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Neenah News

Winnebago and Outagamie counties are moving forward on taking over operation of the University of Wisconsin-Fox Cities campus facilities by the end of June after college classes end for the final time

The UW Oshkosh-Fox Cities Campus board of trustees heard a general update Monday from Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson, who said the counties will first end UW's involvement with the campus on Midway Road in Menasha that began in 1960.

Counties work on campus transfer

"We're looking at three different contracts to complete the sale of the UW. The

Secura Insurance marks 125 years

first one is going to be a discharge, if you will, of responsibilities with the University of Wisconsin," Nelson told trustees. "We are looking at potentially executing that before June 30, which would relieve them of responsibilities ahead of the Dec. 31 deadline."

Supervisor Thomas Swan provided ad-

SEE **UW campus** ON PAGE 2

# INSIDE



# Water wins

Rockets find success in WIAA swim finals Page 12

# Honor rolls

Neenah High, SMC students recognized Pages 8-9

# National company makes its home in Fox Crossing

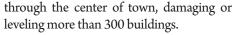
By Bethanie Gengler Neenah News

Secura Insurance is gearing up to celebrate a significant milestone: its 125th an-

From humble beginnings in the rural farming town of Cicero to becoming a staple in the insurance industry with a stateof-the-art office center in Fox Crossing, the

> company has undergone dramatic changes.

In 1899, a devastating tornado tore through Richmond in Wisconsin, western destroying homes and killing more than 100 people. Considered the ninth deadliest tornado in U.S. history, it passed



Hearing of the catastrophe, local farmer



Secura Insurance has its main offices in Fox Crossing while serving customers in 13 states.

Julius Bubolz decided something needed to be done to ease the financial toll caused by storms. He banded together with neighboring farmers and on March 1, 1900, formed an insurance company.

Originally called The Farmers Home Mutual Hail, Tornado, and Cyclone Insurance Company of Seymour, Wisconsin, it changed names several times before the Secura moniker was adopted in 1986.

About 550 independent insurance agencies in 13 states represent the group, which provides commercial, agribusiness, farm, nonprofit and special events insurance.

As a mutual company, Secura is owned by its policyholders rather than stockholders and outside investors. The company's direct written premiums totaled \$999 mil-

SEE Secura at 125 ON PAGE 6

# Local Ukrainian faces uncertain future in U.S.

# **Immigration program** pause forces job losses

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

When 25-year-old Tetiana Chukhniai came to the United States two years ago with her husband and son under the Uniting for Ukraine program, she thought she had found a safe haven for her family to rebuild their life.

But now the family's dreams have been crushed after certain immigration programs were suspended last week. Unable to get their work visas renewed, she and her husband, Ivan, lost their jobs.

The couple face uncertainty in how they will stay afloat in a foreign country and support their 6-year-old son without employment, and whether their temporary

parole status, which allows them to stay in the U.S., could be revoked.

In Ukraine, the family owned a condominium in Kyiv. Tetiana has a master's degree in international law and represented clients in court. Ivan, who is 32, has a bachelor's degree and owned a business as a clothing designer.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Kyiv became a focus of the conflict. The family left the country with only \$200 and drove to Germany where they stayed for a year before arriving in the U.S. in 2023 under Uniting for Ukraine, an immigration initiative implemented by the previous administration that provided a lawful, streamlined way for Ukrainian citizens to temporarily stay in the U.S. for urgent humanitarian reasons.

The program required Ukrainians to find a U.S. sponsor to provide support while in the country. Tetiana commented in a Facebook group to find a sponsor family and connected with a Wisconsin couple in their 60s.

A few months later, the family flew to Chicago to meet their sponsors, Shirley and John Jauguet of Green Bay. They lived with the Jauquet family for about 16 months until they were able to move into a place of their own.

Shirley Jauquet said the Chukhniai family was welcomed by the community and quickly adjusted to the new environment.

"I mean, they're doing everything the right way, and they're the kind of people you want in America; you want them as new citizens," she said.

Their son, Makarii, has flourished, becoming fluent in English and adjusting

SEE **Ukraine family** ON PAGE 7



Ivan and Tetiana Chukhniai with son Makarii visited Lambeau Field during the holidays.





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Page 2 I Neenahnews.com February 28, 2025

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

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# Corrections

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

About the newspaper

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Photo by Amy Nasr

# Citizens' concerns

A listening session hosted last Friday by U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman, R-Glenbeulah, drew an overflow crowd to the Fox Crossing municipal building as many expressed their concerns over proposed Trump administration cutbacks on Medicaid and other federal programs. The Republican 6th District congressman, who is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, held a similar session later that day in the Town of Algoma.

# Help for Homeless hygiene drive underway

Neenah News

The Family Radio Network's 33rd annual Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive will run through March 16, collecting personal hygiene and cleaning products for more than 130 Wisconsin crisis agencies in 22 communities.

The hygiene drive is partnering again with the Fox Crossing Police Department and other community locations to help stock the shelves of 20 homeless and cri-

sis programs in the Fox Valley. Donation drop-offs will be accepted in the police department lobby from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

All donations and financial support remain in the communities where they are collected with the goal of supplying a year's worth of products to each participating agency.

The Family Radio Network Inc. partners with area homeless and crisis agencies by

inviting participating communities to donate hygiene and cleaning products and allow the agencies to dedicate their limited financial resources to personnel, education, counseling, safe housing and nutritious food to those they serve. Hygiene and cleaning products are not covered by the Wisconsin FoodShare program.

Supplies can also be donated at Festival Foods, Walgreens or other participating workplaces, churches or schools.

# Candidate forums set ahead of city, county votes

Neenah News

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County has scheduled forums with candidates running in contested local government positions in the nonpartisan April 1 election.

A forum co-sponsored by the city of Neenah will be held Thursday at Neenah City Hall beginning at 6:15 p.m. with Common Council candidates Jeffrey S. Linski and Frank Cuthbert, who are running to represent District 3. They will be followed by candidates for Neenah Joint School District Board of Education, incumbents Lauri Asbury and Tara Brzezinski, along with Eric Fredrickson, Tom Hanby and Kenneth McNeil, running for three open seats.

A third forum co-sponsored by Oshkosh Media is set for March 13 at Oshkosh City Hall and will be simulcast on its website. Starting at 6 p.m. will be candidates for Common Council, incumbents Karl Buelow, Paul Esslinger and Joe Stephenson, and Brad Spanbauer, who are vying for three open seats. It will be followed by Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education candidates Michael Ford and Molly Smiltneek and Jacob Wolf, vying for two open seats.

Those two forums will be followed at 8 p.m. with candidates for Winnebago County executive, incumbent Jon Doemel and Gordon Hintz.

All forums will be recorded and links will be posted at lwwwinnebago.org and on Facebook. At each event the public is invited to submit questions, which may also be submitted up to two days before a forum at wcLWVinfo@gmail.com.

# **UW** campus

FROM PAGE 1

ditional information at a county board meeting Tuesday, noting that the second contract completed will be to transfer the Weiss Earth Science Museum to the History Museum in Appleton. The third is to transfer the remaining property to the Menasha Public School District.

"We're talking to Menasha School District about taking over this property, purchasing it from us," Swan said.

The need for new tenants to maintain the campus has been stressed by Winnebago County supervisors who noted the potential annual costs of \$750,000 just for heating.

Adding to concerns is the need for up to \$2.2 million in renovations at the Barlow Planetarium, constructed in 1997, to replace the sound, lighting and HVAC system.

In 2022, both county boards approved funds for a feasibility study on upgrading the equipment. The results of the study were sent to UW Oshkosh for bids, but to date the university has taken no action.

Some supervisors had asked that the study should wait until the counties have a better idea of whether a new tenant will be taking over.

In past meetings, dozens of community members advocated for the continued operation of the Barlow Planetarium, Communication Arts Center, University Children's Center and Weis Earth Science Museum.

Winnebago County supervisor Steve Binder said it would be important for completion of the UW transfer by the end of June to assure continuation of day care services there.

Nelson said more details on the status of the contracts was expected next month.



Neenah Historical Society photo

# Serving youth

The Brigade is celebrating its 125th anniversary! On Jan. 22, 1900, Dr. J.E. Chapin, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, established the Boys' Brigade. The building, seen pictured in 1977, has served generations of Neenah youth.

# Sturgeon harvest rebounds from warm 2024

Neenah News

The Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season closed last weekend with twice as many fish taken than the previous year but still under average harvests with water clarity cited as one of the challenges for participants.

Scott Sheppard speared the largest fish Sunday on Lake Winnebago for the last day of the season that was a 126.6-pound,

# Calendar of events

### Friday, Feb. 28

Jig Jam in concert, 8 p.m., Bridgewood Resort Hotel, 1000 Cameron Way Jason D. Petitt, 9 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

# Saturday, March 1

Joanne Kluessendorf Memorial Rock, Gem and Mineral Show, 10 a.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort, 1000 Cameron Way

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

Retro Video Game Tournament, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

# Sunday, March 2

Joanne Kluessendorf Memorial Rock, Gem and Mineral Show, 10 a.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort, 1000 Cameron Way

# Monday, March 3

Big Band Reunion, 7:30 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

# Tuesday, March 4

Downtown Neenah blood drive, 8 a.m., DoubleTree Hotel, 123 E. Wisconsin

# Thursday, March 6

Books Are Fun sale, 8 a.m., The-daCare Regional Medical Center

# Friday, March 7

First Friday Concert Series: Steven Paul Spears and Linda Sparks, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Books Are Fun sale, 9 a.m., The-daCare Regional Medical Center

# Monday, March 10

Big Band Reunion, 7:30 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

# Tuesday, March 18

Kathryn Wedge pop-up art show, 6 p.m., Ballroom at The Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.

# Wednesday, March 19

Kathryn Wedge pop-up art show, 6 p.m., Ballroom at The Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.

# Thursday, March 20

Spring Shop & Stroll, 3 p.m., downtown Neenah

Art After Dark, 5:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

"Growing up Neenah: Stories from the History Harvest, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library



73-inch, F2 female.

No harvest caps were reached for the Winnebago System this year; 142 juvenile females, 322 adult females and 479 males were harvested, and the 90%-99% harvest trigger was met for the Upriver Lakes on the final day.

For the season, there were 95 juvenile females, 273 adult females and 249 males

harvested from Lake Winnebago, and 47 juvenile females, 49 adult females and 230 males harvested on the Upriver Lakes. The total of 943 fish for the system was more than twice the 432 harvested last year.

Those numbers compare with 1,405 sturgeon harvested in the Winnebago System in 2023, 1,519 taken in 2022 and 1,832 in 2021.

# Fox Valley Concert Band performs at Perry Hall

Neenah News

The Fox Valley Concert Band led by conductor Marc Sackman will present its winter concert March 21 in Perry Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus in Menasha.

The free concert, which starts at 7:30 p.m., will feature soloist Kirstin Ihde from the UWO music faculty on piano in

George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Also on the program will be Symphony No. 1 by Timothy Mahr and Morton Gould's "American Salute."

With March 21 being J.S Bach's 340th birthday, the band will perform an arrangement of a chorale as harmonized by Bach. Also being performed will be the march "Semper Fidelis" by John Philip Sousa.

