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VOLUME 4, ISSUE 10

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Sailing away

New charter business offers lake tours
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Lifesaving trend

Overdose deaths drop notably in county
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County votes to acquire UW campus

Supervisors hear plan for child care services

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to purchase Outagamie County's share of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Cities 43-acre campus in Menasha for a nominal fee of \$1 in an effort to continue offering child care after classes end later this year.

As part of the deal, the contents of the Weis Earth Science Museum will be turned over to Outagamie County, who will donate the collection to Appleton's History Museum at the Castle.

The campus is jointly owned by Outagamie and Winnebago counties and with

classes set to end June 30 due to declining enrollment, both county boards have been considering options for the site's future.

The latest plan for Winnebago to "divorce" its co-ownership of the campus with Outagamie was developed under former Winnebago County Executive Jon Doemel and appears to be separate from he and Outagamie

SEE **UW campus** ON PAGE 12



Photo by David Hal

Easter buddy

Children and families visiting The Plaza in downtown Neenah over recent weekends had the opportunity to meet with the Easter bunny for photo opportunities.

More ATV access on Winnebago County roads proposed

Recreation alliance seeks added travel routes

By Bethanie Gengler Neenah News

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is working with area recreational groups to revise a county ordinance to allow all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicles to drive on county highways.

Lt. Darin Rice told the county's Judiciary & Public Safety Committee last week that the sheriff's office was approached by the Winnebago County ATV/UTV alliance to request changes to the ordinance to allow ATVs and UTVs to operate on certain stretches of county highways, which he said would put Win-

nebago County "more in line with the surrounding counties."

"A lot of the surrounding counties have opened up county roadways for ATV and UTV usage," he said.

Under state law, counties, cities, villages and towns have the authority to enact ordinances permitting the operation of ATVs and UTVs on roads and on state highways posted 35 miles per hour or less within their boundaries. Counties may also allow the vehicles to operate on county trunk highways if they've been designated by ordinance as ATV/UTV routes.

Winnebago County adopted an ordinance in 2019 that allows ATVs and

DNR photo

A Winnebago County ordinance that allows all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicles on county roads would be expanded to some highways under a new proposal.

See **ATV** access on Page 11



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Editor

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

Corrections

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

About the newspaper

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Thursdays for Friday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 21,000 homes and businesses in the Neenah and Fox Crossing areas. An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.neenahnews.com.

Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.

Construction begins on Shattuck Park flag memorial

Neenah News

Construction is underway on a new military flag memorial in Shattuck Park designed to honor service members from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Neenah Parks & Recreation Department announced last week that a crew broke ground at the designated site near the park's entrance adjacent to the Neenah Public Library, marking the start of demolition of the former monument, which was determined to have deteriorated beyond repair.

The former display included the American flag, Wisconsin flag and POW/MIA flag. Those flags will all be replaced with new flag poles and the six service flags – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Space Force – will be added. The flags will be lit and not lowered.

The flag display will see a new foundation and colored concrete with medallions representing the six service branches being provided by Neenah Foundry. While the existing granite memorial plaque will remain, two granite donor recognition monuments will also be added.



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Neenah News

The former flag memorial in Shattuck Park is under construction to replace it with a new veterans memorial.

Planning for the project began in 2023 when veterans' associations approached the city to inquire about installing a military memorial. Shattuck Park was chosen due to its visibility in downtown Neenah.

Miron Construction partnered with veterans associations in cooperation with the city to provide construction expertise, labor and equipment.

Correction

APRIL 11, PAGE 9: In a quote attributed to Alderman Cari Lendrum regarding the investigation of city attorney David Rashid, the word "unobjectionable" should have been "unobjective."

American Legion Post 33 led fundraising efforts for the memorial and installation, announcing in January that it had secured donations to cover the estimated \$175,000 cost.

The project is expected to be complete before the first Future Neenah Farmers Market in June, with a rededication of the new flag memorial set for 2 p.m. June 15.

Calendar of events

Friday, April 18

Jazz for '90s Kids, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive

Sunday, April 20Lawrence University Piano Jazz Trio,

2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Monday, April 21

Big Band Reunion, 7:30 p.m., Cranky

Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

Tuesday, April 22

Film Series: "National Lampoon's Vacation," 1 p.m., Neenah-Menasha YMCA

Thursday, April 24
Rocket Players: "They Promised Her

the Moon," 7 p.m., Neenah High School

Friday, April 25

Rocket Players: "They Promised Her the Moon," 7 p.m., Neenah High School PAC

Saturday, April 26

Earth Day program, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

EnerG Elements Spring open house, 10 a.m., 695 S. Green Bay Road

Last Light Neenah launch, 7 p.m., 135 W. Wisconsin Ave. and Greene's Pour House

Rocket Players: "They Promised Her the Moon," 7 p.m., Neenah High School PAC

Sunday, April 27

Rocket Players: "They Promised Her the Moon," 2 p.m., Neenah High School PAC

Tuesday, April 29

Movie Talks: "Blade Runner," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, May 2

First Friday Concert Series: Christo Ruppenthal, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library Badger State Girl Choir, 5 and 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Church St.



