you have any body parts outside the bus.

Wait away from the road because a car could hit you if you are too close to the road.

You could choke on the food and the driver might not see you.

The bus driver's instructions are for your safety.

The bus driver may not see you running for the bus if you are late, you could slip and fall under the wheels.

Standards Link: Health and Safety: Students know basic traffic safety practices.

Extra! Extra! Number Master

Look through today's newspaper for a number written as a numeral. Rewrite the number as a word using letters.

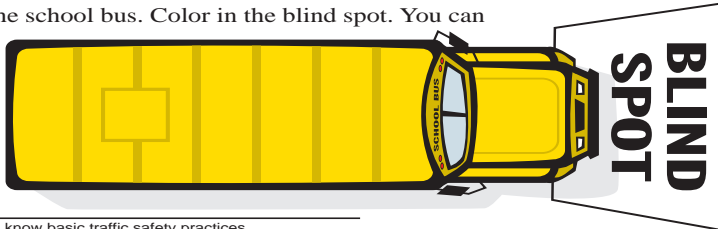
For example:
18 eighteen

Standards Link: Number Sense: Write numerals to 100.

Beware the Blind Spot

Many children are injured each year while getting on or off school buses. This is because the bus driver cannot see the area that is 10 feet in front of the bus. This is called the **blind spot**.

Look at the overhead view of the school bus. Color in the blind spot. You can avoid being in the blind spot by always taking at least 10 giant steps away from your bus before crossing in front of it. And, always wait for the bus driver or another adult to tell you when it is safe to cross the street.



Standards Link: Health and Safety: Students know basic traffic safety practices.

Word Whiz Challenge!

How many three-letter or longer words can you make from this year's School Bus Safety Week phrase? If a letter only appears **once** in the theme, it can only be used once in a new word. For example the word **carrot** would not qualify as the letter **r** appears only once in the theme.

Safety First - Safety Always

Standards Link: Spell: Spell grade level words correctly.

Double Double Word Search

- SAFETY
- RULES
- BEWARE
- BLIND
- ROBIN
- FLASHING
- STOP
- BILLION
- NATIONAL
- GIANT
- DRINK
- WEEK
- FACE
- BUS
- DRIVER

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

```

R E V I R D G S C H
B E W A R E I O L O
L I S U C D A A B U
S K L A P K N I R D
S E F L F O T I A N
S E F E I E T T L I
Y W V T B O T S O B
P B A W U E N Y E O
G N I H S A L F K R
    
```

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

What a Character!

Caring is ...

Remain seated at all times!

... helping younger children with learning school bus safety rules.



Write On!



School Bus Adventure

One day I got on the school bus and to my surprise ...
 Finish this story.

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