# Neenah Lions Club spring sale currently seeks dealers

The Neenah Lions Club is holding its Super Spring Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 12 at The Dome, 1338 S. Commercial St.

Dealers are encouraged to sign up to re-

serve a space for the no-craft, miscellaneous sale with most categories welcome except for firearms or weapons. Booth spaces cost \$30. Call 952-454-7169 for information.

# Wisconsin Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show

Friday, March 7th, 2025 9am-4pm Saturday, March 8th, 2025 8am-1pm



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- ☐ Want to protect the family inheritance you leave behind for your family's use only.
- ☐ Wish to learn more about **Probate** and how to avoid it.
- ☐ Have a Will that is more than 3 years old or it was created in another state.

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- How you can protect your childrens' inheritances from predators, greedy non-family members, and bad marriages.
- ▶ How veterans or their spouses can receive money to help pay for medical expenses.
- Why signing your home over to your kids might be a huge mistake.
- How planning in advance can help you and your spouse afford quality care.



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Page 4 I Neenahnews.com

# 'Bedside Buddies' offer comfort to young patients

ThedaCare Communications

Pediatric patients at the ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah Emergency Department are finding comfort from an unlikely source: bears. The cuddly stuffed animal kind are being gifted to young patients in the emergency department to provide a distraction from the stress and anxiety often associated with pediatric emergency visits.

"We understand that emergency situations can create anxiety and worry, especially for a child," said Danielle Fischenich, a registered nurse at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. "For many years, we have been exploring innovative ways and resources to provide a better experience for our pediatric patients. Something as simple as a teddy bear can help ease a child's anxiety throughout their medical care."

The "Bedside Buddies" continue a gesture started a few years ago when youngster Ella Bast of Combined Locks donated her birthday gifts to the emergency department after seeing how gifting her little sister something as small as a sippy cup helped calm and provide comfort during an emergency department visit.

"Gifting toys to better comfort our pediatric patients can often be a benefit to their care," Fischenich said. "The idea is to try to make a better experience for our younger patients and support a better association with health care in general. We hope something like the teddy bears can give children the opportunity



Photo from ThedaCare

Bedside teddy bears are helping young emergency department visitors feel less stressed.

to trust care teams for their health and well-being throughout their lifetime."

The ThedaCare Foundation-Neenah, aided by team member donations, awarded grants to help purchase the initial 200 teddy bears.

In addition to Ella's ongoing efforts, Neenah Foundation board members John F. and Tim M. Bergstrom, have made personal donations to support the program.

Visit ThedaCare.org/Foundations to donate to the Neenah Children's Fund or email foundations@thedacare.org for more information.

# **Public library calendar**

### March '

Retro Video Game Tournament 1 p.m.

# March 2

LEGOs in the Library 1 p.m.

# March 3

Stitching Group 1 p.m. Adult Afternoon Program: A World Apart: Molokai's Leprosy Colony 2 p.m. Genealogy 101 6:30 p.m.

# March 4

Powered by Yarn 6:30 p.m.

### March 5

Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

### March

Open Chess 5:30 p.m. Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

### March :

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

First Friday Concert Series: Steven Paul Spears and Linda Sparks 2 p.m.

# March 8

Be. Period. Positive 10:30 a.m.

### March 10

Monday Matinee: "Here" 1 p.m. Community Mural 5 p.m. Short Story Night 7 p.m.

# March 11

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

Tech Talk Tuesday: An Introduction to Cloud Storage 1:30 p.m.

Legal assistance clinic 4:30 p.m.

### March 12

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

Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

# March 13

Wee Read Storytime 10 a.m. Open Chess 5:30 p.m. Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

# March 14

Footloose Friday 10 a.m. Community Mural 3 p.m.

# March 15

Repair Cafe Fox Valley 11 a.m. March 16 LEGOs in the Library 1 p.m.

# March 17

Memory Cafe 1:30 p.m.



Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m.

### March 18

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

Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m. Tween Create Lab: DIY Window Cling, ages 9 to 12 3:30 p.m.

Cookbook Book Club 6:30 p.m.

# March 19

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

Library Board meeting 4 p.m. Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

# March 20

Fox Tales Storytime (all ages) 9:15 a.m. Wee Read Storytime 10 a.m.

Open Chess 5:30 p.m.

Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

History Program: Stories from Growing Up in Neenah 6:30 p.m.

### March 21

Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength 9:15 a.m.

Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.

### March 24

Monday Morning Book Klatch 10 a.m.

### March 25

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

Storytime for Everyone 10 a.m. Movie Talks: "Oppenheimer" 6:30 p.m.

### March 26

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

Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

# March 27

Fox Tales Storytime (all ages) 9:15 a.m. Wee Read Storytime 10 a.m. Open Chess 5:30 p.m. Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

# March 29

Jimmy Buffett Jam 1 p.m.

# March 30

Sunday Concert Series: Erin Krebs Trio 2 p.m.

# March 31

Special Event: Spring Break Program – Messy Monday 10:30 a.m.



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# **Business news roundup**

McMahon engineering, architectural and consulting firm has announced the hiring of Justin Davis as a plumbing designer, Jocelyn Meissner as a civil engineering technician, Seth Sanders as civil engineering technician and Matthew Steger as senior water and wastewater designer. Davis has designed and drafted plumbing and fire protection systems within renovation and new construction projects. Meissner previously worked as a CAD/engineering technician on projects. Sanders joins McMahon as a civil engineering technician. Steger brings more than 15 years of experience in construction and piping project designs.

Fifty-two entries from 25 state communities have advanced to the semifinal round of the annual Wisconsin Governor's Business Plan Contest, including one from Neenah and another from Oshkosh. Mel Ohlinger's OhmCo carwash marketing agency based in Neenah works with businesses and consumers was chosen in first-round competition involving an independent panel of about 70 judges organized through the Wisconsin Technology Council and its programs, the Tech Council Innovation Network and the Tech Council Investor Networks. Phoenix-Aid, which develops wound care solutions for chronic wounds in underserved markets, is owned by Ashwinraj Karthikeyan in Oshkosh. There were 153 first-round entries spread over four categories: advanced manufacturing, business services, information technology and life sciences. Plans include novel metal separation technologies, turning dairy waste into sugars, PFAS filtration for municipal water systems and new medical tests, treatments and devices.

An Ollie's Bargain Outlet warehouse store announced a March 26 grand opening at its new Neenah location starting at 9 a.m. The national chain is taking over the former Big Lots site at 699 S. Green Bay Road that closed in August after less

than a year there. Ollie's has Wisconsin locations in Rothschild, Kenosha and Fond du Lac. Ollie's is a retailer of closeout merchandise and excess inventory with about 550 stores.

The Natural Boutique, which featured therapeutic and natural products along with a variety of gifts, held close-out sales last week as it closed its doors at 125 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Neenah. Owner Amy James also had provided nonprofits an opportunity to sell flowers every Friday in the summer with proceeds going to a different organization each week.

Nine companies were named Wisconsin Manufacturers of the Year at the 36th Annual MOTY Awards program announced Feb. 20, including Neenah-based **Plexus Corp.** as a Grand Award winner in the Mega Category. The program highlights the state's largest industry, which employs 18.4% of its workforce, the largest ratio in the country.

To help companies perform environmental due diligence when conducting commercial real estate transactions, I. I. Keller & Associates has launched its Phase I Environmental Site Assessment service. As these transactions often require an environmental site assessment to satisfy the EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, J. J. Keller's new service manages the process in compliance with ASTM 1527-13 requirements. The assessment includes records review, site visit, interviews, and evaluation and report.

The Entrepreneurship Studies & Venture Center at Fox Valley Technical College has named department chair Doug Schacht as the center's new director, replacing Amy Pietsch, who retired last year. Schacht has been with the center for the past 12 years.







Grammy and Emmy-winning



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February 28, 2025 Page 6 I NEENAHNEWS.COM

# Art Activity Day Saturday, March 1

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Art Activity Day Projects: \$18



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ART AFTER DARK The Event of the Season

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

5:30-8:30PM

Dearest gentle reader, It is with the utmost excitement that this author announces The Event of the Season at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. Festivities will include announcing the Diamond (and Dandy) of the Season, musical entertainment by the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra String Quartet, sweetmeats, beverages, creating your one-of-a- kind fan, and more!

Yours Truly,

Lady Evangeline

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# Secura at 125

FROM PAGE 1

lion in 2024, with new business produced in partnership with agents accounting for \$134 million.

The Bubolz family's leadership spanned 97 years and three generations, with Julius succeeded by son Gordon Bubolz and grandson John Bubolz.

The Bubolz Nature Preserve in Appleton is named for Gordon, a conservationist recently inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame who worked to preserve natural areas. Under his leadership, Secura moved to 10 acres in the Town of Menasha in 1963, over time increasing the parcel size to 22 acres, with two acres later returned to native prairie habitat.

The Menasha Secura office on Memorial Drive was later annexed into Appleton. The building is now occupied by Fleet Farm corporate headquarters, which purchased it after Secura outgrew it and moved to a new home office in Fox Crossing in 2019.

Vice president of marketing Kristin Heiges said the Fox Crossing location is referred to as the Neenah office because of its address. The stunning three-story building was constructed on 200 acres that Secura previously purchased in 2006 for future growth.

"We wanted to stay in the greater Fox Valley area because we love it here," Heiges said. "There are so many great opportunities here and we wanted to stay in the area. This property here the company already owned, so there was also the benefit of having this space that we could build on, versus finding a different property or building."

Fox Crossing created a tax incremental district (TID) to assist the development, agreeing to provide 25% of the qualified investment back to Secura. As of August 2024, the balance owed to Secura was \$14.1 million on the assessed value of \$67.3 million.

Fox Crossing director of community development George Dearborn said the parcel was a vacant piece of land that without the TID would not have been developed.

"Secura is a major employer in the region," he said. "It's a great tax benefit for the community once the TID is paid off and all the tax monies go to the village, the school and the county."

Fox Crossing put in a roundabout at the entrance of the Secura driveway in 2018, with the company paying \$1 million and the village covering the remainder of the



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Secura headquarters are shown off Memorial Drive in the 1960s, where they were located before moving to Fox Crossing in 2019.



Above: Amenities at Secura's main office include a cafe with healthy low-cost options.

At right: A gymnasium with basketball and pickleball courts is available to Secura employees.

cost. Dearborn said the village also set aside funds for future development along the ad-

The spacious, 300,000-square-foot building boasts an open concept, with floor-toceiling windows overlooking outdoor paths, seating and water features. Other amenities include a cafe with healthy low-cost options subsidized by Secura, a gym with basketball and pickleball courts, indoor walking paths, a fitness center and 44 conference rooms.

For covered employees and their families, a wellness center provides access to medical services right at the workplace. In the summer, there's a community garden for employees to grow their own produce, and an outdoor milelong walking path. A solar field generates 15% of the facility's energy needs.

There's also room for future expansion.

"We did build this building in a way that if we grow to a size where we need to expand, we have the space that we can add on to this building," Heiges said. "We don't have any immediate plans for that at this time, but we're in a space that we could if we need to."

Signage on the walls notes the care taken to ensure that sounds are at comfortable levels, that there's optimal indoor air quality, natural light to increase alertness and thermal comfort.