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New lake tour business sets sail this summer

By Bethanie Gengler Neenah News

Residents and visitors will have a new way to experience Lake Winnebago this summer with the upcoming launch of Sail Neenah, a local charter business founded by Capt. Max Sheppard, who aims to showcase the area's sailing potential.

"We just want to show people what we get to enjoy all the time," Sheppard said.

He will offer two-hour sailing tours Thursday through Sunday evenings, accommodating up to six passengers per trip at a rate of \$300-\$350 for the group. The tours will depart from Riverside Park on a 14-foot catamaran, a two-hulled boat popular for sailing.

"It's just really stable and comfortable and has a big trampoline area in the front that you could lay out on if you wanted, during a tour," he said.

After purchasing the boat in August, Sheppard and his family spent about three months sailing it a couple of times a week.

"My daughter was 2 at the time, and my son was 4, and they've been on the boat about as many times as I have, so probably over 20 times on that new boat," he said.

Sheppard, who is 40, grew up in Neenah and has been sailing most of his life, an experience that he described as stepping into a completely new world, free from the distractions of daily life.

"You don't have the motor noise that you would normally associate with boating, and it's just kind of a different pace and just silent," he said. "You just hear the wind and the water, and that's all you hear, and it's pretty relaxing and nice."

He has been a licensed captain for nearly 20 years and has more than 1,080 days of offshore experience. He previously worked as a private yacht captain, traveling across

the Pacific Ocean multiple times over three years. While living in the South Pacific island group of Tonga for a year, Sheppard met his wife, Lata, who is 35.

The couple later settled in Neenah, which he considers "the perfect place to raise a family and one of the most obtainable places for the average person to be able to enjoy sailing on Lake Winnebago."

They have two children, Adeline, who is 3, and Kai, who is 5.

"I jokingly say that we're all islanders because me and the kids were born on Doty Island at Theda (hospital) there, and my wife was born in American Samoa, so we're all islanders," he said.

In the Fox Valley, Sheppard became involved with Fox River Tours, spending six years as the operations manager and head captain. Fox River Tours, which provided public boat tours out of De Pere, Green Bay, Appleton and Kimberly on the 55-foot River Tyme and 46-foot River Tyme Too, shut down after the 2023 season.

Sheppard now works for Gulfstream Aerospace in Appleton and will operate Sail Neenah part time each season.

Beyond standard tours, Sheppard hopes to offer special experiences such as sunset cruises, wedding event sailing, tours during the annual EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, and a potential Fourth of July package featuring the Venetian boat parade during Neenah's annual Community Fest. He is also considering partnering with local restaurants to offer dinner tours that combine a sailing experience with a meal.

"We're trying to get as many people out sailing as possible," he said.

The Neenah Parks & Recreation Department approved an agreement through 2027 for Sail Neenah to use the seawall at



Submitted photo

A drone photo shows the 14-foot catamaran boat that will be used to take passengers on tours of Lake Winnebago.

Riverside Park for loading and unloading of passengers and for occasional boat maintenance.

A small dinghy will be used to transport Sheppard to the catamaran, with guests boarding the boat from the seawall. No sailing experience is required, and the tours are suitable for most ages and fitness levels.

"As long as you know what you're doing, and you look at the weather, it's perfectly safe for any age," he said.

Those interested in taking a tour can email max@sailneenah.com or call 920-215-8811. The website sailneenah.com is expected to be live in mid-May with booking information.

Sheppard believes Sail Neenah will be the first charter sailing business to operate out of Neenah, with tours set to begin in early June.



Submitted phot

Capt. Max Sheppard, who is starting a charter sailing business in Neenah this summer, is shown on the open water.