"From the natural lighting, the quality of the air and many other associate-centered features, this building was intentionally designed with associate well-being in mind," reads one of the signs.

The company has 1,000 employees across 20 states, about 600 of them at the home office. Its voluntary turnover rate for employees was only 4.5% last year.

Digital marketing specialist Katie Riese said there's a strong focus on employee wellness, both for those working in the home office and remote workers, who are reimbursed for fitness memberships where they live.

Under an umbrella of "family time," employees are given paid time off for unexpected situations that may arise, without impacting their regular paid time off or benefits. Whether that's the loss of a pet, a sick child, or a car or home repair need that makes it challenging to get to work, the company is flexible in supporting workers.

Heiges said Secura maintains a strong connection to the Fox Valley area, providing support to local communities through financial contributions and volunteer efforts.



"A big part of our values is making sure that we are giving back to our communities, but also the surrounding communities and the places where our associates live and where our agents and policyholders are," she said.

Its programs include matching gifts, where the company matches employee donations to nonprofits, a "dollars for hours" program, where employees submit volunteer hours and the company makes a donation to the corresponding nonprofit, and corporate giving to a variety of different organizations. Remote employees participate by organizing volunteer outings on their own to support nonprofits in their communities.

Since 2017, the annual Secura Gives Back campaign has donated a total of \$249,500 to nonprofits nominated by the company's agent partners in their areas.

Over the course of Secura's history, Heiges said countless transformations have taken place, noting that the first policy written by the company was 25 cents per \$100 of coverage and written by hand.

"They would pass the information to the next person to go find that file, bring back that file," Heiges said. "Now we have a lot of efficiencies, a lot of new processes."

She explained that Secura is currently in the midst of a technology investment to update its policy claims and billing systems, which will streamline processes for its underwriters and claims representatives.

The company has also incorporated artificial intelligence into the workplace, streamlining code development and ensuring codebase integrity, improving efficiency by integrating AI with its Robotic Process Automation practice to manage intricate tasks, and implementing AI solutions to optimize underwriting processes.

The company will commemorate its anniversary with several upcoming events, including a trivia challenge, a small celebration in March and another in August to coincide with warmer weather and the opportunity to use Secura's outdoor spaces.

President and chief executive Garth Wicinsky is the sixth leader in Secura's his-

"While much has changed over the past 125 years, our commitment to serving our policyholders, agency partners, associates and communities remains steadfast," he said. "We are excited to celebrate this milestone and we look forward to the next 125 years."

# Ukraine family

FROM PAGE 1

well to his new school.

"He's a remarkable child, and I understand that because he's got two very smart parents," Jauquet said. "They would just be the perfect immigrants to come to America and you know, start their own business. They're just number one with us. We love them and we don't want them to leave."

Tetiana found part time employment as a paralegal at firms in Green Bay and Appleton, and last September moved on to a full time position at Brehmer Law in Neenah.

Ivan cared for their son and started a limited liability company for his clothing business, shipping his products worldwide, and recently began working as a delivery driver for Amazon.

They filled a need in the workforce, with 8 million open jobs nationwide last month, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that over the next eight years, there will be an estimated 37,300 job openings for paralegals and legal assistants, and 96,300 openings for light truck delivery drivers nationally each year.

The Chukhniai family doesn't fit the negative stereotypes portrayed by anti-immigration sentiments. They arrived in the U.S. legally, are not drug users, have no criminal record and don't rely on government assistance.

"We rent a home here and have always tried to contribute positively to our community," Tetiana said. "In 2024, we successfully paid our taxes and intend to do so again this year."

They've enjoyed celebrating American holidays, visiting the Green Bay Packers' Lambeau Field and spending time at Lake Michigan in Manitowoc and Sheboygan. During a visit to the lake last summer, Ivan is credited with saving a child from drowning.

Tetiana keeps a copy of the Sheboygan police report on hand in the event it could help sway any support in their efforts to stay in this country.

Migrants who arrive in the U.S. on humanitarian parole can apply for temporary protected status (TPS), which allows them to avoid deportation for a designated time and apply for extensions if their country is unsafe to return to. The couple applied for TPS a year ago and are awaiting approval.

In December, Tetiana and Ivan applied for re-parole and work authorization renewals, following the proper steps and timelines, but approval was delayed. Then last week, the Department of Homeland Security issued an internal memo that has not been made public, indefinitely freezing the issuance of new immigration benefits for several programs.

CBS News reported receiving a statement Feb. 19 from the Department of Homeland Security confirming that immigration program applications would be on hold indefinitely "pending the completion of additional vetting to identify any fraud, public safety, or national security concerns."

This impacted Uniting for Ukraine, the CHNV process for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans to remain in the country on a temporary basis, and the Family Reunification Process for nationals from Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti and Cuba, enabling them to stay in the U.S. while awaiting family-sponsored green cards.

With immigration programs paused, Tetiana and Ivan's work authorizations expired last week and their employers were required to terminate them.



Neenah Nev

Tetiana Chukhniai stands outside Brehmer Law in Neenah where she had been working as a paralegal.

Matt Brehmer of Brehmer Law said he would "absolutely" rehire Tetiana if she were able to obtain a valid work permit.

"The integrity that she has in doing right by herself and her family is very admirable," he said. "Although she has been through an unimaginable experience, she fights every day to show up for her family and does what she can to provide the best life for them."

Jennie Murray, president and chief executive of the National Immigration Forum, said the immigration program freeze that went into effect last week will remove 3 million authorized workers from the workforce.

"To take any authorized worker from the system hurts American businesses and hurts individual Americans, because it will only impact our supply-chain issues and our inflation," Murray said.

She pointed to polling that indicates voters want the administration to only prioritize removing violent criminals and not individuals who are contributing to society, "and they certainly don't want to see families separated," she said.

The Chukhniai and Jauquet families have contacted their local representatives and congressmen about the matter.

"I'm embarrassed that our government puts them through these hoops because they are such good people," Jauquet said.

The situation has taken a heavy emotional and financial toll on the Chukhniai family, who are now facing the prospect of having to move back in with their sponsor family or potentially leave the U.S. altogether.

"I don't know if I would have enough patience to keep going here and trying to survive, or in the end, we have to, again, pack all of our life into three suitcases and leave; we don't know," Tetiana said.

Without the ability to work, the family won't be able to afford basic necessities like food, let alone rent and other bills.

"We need to tell people what's going on and it's worse than you can imagine," she said. "It's not happening on television somewhere, it's right here, and it's closer than they can even imagine." But she doesn't place blame on the current administration. As a non-citizen who can't vote, Tetiana said it would be wrong to choose a side. With the country so divisive, she instead asked for unity.

"If we could let people know what's going on and even one person would change their mind, or would think more about that, or would pray, that's worth it," she said

The family's situation is not unique. Immigration attorney Molly Smiltneek of Oshkosh said she's heard from other Ukrainians living in Wisconsin who entered the U.S. legally under the previous administration and are now facing similar challenges.

"Looking at it from their perspective, they're trying to figure out ways that they could stay and continue rebuilding their lives in the United States, or return to war in Ukraine, or a war-torn country that, you know, their homes may or may not exist anymore, that might not be safe for them in any way," she said.

President Trump signed an executive order in January targeting immigration programs, promising to "terminate all categorical parole programs that are contrary to the policies of the United States," implemented under the Biden administration.

Smiltneek said if that happens, humanitarian parolees like the Chukhniai family would be considered "out of status" and could be targeted for deportation and removal from the U.S. under an expedited process.

Currently, the only pathway for migrants who came to the U.S. temporarily under the programs to obtain a green card and be granted permanent residency is to apply for asylum, a process that is also being significantly restricted under the new executive orders, making it inaccessible for many.

"I think the administration at the time assumed that Congress would take action for both Ukrainians and Afghans to give them a path to stay once they were here, to support our allies, and that never happened," Smiltneek said.

She added that the people who came to the U.S. under the programs, and the host families who supported them, feel betrayed.

"We made promises to them, and we said that you would be safe here, and we aren't keeping those promises, and I think it is a terrible example of our broken immigration system," Smiltneek said. "I'm saddened that so many people who thought they at least had some security are now incredibly and rightfully fearful of deportation and removal, and that doesn't serve us, or serve our country, or serve humanity well."

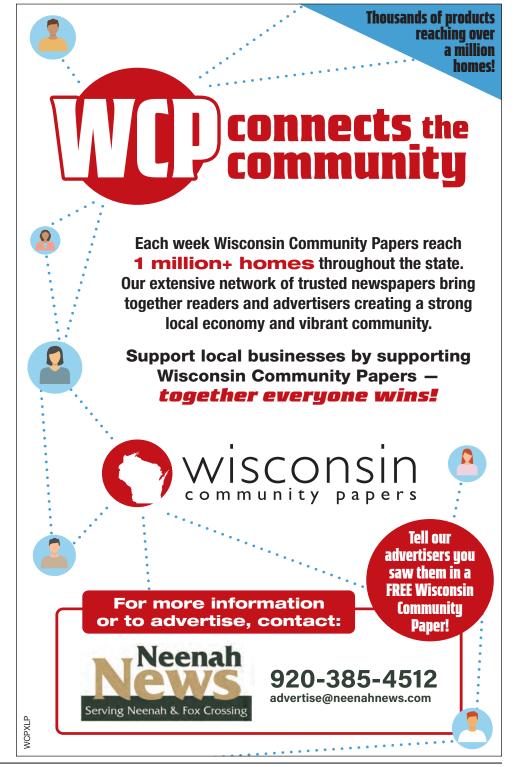
She warned that the country is entering a dark time for immigration and asked that people provide direct support to immigrants, donate to or volunteer for organizations who work with immigrants, and advocate and stand up for them.

"Those of us who have the privilege to, need to hold our elected representatives responsible, and tell them what this means to you and why it's important that we treat human beings with dignity and respect," Smiltneek said.

Up until they lost their jobs last week, Tetiana and Ivan were making plans to purchase a house. That – like many things – is now on hold.

Tetiana had always heard the U.S. was founded on principles of independence, justice and fairness, and would like her family to have a chance at the American dream.

"I used to represent clients' rights in the court in front of the justice," she said, "and now I try to find this justice here."



Page 8 | NEENAHNEWS.COM FEBRUARY 28, 2025



**SENIORS** Wesley Aho Alexander Alatorre Brianna Ankerson Aidan Apa Madilyn Armstrong Jordan Barkovich Anastasia Basler Rylie Bauman Ashley Baumann-Van Price Benjamin Bell Gina Bellin Charles Bellows Drew Benthein Morgan Bernhardt Claudia Biornstad Rvan Blank Carter Blaylock-Schmitz Evelyn Bleier Lily Bosovic Elizabeth Bowman Matthew Brennan Kaydence Brewster Brooke Broeske Kaylee Broker Jack Brown Carter Buch Joseph Buchta Brynna Butler Carly Callahan Christian Campbell Evan Cardoza Andrew Carlson Alessandra Chandik Jenna Clark Destiny Clohessy Allison Corrente Avery Cowell Paedyn Dahms Katelyn Danish Joseph Daun Madeline Delene Joseph Drawenek Marie Dums Andrew Dunning Kennedy Dupont Carter Epley Blake Fish William Fisher Tyler Fitzgerald Mason Flees Harrison Flint Taniya Franzke Zachary Freund Eliza Fritz Drew Gaerthofner Caitlyn Gafner Marcus Gallatin Evelyn Geiger Avery Gentile **Jaycie Gerrits** Aria Giddings Claire Gloudemans Riley Goodson Henry Gretebeck Cheyenne Angeline Grissom Julia Gross Paul Grotenhuis Allison Grube Madelyn Gruber Mason Grycowski Jarith Haecker Ellie Hammerschmidt Drayden Hannan Hannah Hartman Harmony Hasty Carl Hein Elise Hendrickson Fiona Hendrickson Hannah Henry Kale Hildebrandt Aspen Hilgers James Holubek

Mason Hubner

Sue Ellis Jacob

Luke Johnson

Seth Johnson

Jadyn Juedes

Nicholas Kaiser

Lillian Kimball

Abbigail Kandler

Maggie King Braedy Klawikowski

Sienna Kodama-Forget

Emmalee Verbrick

Carson Verhagen

Grayson Vollmer

Seth Vickman

Elsie Voigt

Luke Jung

Lillian Kane

Jack Klundt

Rylee Knight

Marley Koeppel

Rebecca Konkle

Grace Koszewa

Brooke Kottwitz

Sophia Krema

Julian Kuehn

Sabrina Kuenzi

Brenna Leiton

Ava Kreger

Kaden Lee

Birkley Janichek

Nathan Johnson

Tyler Huss

Finn Lettau Luke Liddy Zachary Liebeskind Aidan Lishner Jalisa Lopez Elizabeth Lorrig Jacob Machacek Madison Maes Kaylee Marhefke Anthony Marose Emma Marsh Reese Martin Jillian Matheny Abigail Matson Callie McElroy Orla McGannon Margaret McMahon Jhayten Medina Medina Violet Megale Ethan Mertes Austin Miller Clark Miller Jonathan Miller . Annilee Molchany Deborah Monterrosa Nadiah Mssika Austin Mucha Bridget Munson Sienna Murphy Jayden Nau Kali Nelson Izabela Newsome Cindy Nguyen Wendy Ni Karac Nutile Victoria Ochs Madison Oeftger Emma Oehlenschlager Mazie Olkowski Sawyer Ollanketo Ella Olson Jace Ostermeier . Mu Nay Paw Shelby Pelant Ayden Perez-Gonzalez Elliott Pershing Austin Peterka Elaina Pilzak Harmon Posegate Aviv Pradhananga Brandon Price Ahtziri Quinones Bianca Quinonez Daanya Qureshi Tate Rajotte Avery Ramos Julia Rangel Kathryn Rasmussen Lily Rhode Easton Rice Isabel Ricketts Janae Rodriguez Jensen Rodriguez Grant Romiue Braeden Ross Ty Samp Zane Sano-Giles Desirae Sattler Preston Schamens Ashlynn Schiedermayer Caleb Schloss Izabel Schmidt Ryan Schnabl Isabella Schoonover Raeleigh Schoultz Alexander Schuchart Joseph Schultz Annika Searles Isabella Shell Samuel Shopbell Hannah Slabbert Ella Smedema Natalie Smith Nolan Smith Callie Smithlin Edith Soto Norah Spanbauer Emily Stadler Kacie Stamm Amanda Stammer Isabella Stindt Jonathan Stolen Bennett Stuckel Bridget Sullivan Keane Sullivan Helen Suprise Harrison Tanger Connor Thurber Logan Topinka Jaden Torres Reay Brayden Tyynismaa Mackenzie Uecker Tanner Van Zummeren Cvan Vandermuss Evan Vanevenhoven Brooke Veith

# Academic Achievement for Neenah area schools

Annie Wang Amelia Wasco Ashton Wayne Miles Weaver Riley Weinholzer Ayden Weisbrod Ila Reese Wentzel Andrew Werner Lauren Werner Meredith Werner Madison Wild Lauryn Williams Trystan Witt Alexander Yang Ava Yoblonski Joshua Youngwerth Calvin Zinda Andrew Zoglman

### JUNIORS Rylie Acker

. Hamdija Ademi

Ava Armatti

Ayden Bartz

Ember Belling

Gideon Benner

Ayla Bingham

Nina Bhattacharjee

Ronak Bhattacharjee

Cecelia Alexander

Elizabeth Aykens

Maranda Bond Kenadie Borchert Blake Bornemann Micheal Boylan-DeLeon Jordyn Brockman Carter Burns Kaitlyn Burt Sarah Childs Tate Cianciolo Megan Coffey Kaylee Collins Jacen Cornwell Odette Csenyi Ian Daniels Stefano Dell'Anna Jack DeMenter Sophie Doyle Corban Ducommun Gaven Eaton Madison Eckhart Rvlee Ehlke Owain Elliott **Jack Emenecker Jaxon Ennis** Gavin Etteldorf Aiden Feltz Sarah Flannigan Paige Flaten Emma Forman Brynn Fox Mason Fraley Jayden Griesbach Alivia Haller Pierce Hanson Kaylyn Harmon Carson Harwood Samuel Henning Jonathan Henry Rain Hensel Miles Hessenthaler Brogan Hirschi Caroline Hodges Brock Hoehne Isaac Hoelzel Savanna Hutchison Brynn Jackels Caitlin Jesse Kayleigh Johnson Mea Jones Callen Juckem Jacob Kachur Troy Kahler Karolina Kamasova Anet Kandy Nicole Kavanaugh Brady Keller William Kirkman Rowan Klesmit Rylie Knase Declan Koch Joscelyn Kohlbeck Nathan Kramp Keegan Krueger Pauline Kubler Benjamin Kue Kylee Kurszewski Joshua Kurtz Brady Lawatsch Bryce Leneau Hudson Lewis Ella Lindgren Owen Lloyd Cilai Lo Emma Lorbiecki Elizabeth Lueneburg Mason Lutz Beniamin Mainville Payton Manteufel Yulissa Martinez Meghan McAvoy Lauren McDonald Meredith Meacham Haojia Miao Brayden Milbrodt

Maximus Miller

# **Neenah High School**

Neenah High School has announced first-semester

Maxwell Milske Ava Motto Anna Mulroy Garrett Nedens Ethan Nelson Trista Nelson Amelia Novy Evan Numrich Jameson Oldenburg Emeline Olkowski **Jillian Ostrom** Morgan Otting Isis Dunn Savannah Pagel Michelle Patra Rayleigh Pearson Eli Erck Alizabeth Pelky Brenna Pickett Matthew Pierron Ella Pingel Oliver Posegate Samuel Printz Jacob Pritzl Michael Raasch Jonah Rittner Ally Rivet Kaden Roth Kathleen Russell Ezra Saint Caden Sarauer Dempsey Saylor Cole Schaefer Payton Schaefer Brendan Schilke McKenna Schilling Alyssa Schlesner-Smith Mason Schmidt Lily Schultz **Brody Searl** Macsen Selch Chester Shaffer Liam Sieck Madyson Simonis Areena Sorani **Janet Sorto** Savannah Spade Henry St Clair Oliver Steiner Eliana Stier Ezra Strasman **Emily Syring** Phong Tang Coleton Van Thull Hailey Van Wie Lyja Vang Yu Peng Vang Joseph VanHandel Zachary Verhagen Trent Vogelsang Zachary Waite Andreas Walgenbach Leila Walter James Weiland August Weinholzer Taytum West Mara Westphal-Dorow Kaden Weyenberg Jacob White Trey White Audrey Wilgreen Natalie Willes ShuaCua Yang ShuaNha Yang Miley Young Alvssa Yun Lauren Zeier Sheng Liu Teegan Zemialkowski Tim Zhao Layla Zilisch

**SOPHOMORES** Sofia Alatorre Kvlie Alexandroni Aydin Altan Samuele Angeli Cecilia Anschutz Isaac Babbitts Carli Baltus Aiden Belter Anna Benthein Jaxen Berkley Kaya Berkley Julianna Betker Barrett Bjornstad Mitchell Bond Oliver Bontorno Elise Braaten Ramsey Briones Hunter Brown Faith Brubaker Willy Brucks Ella Buchta Finleigh Burton Olivia Bushman Evelyn Buss Karin Callahan Izayah Castillo-Johnson

Brylee Clark

Kianna Conard

Kelsi Loveless Kylee Lukasavage Eleanor Malkowski Kylee Marshall Colin Martin Ethan Matson Breleigh Maurer Trenten Mayo Kylee McAllister Grant McNamara Logan McNamara Morgan Mena Kobi Meyer Leah Milewski Kavlvn Miller Leah Milske Josephine Mroczkowski Uriiah Mv Jessyn Newman Christian Nguyen Paige Norstrem Lvdia Novy Dawson Oberer Tevla Ocasek Mariana Oeftger Adrianne Oitzinger Ann Ollanketo Aleesha Oosterhous Norah Paider

Emerson Papendorf Kohen Perron Lawton Pester Sierra Pitzrick Emily Pliska Ryan Porsche Daniel Priest Lillian Quella Skye Rajotte Emma Ředdick Vera Reiter Trevor Ricketts Jackson Rindt Victor Rodriguez Lillian Romjue Lydia Ryan Drew Sabatke Isabella Sack Miles Sauer Savannah Schilling Jonah Schilt Payten Schneider Benjamin Schoepke Isaac Scholl Madeline Schoonover Natalie Schultz Nathan Schwandt Brayden Schwerin Sofia Seager Lainey Seelow Carson Seitz Rebecca Shauger Landen Sheppard **Emily Sickels** Cooper Sieck Matthew Soderberg Alexandra Sous Jaden Spang Lani Storm Aubrev Strosahl Connor Stuckel Rebekah Thomas Natalia Topinka Gavin Trudeau Maximus Trudeau Kiley Turner Ashton VanBeek Aubrie Vanevenhoven Audrie Vang Jennifer VanHandel Samuel Verbruggen Lynnea Vien Margo Voelker Azriel Volpe Jenny Wang Ava Wasmer Logan West Wyatt Williams Layla Wilson Mataya Wiltsey Elizabeth Wise Jayden Woodard Sophia Wypiszynski Hailyn Yahr Emily Zak Ryker Zarda Kaitlyn Zarling Lawson Zehner Ellie Grace Zickler Grace Ziegert Hannah Zilm Alexander Zuehlsdorf

Tehya Clark

Reagan Janichek **FRESHMEN** Alexander Johnson Haylie Acker Lola Iohnson Makayla Amslei Isabel Jones Makaila Anschutz Isla Jones Annie Aykens Marissa Jones Ian Baetke Sophia Jourdan Korbin Baltus Jessica Juehring Jett Barber Nya Kametler Caleb Barczak Liliana Kamps Samuel Barczak Ava Kasten Aria Bartlett Andruis Kaye-O'Brien Alexis Bauman Gloria Keith Oliver Bentz Finley Kelley Sadie Blank Hannah Kempen Megan Blattner Levi Kinslev Martin Bleier Graison Klabunde Audrie Blenker Owen Klawikowski Bridget Bloomhuff Connor Klementz Mara Bogan Benjamin Knase Samuel Bontorno Liam Knight Keira Borchert Reese Kohler Cara Bosovic Karalyn Konig Keira Braemer Simone Koski Kasen Briones Collin Koutnik Claire Broeders Sarah Krueger Jeremy Bruder Mackenzie Kujawa Aiden Bucholtz Jenson Kurszewski Elizabeth Buttron Reagan Lamers Joseph Buttron Cooper Landrath Meredith Buttron Tarrah Landskron Katherine Lenninger Courtney Cain Jack Carstens Elijah Liesener Sonny Chang Aubrey Lindgren

America Lozano-Munoz Ian Luedtke Leveeson Ly Kendra Lynch Charles Maas Andrew Malchow Isabelle Malloy Nolan Manteufel Esme Marie Marcin Evelyn Marose Annabel Marsh Jude Marsh Carter Mathe Eva Mathers Vince Mayhew Ian McAvoy Allison McGlin Jonathan McInnis Henry Menchl Liam Meyer Sydney Michalkiewicz Brinley Miller Lavnee Miller Matthew Moderson Iackson Monroe Beckett Moore Audriana Morales Lydia Mrotek Madeline Muller Sidney Mullins Gabriela Munoz Kate Murphy Lauren Nelson Brittin Neuman Leah Oldenburg Kendra Oliver Bryce Olsen Lewis Orchard Taylor Otting Asher Patel Shivani Patel Jacob Perry . Ty Peskie Isabella Pickett Nicholas Pitzer Alva Plotz Tegan Pohlman Selah Posegate Cecelia Preman Logan Price David Pupp Isaac Rangel Stella Ratliff Trevin Rettmann Emmaxia Rockweit Lecia Rodriguez Jackson Roeh Kaylee Rooyakkers Jacob Ross Reece Sarauer **Jackson Schaefer** Michael Schlafman John Schmidt Sophie Schmidt Connor Schott Kyle Schroeder Camdyn Schulz Connlin Seegmiller Emma Severson Rune Severstad Alexander Siettmann Zofia Siettmann Megan Slabbert Cassandra Smith Ian Sparks Chloe Sprague Colt Sprague Harper Springborn Mack Stallbohm Aiden Stark Levi Steckling Cassidy Steinberg Anya Steiner Oliver Stier Iasmine Tanı Kendal Tech Noelle Ten Haken Mason Tenor Emerson Thompson Charlie Tiedt Mollie Van Dyke Owen Van Zeeland Everett VandenBranden Lylah Vanevenhoven Charlotte VanNuland Clara Voigt Clayton Walters Andy Wang Amethyst Webb Macy Weber Elsa Weiland Parker Wentzel Jack Werner Amelia Westbrook Kira Westbrook Olivia Whitty Aubri Wied Eleanor Wild James Wiles Anders Wilgreen Jolene Wilson Vincent Wilson Landon Young

Luke Young

Isaac Zarda

Malina Zhang

Austin Ziebell

"A" honor rolls (3.5 or higher grade point average).

Natalie Coffey

Caitlin Collier

Hannah Corbin

Jackson Custer

Clara Dahlke

Vincent Daun

Elliot Devlin

Bella Doyle

Liam Dungan

Nora Eckhart

Luceille Edwards

Abigail Ellenbecker

Abram Engelhardt

Makavla Ehlke

Paisley Elter

Declan Epley

Brielle Farmer

Ellen Farrell

Arlo Ferguson

Carson Finch

Emma Fitzgerald

Christian Flees

Lauren Forbes

Elam Ford

Owen Fox

Josie Frisch

Elise Geiger

Kaiden Gerrits

Riley Geschrei

Tyler Geschrei

Kole Gilman

Aiden Gonwa

Aliza Gramer

Ava Gregg

Hudson Grater

Klaire Gregorius

Rivers Gregory

Emily Grube

Oliver Gruber

Eli Grunwald

Alina Grycowski

Max Gunderson Olivia Hackfort

Tessa Hammerschmidt

Lukas Hamer

Jacob Hang

Kenzie Hang

Jaden Harmon

Keegan Hartel

Sienna Hartzheim

Livia Hechimovich

Aidan Hernandez

Joseph Herrin

Annabelle Hintz

LuElla Hirakawa

Abigail Hirschi

Iada Hoehne

Jackson Hook

Molly Jacquet

Magdalene Lo

Griffin Heth

Landon Hawley

Rainie Her

Emerson Gaerthofner

Josephine Glisczinski

Kendra Gloudemans

Shelbey Gonnering

Grace DeMenter

Margaret Destree

Allison Downey

Caleb Danz

. Isabella Cvetkovs

Miranda Cowling

Brennen Cummings

Dominic Conroy Henry Coulman Preston Davies Cain Davis Lexington Davis Maxwell Delene Sophia Diaz Camryn Dickey Cameron Diekfuss Emma Doiron Travis Dubey Alissa Ebel-Anklam Evelyn Eichman Layla Evans Henry Farrell Kolton Fleege Jackson Florek Talon Fluette Caleb Frank McKenna Freier Addison Fritz Peyton Gafner Ryer Gearhart Celia Gentile Maxwell Gerken Resa Goethel Savanna Goggin Teagan Goodson Donovan Gordon Luke Grassl Amelia Groom Macie Hall Sydney Hansman Kayra Harris Addison Harttert Sky Hedtke Delilah Hein Devon Hensel Georgia Hodges Paige Hoelzel Tyson Huss Maxwell Ives Brielle Jackels Cailey Janssen Gage Jensen Sophie Johnson Yashnoor Kaur Paige Keck Gavin Keepers Samuel Keepers Natalie Keesler Myles Kelch Liam Kelley Jillian Kennedy Madison Kerker Owen Kieler Ayva King Nathan Knick Brooklyn Kohlbeck Ava Kostka Elaina Kramer Brode LaBarge Mya Langenfeld Ryland Lapean Ella Larsen Jillian Lauer Mae Lauer Madalynn Lautenschlager Madeline Lee Jackson Lichty Preston Liedke David Linstedt Pajailia Lo Shouana Lo Daemen Logterman Kennedy Louden

Lillie Grissom

**SENIORS** Sergio Aguirre Ian Altan Valeria Alvarado Logan Balensiefen Keanna Basler Makenzie Basler Madison Bell Elijah Bellmore Melody Birney Katelyn Brandt Jessa Bricco Cinnamon Brown **Jackson Brown** Bracken Bruneel James Carpenter Xavier Castillo-Johnson Carter Catlin Isabella Chandik Dominik Clark Grant Dean Amaree Derke Ethan Dietz Raziel Dixon Carter Downs Eliza Egonut Grace Erato Orion Erck Braxton Fairchild Tyler Flaten Hannah Forbes Arnisha Garner Jaiden Garst Emily Glasheen Myla Gostas-Sims Logan Green Calvin Gressler

Austin Groeschel

Isadora Hagenow

William Hartel

Mason Hernke

Hunter Hilgers

Amelia Hoffman

Elizabeth Johnson

Iacob Herm

Fynn Hill

Rylie Jones

Sam Kane

Hunter Jordan

Kylie Kempen

Shavlee Harttert

Dalaena Khang Iacob Kohler Faith Krzyzak Caitlyn Kufahl Ty Laabs Ayden LaFountain Kailyn Lane Ayden Larson Jack Lee Riley Lor

Alison Medina

Evelyn Menchl

Rvlan Mendoza

Gabriel Meverden

Ella Meunier

Amani Mever

Tate Mickelson

**Jack Morrissey** 

Isabella Murray

Paige Nelson

Derric Odom

Sean Ortscheid

Haiden Perkins

Johnathan Plier

Nathan Rank

Jacob Reckner

Emma Roberts

Caleb Schaefer

Zayne Schmitt

Hailey Schultz

Fiona Sickler

Avery Smith

Jaime Selwitschka

Edwin Rodriguez

Queen Runyambo

Emerson Schlomann

Olivia Ramaeker

Nora Pfister

Zachary Misevicz

Demitrius Murphy

Matthew Machacek Aidan Magadanz Spencer Malliet Sienna Manteufel Nadia Marchionda Amaya Martin Isabelle Martin Kamervn Martin Artemio Martinez Aidan Mathison Ashiyah McClain Kaegan McIntosh

> **JUNIORS** Hayden Ahlswede Hailey Arens Mason Bauer Lydia Bingham Brady Blackburn Daniel Breuer Leonard Coulman Brendan Dallmann Lydia De Young Marissa Derouso Owen Dery Madeline DeVerney Noah Dvorachek Nicholas Elter Kate Fahrenkrug Aydan Flenz Ienna Francois Hope Geiger Jesse Gostas Elsa Gruber Olivia Hanneman Uliana Hannemann Lincoln Hechimovich Collin Herrick Kayleigh Hoelzel

**Emily Snider** 

Alyvia Stowe

Morgan Thiel

**Emily Stichman** 

Carson Syms-Erke

Kiyler Tarnawski

Skyler Van Buren

Elizabeth Waite

Jack Weinholzer

Lilvanna Weslev

Khalid Williams

Jacob Wockenfus

Trystyn Young

Lillian Vande Corput

Madalyn Vandenberg

Neenah High School has announced first-semester "B" honor rolls (3.0-3.499 grade point average). Dieu Veut Irankunda Suriya Thao Joelle Torres Reay

**Neenah High School** 

Anastasia Valentine-Robinson

Malachi Vang

Jaden Vondracek

Mikayla Westbrook

Braden Wendt

Levi Weyenberg

Manning Zehner

Hailie Anderson

Iuda Baraias Perez

Hunter Bessette

Xavier Bezares

Alexis Barlaw Guevara

**SOPHOMORES** 

Ella Winiecki

Elias Vargas

Annalise Jones Vincent Jourdan Konner Klauck Owen Klundt Roan Koeper Brook Konrad Isabella Krull Roman Lange Vincent Lee

Matthew Lauer Christopher Lee Radamanee Lor Kyleigh Mathe Brady Mayer Cade McCallister Evan McKenna Ty McNeely Greta Meixl Dylan Missall Charles Moss Cecilia Mulloy Gage Needler Sawyer Newman Pongkasad Ngampring Kaelin Nickel Mason Niemuth

Ella Nigl

Kaden O'Brien

Mason Peitersen

Annabelle Perry

Hudson Peters

Nathan Putala

Joclyen Roundtree

Spencer Schiedermayer

Cooper Schalow

Braiden Schilling

Zander Schmeichel

Zachary Schneider

Micah Stolen

Nolan Petit

Anna Ross

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Bailey Blocksom Kieren Brennan Brenton Bruder Saphira Bunnell Oliver Castro Matthias Charles Kamryn Christensen Tvler Clark Zehthan Clough Lukas Copeland Eli De Deker Drew Drach Carson Feest Arianna Ferguson Madison Ferguson Anaysia Fox Wilson Garrity Harrison Gerdin Maddox Glaeser Greta Goethel Joshua Gomoll

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Bella Richard

FRESHMEN

Ilda Zolota

Summitt Abel Halea Anderson Ngo Anh Noah Bekx Bristol Beschta Autumn Blaney Mason Burgess Aylen Castro Preston Craft Alecia Daniels Chrysa Dean Faith Derber Samuel Driscoll Lincoln Esquivel Eliza Finch Ziva Gagliardi Cecilia Garcia Jacob Gillig Mason Gretebeck

Jacob Hazaert Lexus Herides Bentley Hobart Kaylee Huettl Baylin Ihde Scott Jakubowski Olivia Justinger Memory Kanty Olivia Kappell Jeremiah Kingsley Janelle Knight Brock Koepke Ryan Kottwitz Annabella Lee Grayson Lee Lilith Lind Kristin Manteufel Tyler Marta Haley McVannel Max Mueller Shane Nelsen Ioel Ostermeier Marcus Peterson Constance Phelan Paige Pitzer Tyson Prosser Bronwyn Reilly Tyler Resch Deaken Rittner Jonah Rivet Skyler Rivet Kellen Roth Bella Rougeux Zacheriah Saint **Briley Sauer** Leah Schaffert Ethan Sina Jameson Sulok Andy Thao Tervn Theisen Journey Thierer Ray Dominic Torelli Cael Trustem Orion Turner Ava Van Wie Miley Van Zummeren

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St. Mary Catholic High School announced its first-semester honor roll. Highest honors were awarded for a grade point average of 4.0; higher honors for a GPA of 3.75-3.99; high honors for a GPA of 3.5-3.74; honors for a GPA of 3.0-3.49.

St. Mary Catholic High School

Milena Buczkowska

Madeline Weninger **High honors**  Nicholas Miller Redvers Muggleton Carter Nicholson Maxwell Osgood Elliot Reichenbacher Margo Scanlan Kaylee Sommerfeld Isabella Strande

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Brennan Rollo

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Tarver Trinkner

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Page 10 I neenahnews.com

# Neenah girls send four wrestlers to state tournament

By Steve Clark

Neenah's Amari Richard was staring a wrestleback square in the eye with about 30 seconds left in her 126-pound title match last Friday at the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet in Menasha.

After aggressively pursuing a go-ahead takedown, it was Richard who was taken down and trailed Menasha's Taya Johnson 8-3. With the time waning in her match, it appeared she would have to conquer a wrestleback to earn her second straight trip to the state meet.

That didn't happen.

Richard generated a two-point reversal that landed Johnson on her back and she kept the position to score the four nearfall points for a 9-8 victory, a sectional title and a return trip to Madison.

"I knew the whole weekend I tried to stay relentless and just having a great mental toughness. It was about never giving up," said Richard, who improved to 40-7 on the season. "I was anxious all week because I had a tough bracket. I really wanted to get that one done so there was no wrestleback."

Richard was one of four state qualifiers for the Rockets, with all four winning sectional titles.

Ashlynn Schiedermayer (100), Kylee Kurszewski (107) and Ava Armatti (145) joined Richard in earning the berths at the state meet. The four sectional titles helped Neenah win the team sectional title, edging Menasha by a single point for the title.

"It was an awesome day. The girls really came to wrestle. They brought their training up a notch this last little bit. They have been loose but very serious about their training and I think it shows," Neenah girls head coach Madison Ruckdashel said. "We had two (state qualifiers) last year and four this year and I think that shows the growth of the program overall, too."

Kurzewski is also returning to the state meet and earned her third trip to Madison overall.

The junior opened her tournament by pinning Two Rivers' Alyzon Romero in 57 seconds before beating Sheboygan North's Wesnaytha Benish by technical fall, 16-0, in the semifinals.

In the title match, Kurszewski led Plymouth's Megan Schuenemann scored a takedown in each of the first two periods to take a 6-1 lead and then added a one-point escape to her total in the third period for a 7-1 win.

Kurszewski said she was cautious entering the third period with a comfortable lead but didn't want to get too conservative

"A 6-1 lead is not big enough to be safe in this style. You have to stay aggressive but not too much aggressive. You can't go too crazy and force a takedown but you are still trying to score," said Kurzewski, who upped her season record to 44-4. "All of my mat experience really helps. Every second I'm on the mat I get a little bit better"

Ruckdashel liked the approach that Kurszewski took in the match.

"She wrestled a very smart match and I think that shows how long she has been around the sport," Ruckdashel said. "She's got that maturity on her now where she knows what to do in those big moments to get the wins and move on."

Schiedermayer was the only wrestler of the four state qualifiers making her first sectional appearance and was also the only



Neenah News

Neenah's Kylee Kurszewski works to turn Two Rivers' Alyzon Romero in a 114-pound quarterfinal match at the WIAA Sectional meet last Friday.

one who had to wait to get on the mat.

The senior, who only started wrestling as a sophomore, earned a first-round bye before taking the mat for her semifinal match.

"(The bye) helped me get more focused in and prepare myself for my match," Schiedermayer said. "I don't think it was a bad thing."

Schiermayer topped Lexi Schuenemann of Plymouth, 8-1, in her semifinal match and then topped Campbellsport's Irelyn Woolhether, 2-0, in a unique title match.

Both of Schiermayer's points in the championship bout were the result of stalling calls against Woolhether and the Neenah senior had to make sure she didn't get overzealous and make a mistake when being patient would earn her the win.

"I wrestled her at regionals so she knew what I was looking for so she was stalling most of the match and backing off," Schiedermayer said. "I'm a wrestler who can control my emotions pretty well. I'm going to wrestle aggressive because that's what wrestling is about but I understand when it gets to a certain point, I shouldn't be too aggressive.

"It feels unreal (to be going to state). I knew that I had good chances, but I still can't wrap my head around it. It's one of my greatest achievements in life so far."

Armatti earned her first trip to the state meet by pinning all three opponents she faced on the day. She needed just 50 seconds to beat Reily Shimek of Manitowoc Lincoln in the first round and then stopped Tiana LeMieux of Sturgeon Bay in the semifinals.

In the title match, Armatti pinned Chilton/Hilbert's Natalia Rojas in 2:16, riding



the momentum from two near takedowns in the first period to get the pin after a re-

"I got up after (the takedown attempts) and said, 'Ava, you are not going to lose," said Armatti, who is now 32-11 this season. "It's awesome. For the last two years I've come up just short and now I have finally done it. I'm proud of myself and excited for my team."

versal early in the second period.

Armatti said that her teammates helped prepare her for her match as she watched the trio before her all win their matches to advance to state.

"It was very inspiring to watch," Armatti said. "I'm so proud of the team and how far we have all come."

Ruckdashel said not making it to state the past couple of seasons was fuel for Armatti's journey to the sectional title this season.

"She is someone who just missed out and she used those just-missed-out moments to push through," Ruckdashel said. "She's had a different mindset this year in her wrestling. She's not uptight and super nervous and making mistakes but is relaxed and free flowing and that's when she does her best."

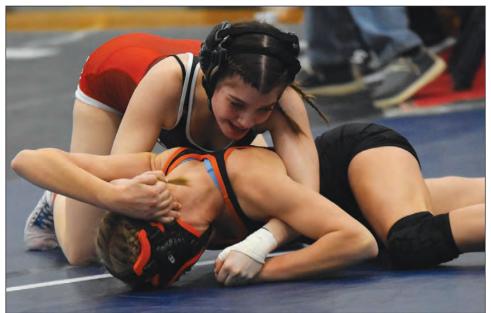
Richard's first two wins in her bracket came very convincingly as she beat Margo Grebinoski of De Pere and Olivia Kaczrowski of Mishicot by a combined 29-1 margin

That earned her the spot in the title match and she was able to pull out the dramatic win.

"Her word for the match was relentless and I think that showed in the last minute," Ruckdashel said. "Amari has taken a couple of tough losses at the end of matches against a couple of girls I think she thought she could beat. All of the matches count toward big moments like this and she just really shined."

Janet Sorto was the only other Neenah wrestler to post a sectional win, pinning Kimberly's Emerson Otis in the first round at 152 pounds. However, she would end up taking fourth after losing the next two matches.

Maya Ives (100), Rayleigh Pearson (120), Julia Rangel (132), Jenson Kurszewski (138), Lluvia Carrillo (165) and Emma Verbvrick (235) also competed for the Rockets but lost in the first round.



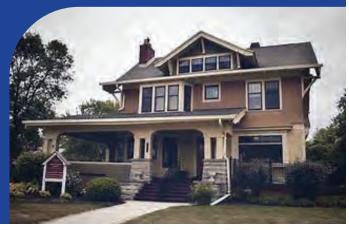
Neenah News

Ashlynn Schiedermayer controls Plymouth's Lexi Schuenemann in 107-pound semifinal at last Friday's WIAA Sectional in Menasha.

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February 28, 2025 NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM | Page 11

# Herm, Koch, Sheppard shine at sectional meet

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

Two veterans put on an impressive show while another wrestler earned his first trip to the big stage as the Neenah boys wrestling team finished last Saturday's WIAA Division 1 sectional at Menasha with three qualifers for the state wrestling meet.

Jacob Herm and Declan Koch will return to Madison to defend their state titles while Landen Sheppard will join the talented duo at the state meet.

"Blessed to have two very experienced guys who have been down to the state tournament. They have a lot of experience down there so hopefully they can help Landen with that making sure he's ready to go preparing mentally to have a good experience down there," Neenah boys head coach Kyle Kleuskens said. "We would have loved to get a few more but it's a tough sport and there are a lot of good wrestlers in the area and a lot of talented wrestlers are staying home."

Herm is making his fourth trip to state and improved to 49-1 on the season with his three sectional wins.

He pinned his first two opponents in 32 seconds and 1:14 and then rolled to a 24-8 win over Kolin DeGroot of Kaukauna in the 165-pound title match.

"I don't want to be mean but in a way you have to be mean and demoralize the guy a little bit. If I'm getting takedowns and I don't see that yet, I'm going to just keep coming at you," Herm said. "I just do that until I see he's broken and if he's broken, I'm going to pin you. If not, I'm going to keep getting takedowns."

Herm said there is only one goal as he returns to Madison, and that is standing on top of the podium again.

"No other acceptable outcome. I'm coming for it all again," Herm said. "I've trained my whole life for this. I didn't expect anything less than (going to Madison)."

Koch remained undefeated in winning his three matches to claim the 157-pound title.

The junior, who earned his third trip to the state, won all three matches by technical fall, beating Lane Pernsteiner of Wausau West, 22-5, Mason Tritz of Wisconsin Rapids, 18-3, and Carson Kempf of D.C. Everest, 21-5.

"Coach asked me before the (championship) match what the gameplan was and it was just keep doing my thing and have fun," said Koch, who is now 48-0 on the season. "It's usually to get as many takedowns as I can. I try to get five or six before I go for the pin but some matches, you get the fall right away."

Koch believes he is peaking at the right time heading to the state meet.

"I feel like I'm wrestling the best ever. I couldn't be more happy with how I'm wrestling. I just have to do my thing. If I stay on the offense, there is no one who can beat me down at state," Koch said. "There's always pressure and at the state





Neenah News

Above: Landen Sheppard works for control of D.C. Everest's Deakin Trotzer in the 144-pound title match at the WIAA Division 1 sectional in Neenah last Saturday.

At left: Jacob Herm (top) looks to turn Kaukauna's Kolin DeGroot during the 165-pound title match last Saturday.

work to earn his trip as the sophomore advanced with a second-place finish at 144 pounds.

Sheppard scored a late takedown to beat Callum Wheeler of Merrill, 6-4, in the quarterfinals and then edged Horton-ville's Colin Schroeder, 4-3, in his semifinal match. He lost 7-0 in the title bout to D.C. Everest's Deakin Trotzer but avoided a wrestleback to finish second.

"It feels good. Obviously got a little work to do, some things to fix up. I'm really excited for the opportunity to go down there and compete," said Sheppard, who is 37-12 this season. "That's the goal (to make the podium). I think if I wrestle hard, wrestle tough and wrestle to the whistle I can achieve that goal."

Sheppard appreciates having Koch and Herm alongside of him for his first trip to state and credits them for helping him reach this achievement.

"They help me a lot on what to do," Sheppard said. "They stress it a lot about how amazing is to compete down there and they made me better so I could get down there."

Although it is his first trip, Kleuskens believes Sheppard can have success in Madison.

"We told him all year he doesn't have to wait until his junior or senior year. Let's go do it now. You have to take advantage of the opportunities when you have them and he's not going down there just to be there," Kleuskens said. "The goal is to place, be on that podium and come home with a medal, for sure."

The Rockets' state brigade nearly had more numbers, too.

Jaxon Ennis finished 2-1 with a pin to take third at 120 pounds, while Jackson Lichty (150) and Kaden Roth (190) each won their first-round matches but ended up taking fourth at their respective weights.

Cashtin Tiedt (126), Garrett Nedens (132), Dane Granditzke (138), Khalid Williams (215) and Brayden Millbrodt (285) all advanced to sectionals for Neenah but lost in the first round.



tournament there is a little more pressure, but it's just another wrestling match at the end of the day."

Kleuskens isn't worried about his talented duo being affected by the pressure of being a returning state champion, which often plants a sizeable bull's-eye on a wrestler's back.

"They are so experienced that no pressure or expectation gets to them at all. They are ready for the moment," Kleuskens said. "You have to take it one step at a time of course, but their goal is to be standing at the top of the podium on Saturday night. They are very loose right now and when it's time to go out there they step it up."

Sheppard had to put in a little more





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Page 12 I NEENAHNEWS.COM FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Neenah swimmers enjoy record-setting day at state meet

By Steve Clark Neenah News

It was a record-setting day complete with some hardware for the Neenah High School swim team and the Rockets did it on the biggest stage of the season.

Drew Gaerthofner notched a pair of school records and joined a couple of record-setting relays for the Rockets as Neenah finished in ninth place among the 37 teams who scored at the WIAA Division 1 State Swimming and Diving championships held last Saturday at the Waukesha South Natatorium.

Highlighting the day for the Rockets were the two state-qualifying relays, who each landed on the medal stand.

The foursome of Gaerthofner, Julian Kuehn, Tanner Trustem and Burke Wendell raced to a fourth-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay and then took fifth in the 200-yard freestyle relays, setting school records in both events in the pro-

"I think relays are a great part of the team dynamics. They had swam together all year so it was fun to see them put together their best there," Neenah head coach Carrie Raeth said. "We knew we would have to be fast to make podium and

it was exciting to see them do that."

The 200-yard medley started off the meet and the Rockets were leading after Gaerthofner's backstroke leg and Trustem's breaststroke leg.

The foursome finished in a time of 1:33.96, which was nearly a full second off the record the group had set the previous week at sectionals.

"There's nothing we could have done more with that race. It was a super race," Gaerthofner said. "Leading off the relay is always a pleasure and going my fastest by about a half a second was awesome. Then I was getting the guys ready to go."

The 200-yard freestyle relay team nearly set the school record at sectionals, but the group wasn't about to miss another chance to beat the mark.

At sectionals, the team finished two-hundredths of a second short of the record but blew the time away at state, turning in a time of 1:25.98 to finish fifth

"They had their eye on that one and to see them swim it down at state was special," Raeth said. "It was a great race."

The winning teams in both races were from Middleton and each set state records in taking first place.



The Neenah foursome of Tanner Trustem, Burke Wendell, Drew Gaerthofner and Julian Kuehn stand on the awards podium after taking fourth in the 200-yard medley relay at the WIAA Division 1 state meet on Saturday. The group also made the podium in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a fifth place finish.

top 10 in each.

Middleton and Neenah were the only two teams to finish in the top five in those

"That was the best outcome I think we could have had," Kuehn said. "Our relays were seeded to make the podium but usually you have to drop a significant amount of time to make the podium and that's what we ended up doing so that was really

two relays.

In addition to setting records in the two relays, Gaerthofner bettered his own fast times in both individual events at the state

He took second by five-hundredths of a second to Middleton's Caden Van Buren while posting a time of 20.29 in the 50yard freestyle.

He added a second-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 54.37, with the only swimmer to finish ahead of him - Middleton's Sam Wolf setting a state record to take first.

"It was fun to finally have a fast state meet," said Gaerthofner, who will swim at the University of Wisconsin next year. "It was a best time for me in the 50 (freestyle) and the 100 breaststroke was right at my best time and at the end of a meet like that, I can't be mad about it. You are basically running on my last fumes."

Gaerthofner wanted to cap his prep career by winning a state title in one or both of his events, but he wasn't too disappointed being runner-up in each.

"I wanted to win but I'm super happy with how I swam," Gaerthofner said.

Kuehn also qualified in a pair of individ-

ual events and finished just outside of the

He swam a time of 21.61 in the 50-yard freestyle to finish in 11th place - less than a second out of placing in the top five while taking 13th place in the 100-yard freestyle.

Kuehn was pleased with his finishes in the individual events and said he got a boost from the way the team finished in the 200-yard medley relay to open the

"That always gets you going. To start off dropping like a whole second and making the podium really fires you up and gets you going," Kuehn said. "I was just happy to be there in my individual events."

Trustem was the remaining individual to qualify for the meet, joining Gaerthofner in the 100-yard breaststroke.

After a rough sectional meet that left him seeded 23rd out of 24 swimmers at the state meet, the junior bounced back in impressive fashion to place eighth. He shaved more than three seconds off of his sectional time and improved two places from where he finished in the event a year ago.

The ninth-place finish for the team was Neenah's best finish since placing 10th in 2017. The last time a Rockets boys team finished in the top 10 was in 2015 when the Rockets placed eighth.

Middleton defended its state title, scoring 273 points to easily outdistance second-place Verona, which had 175. The Rockets, the highest-placing team from the Fox Valley Association, finished with 113 points.





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FEBRUARY 28, 2025 NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM | Page 13

# Rockets conquer Bears to advance to sectional final

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha hockey coach Jeff Lindemann figured that West Bend would come out firing in the second period.

The Bears trailed 2-1 and with basically just two lines rotating on the ice, he guessed they would throw the kitchen sink at the Rockets' defense before the fatigue from logging significant ice time hit

Lindemann was right. But the Rockets had the perfect counter for West Bend's approach – a hot goaltender.

Rockets' netminder Owen Debbert racked up half of his 16 saves to stifle the Bears' barrage and Neenah/Hortonville/ Menasha went on to claim a 4-1 win in a WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal at the First Community Champion Center on Tuesday night.

"Owen did a great job holding us in there in the second period when they were buzzing," Lindemann said. "He stood up big."

Debbert also expected to see a bevy of shots in the second period and was ready for whatever West Bend was going to send his way.

"I think they realized that was their chance to really get things going there so I knew they were going to come hard," Debbert said. "I feel like, rely on me, I can make a couple of saves here and there. I think our team stepped up in a really big way and the young guys really stepped

With the win, the Rockets advanced to the sectional final against defending Division 1 champion Green Bay Notre Dame which will be played Friday at the Champion Center beginning at 7:45 p.m. The Tritons beat St. Mary's Springs, 7-2, on Tuesday in Fond du Lac.

After losing at the sectional semifinal level the past two seasons, the Rockets are happy to advance to the sectional final where the winner will head to the state tournament.

"Just getting past that one spot this year is big," said Cartyr Simonson. "The boys,

Debbert

we've kind of known that is this the year we can make a run with it. It feels good to get some in the net and play good defense all around."

Simonson finished with two goals in the game and opened the scoring when he took a feed from Ty Laabs near the blue line to skate in on a breakaway against Bears goaltender Rylan Tauban.

The sophomore winger feigned a shot as he approached the goalkeeper and then tucked the puck past him less than four minutes into the game.

"To get that goal early definitely shifted the way the game went," Simonson said. "I think we kind of took it from there. It felt we were in their offensive zone a lot of the time and kept going from there."

Simonson's second goal came on a similar move when he skated in alone of Tau-

Once again it was a pass from Laabs this time getting the puck in the high slot - that led to the tally, which he scored off his backhand.

"Usually, I like to fake a shot and if I can get him to go down, I will tuck it to my backhand or forehand," Simonson said. "It's more my go-to move to tuck it rather than shoot it, but it's kind of an in the

> moment thing where I'm trying to read the goalie."

Simonson's second goal, which gave the Rockets a three-goal cushion early in the third period, came after the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha unloaded a wealth of

Simonson

shots on the Bears' net.

Both Laabs and Zach Verhagen had scoring opportunities to open nets that missed the mark before Cooper Zinda bounced a backhand scoring attempt off the post. Simonson then rang a rising shot off the crossbar allowing the Bears to keep the margin at 2.

"Us coming down and putting the work to them a little bit and hitting the pipe and just missing, yeah, it can get a little frustrating but we were in a real flow," Lindemann said. "The guys were just feeling it. I didn't see anyone get frustrated."

Simonson said that with all of the pressure the Rockets were putting on the Bears, another goal felt inevitable.

"You could just feel it," Simonson said. "We had the all of the zone time and we were so close with so many chances. One of them was going to go in eventually. It was nice to get that fourth one."

The Rockets were able to control the Bears for much of the final period but Laabs took a major penalty with a little

more than two minutes to play, giving West Bend an opening to get back in the

However, with Debbert in net and a young penalty-killing crew in front of him, the Bears were unable to add to their total.

"Our (penalty) kill did a great job there," Debbert said. "I was seeing everything."

After Simonson's opening goal, Mark Sutton made it 2-0 for the Rockets when he deflected in a shot from Laabs, who finished with three assists in the game.

Sutton, one of the team's assistant captains, was injured on the play, however, and didn't return. His availability for Friday was in doubt after the game.

Despite his absence, Lindemann was pleased with the way the team overcame the loss of the first-line center.

"We had to make some changes on the fly but we told the guys this is why everyone practices, this is why everyone is ready to go," Lindemann said. "Some guys who usually don't see a lot of ice time, saw more ice than they were used to and did a great job with it."

The Rockets extended the lead to 3-1 midway through the second period on a power play goal from Cooper Zinda.

Off a face-off win, Calvin Zinda, at the point, and Cooper Zinda, on the left wing, played catch with the puck a few times before Cooper unleashed a one-timer that beat Tauban.

"We've been knocked out in the sectional semifinals the last two years so it's good to get over this hump," Lindemann said. "We have some things we want to accomplish and we got to stay focused and we have one more game on Friday to get through."



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# Senior Standout is brought to you by: National Bank



# Ripley excels in three sports for St. Mary Catholic

NEENAH NEWS

Like many three-sport athletes, St. Mary Catholic senior Lauren Ripley sometimes finds herself in the situation of having a test or something important to do in the classroom the day after an athletic event has taken her on a road trip to somewhere in Wisconsin.

When that happens, the honor roll student knows she has two options.

"I'm not the type of person who can study on a bus, so when I get home its either a late night or I am going to just wing it the next day," Ripley said with a laugh. "It works out for me. It all comes together in the end."

Ripley is in her second season of starting for the Zephyrs' basketball team where she is averaging eight points and nearly four rebounds per game. She also averages three steals per game and is the team leader in blocked shots for the third-ranked Zephyrs.

She is also a three-time qualifier for the state cross country meet, making her third trip to Wisconsin Rapids this past fall, and finished 10th in the 1,600 meters at the WIAA State Track and Field meet last spring.

"I enjoy being a three-sport athlete. It keeps me busy and I just love staying active," Ripley said. "I find after school activities fun and I get to see my friends even longer."

Going from one sport to the next also helps her keep her conditioning at a high level which helps with the transition.

However, she does notice a distinct difference between the spring transition from basketball to track and field, compared to the fall switch from cross country to basketball.

"Cross country is just running so the first day of basketball I'm always really, really sore," Ripley said. "I'm shooting, playing defense and using a bunch of different

**Senior Standout** 

muscles so I definitely feel it. I'm good with the conditioning."

Ripley is one of a group of seven seniors on the Zephyrs' basketball team who have played together since middle school.

She said that closeness on the roster brings with it a strong chemistry that has helped the Zephyrs finish the regular season with a 21-3 record, earn a share of the Big East North title and land a No. 1 seed in the WIAA Tournament which begins Friday for St. Mary Catholic.

"Our group of seniors, we are very strong, very leadership oriented. We can help the underclassmen and bring them up to the competitive level," Ripley said. "Using the skills we have as a group of friends we can engage our team and get there through confidence."

Although she has reached double figures 10 times this season, including six times in the last 10 games, Ripley considers herself more of a defensive presence on the court and contributes more on that side of the court.

She also feels she has a role with the team when the Zephyrs aren't playing.

"Kind of that mother role, I would say," Ripley said. "I try to keep everyone together and making sure everyone is nice to each other."

Ripley has been a key player on the Zephyrs' sectional qualifying teams the last two seasons.

St. Mary Catholic was knocked out by a powerhouse Laconia team in a sectional semifinal last season after dropping a one-

SEE Senior Standout ON PAGE 15



Lauren Ripley is a three-sport standout for St. Mary Catholic, serving as a key contributor on the team's state-ranked basketball team, while also having competed at the state level in cross country and track and field.

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FEBRUARY 28, 2025

NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM | Page 15

# **Prep sports roundup**

# **BOYS BASKETBALL**

# Rockets rally to collect win over Wildcats

Neenah erased a seven-point halftime deficit and collected a 45-42 win over Oshkosh West last Friday.

Luke Jung finished with 23 points and seven rebounds to lead the Rockets, while Joey Daun chipped in 10 points. The duo also combined to finish 10-of-12 at the free-throw line in the win.

The Rockets trailed 21-14 at halftime. Neenah also collected a 51-48 nonconference win over Marshfield on Tuesday.

Daun led the way with 18 points and Nick Schultz hit four 3-pointers and added 16 in the win. Luke Jung and Benjy Bell each finished with seven points, while Jung picked up a team-high nine rebounds.

# Zephyrs net win in Big East Crossover

St. Mary Catholic had three players finish in double figures as it knocked off Sheboygan Christian 74-45 in a Big East Crossover game last week.

The Zephyrs led 31-20 at halftime before breaking the game open in the second half.

Mason Uhlenbrauck made four 3-pointers and finished with 17 points to lead St. Mary Catholic. Preston Fields followed with 16 points while Tarver Trinkner finished 4-of-4 from 3-point range and totaled 14 points.

The Zephyrs then fell to Racine Prairie on Saturday, 62-56, with Trinkner and Mason Wagner each scoring 15 points to lead the way for St. Mary Catholic.

Fields also reached double figures with 11 points for the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic fell on the road to Manitowoc Lutheran, 70-58, Tuesday as the Lancers were able to pull away in the second half.

The game was tied at 36 at halftime. Fields led three Zephyrs in double fig-

ures with 20 points. Luke Fairweather finished with 15 points and Maddox Dwyer chipped in 11.

# **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

# Rockets collect win in regular-season finale

Neenah had three players reach double figures as it wrapped up the regular season with a 72-65 win over Oshkosh West last Thursday.

Rowan Klesmit finished with 20 points and seven rebounds to lead the Rockets, while Ellie Buss added 17 points. The duo also finished with a combined eight 3-pointers.

Rae Schoultz also reached double figures with 10 points.

Neenah led 34-26 at halftime.

# **BOYS HOCKEY**

# Rockets open tourney with win over Ashwaubenon

Cartyr Simonson and Zach Verhagen each scored a pair of goals and Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha never trailed in collecting a 5-2 win over Ashwaubenon in a WIAA Division 1 regional tournament game last week.

Simonson and Verhagen scored goals less than a minute apart in the second period to stake the Rockets to a 2-0 lead, while Simonson picked up his second tally in the final minute of the period as Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha took a 3-1 lead into the final period.

Ashwaubenon pulled within a goal about six minutes into the third period but Liam Kelly scored with less than four minutes to play to push the lead back to two goals. Verhagen picked up his second goal into an empty net to seal the win.

Ty Laabs finished with three assists in

Owen Debbert earned the win in goal with 12 saves as the Rockets outshot the Jaguars, 30-14.

# Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

point heartbreaker to Mishicot her sophomore year.

This year, she and her teammates are hoping to make it past the sectional games and to the Resch Center for the state tournament.

"We think we have a good shot this year. We are just keeping our hopes up and we are going to play our best," Ripley said. "Those games were tough losses. Those experiences make us more competitive to get there – like we are not losing again. We are getting there. That's the mindset."

Stepping onto the court at the Resch Center for the first time would be a nerve-wracking experience but it would kind of be old hat for Ripley.

Standing at the starting line for the start of a state cross country meet or walking into a jam-packed Memorial Stadium to compete at state track are both capable of making the knees buckle a bit.

"They are both very intimidating," Ripley said. "I would say cross country is more intimidating because you are running against a lot more people than just a few people on the track. With all of the fans surrounding the course, there are just a lot of people watching you."

As much as Ripley enjoys playing basketball, running is her true passion and something she hopes to continue at the collegiate level.

She hopes to pursue track and field for sure and possibly cross country, but has not settled on where she will continue her running.

"I can't imagine what it would be like not playing a sport. I would have so much free time I wouldn't know what to do with myself," Ripley said. "It's just something I've done my whole life."

It's also an activity that she can continue well beyond her college years as well.

"I am hoping to train for a full marathon. In the future, past college I definitely want to keep running and stay active," said Ripley, who has already completed a couple of half-marathons. "(Running) is something I can do anytime. I can go out by myself. I don't need anyone else to come out with me. I can go out and clear my head. I can run whenever and it's nice. I'm hoping I can do it for the rest of my life."

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MARINETTE: BRANCH Case No: 24-CV-311 Code No: 30405

DOUGLAS E. WAGNER and JAMIE K. NOLAN N8090 Tipperary Lane Crivitz, WI 54114 Plaintiffs,

vs. KEITH FRALEY 1150 Jonathan Lane, Apt 16 Neenah, WI 54956 Defendant.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO THE PERSON NAMED ABOVE AS RESPONDENT:

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a Complaint to Foreclose Land Contract against you. You must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint within 40 days from the day after the first date of publication. That demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is:

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ary, 2025.
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Kim A. Coggins (1010831)
Plaintiff's Attorney
COGGINS LAW
1701 Dunlap Avenue
Marinette, WI 54143
(715) 732-8880
kim@cogginslaw.net

Runs February 14, 2025, February 21, 2025 and February 28, 2025

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Craig Gil Arellano Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000186

# **NOTICE IS GIVEN:** A Petition was filed asking to

change the name of the person listed above: From: Craig Gil Arellano To: Carmen Aleah Arellano Birth Certificate: Craig Gil

# IT IS ORDERED:

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

Place: Winnebago County Courthouse 415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901, Room 211 Date: April 4, 2025 Time: 11:00 AM

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4858 (press 0) 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: February 17,

/s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch IV Runs: February 21, 2025, February 28, 2025 and March 7, 2025

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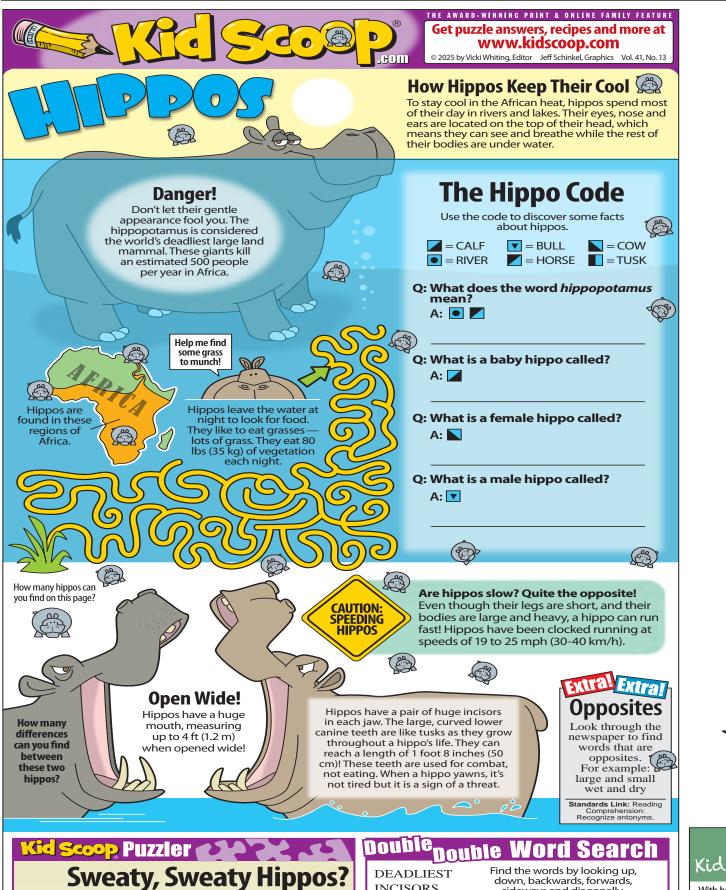


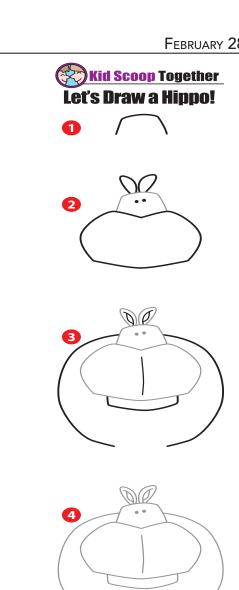


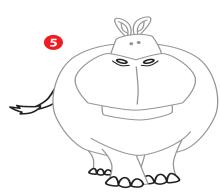


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Page 16 I Neenahnews.com









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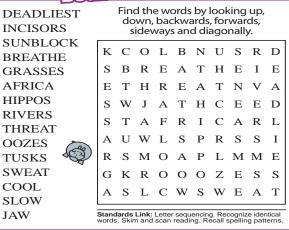
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