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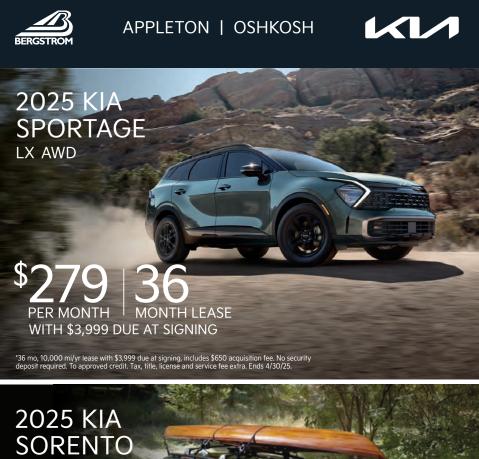
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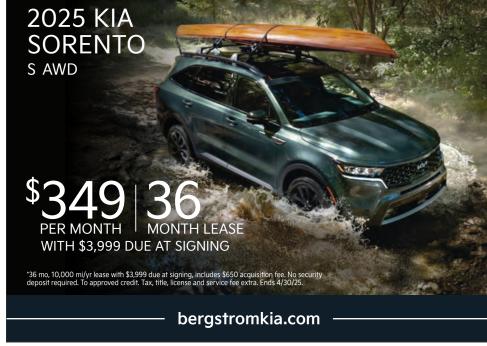


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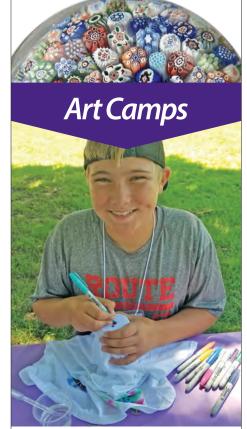


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Morgue update notes overdose deaths decline

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

A new morgue and medical examiner's office which has been operational since March is initially seeing less use than anticipated, but for good reason: Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer is reporting a sharp drop in deaths across the board for the first four months of the year.

The new \$1.5 million building in Oshkosh near the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office includes the medical examiner's office, morgue with cold storage, an exam room and evidence storage garage. Four full-time salaried employees work out of the building, including Brehmer and three deputy medical examiners.

So far this year, the county has conducted 23 autopsies, averaging to 5.75 per month. In comparison, the county conducted 122 autopsies in all of 2024, averaging to about 10.25 per month.

Since moving to the new location and becoming operational in mid-March, there have been 10 decedents in the facility, three of whom were transported by the Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy. Between the transportations and storage, Brehmer said the morgue has already saved the county nearly \$3,000 in its first

When a resident dies of a suspicious death, Winnebago County stores the body for up to 12 days until an autopsy is conducted in Fond du Lac County. Pre-



Brehmer

er county, and at a livery service.

Valley Healthcare

Emergency Readiness Coalition donated a mobile morgue unit to the county that was used until completion of the permanent morgue. The mobile morgue will now be used in the event of a mass casualty or when the morgue is over capacity.

Brehmer previously said at a County Board meeting that the new morgue is necessary to keep up with a rising number of overdose deaths in Winnebago County,

viously, Winnebago County didn't have its own cold storage for bodies and was storing them at funeral homes, in a cold storage trailer borrowed from anoth-

More recently, Fox

the effects of opioids. Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke said she's been reading up on the drop in overdose deaths.

which in 2023 reached a record 50 fatalities.

At this time last year, Brehmer said the county had 24 overdose deaths. This year,

there have only been two confirmed fatal

overdoses - both intentional with pre-

scription or illicit drugs - and two pend-

continue to stay down," Brehmer said.

"So those numbers, knock on wood,

Supervisor Bryan Stafford questioned

whether the county's harm-reduction

vending machines are playing a role in the

decline in overdoses, to which Brehmer re-

sponded that she doesn't have that data yet.

Oshkosh and Neenah in September and

dispense Narcan, which is the brand name

for naloxone, a nasal spray that when ad-

ministered promptly reverses and blocks

The vending machines were installed in

ing cases with illicit drugs.

"There is a lot of preliminary information that the increased training and availability of naloxone is responsible for a fair chunk of what's going on, and that it's so easy for people to acquire it that people are not dying, which is exactly what we wanted to happen," Hancock-Cooke

There have been five confirmed suicide deaths in the county this year, compared with 28 such deaths in the first four months of 2024. All the suicide victims this year have been over age 63.

Homicides are also down in the county, which saw seven such deaths at this time last year, including three with firearms. As of early April, there have been no homi-

City development

cides in Winnebago County this year.

director named

Neenah News

The city of Neenah has named Kelly Nieforth its new director of community development and assessment after the

retirement of Chris Haese, who served in the role and in the department for 34 years.

Nieforth currently serves as Oshkosh's director of community development and has worked with the city since 2012, first as economic development



Nieforth

manager and as community development director since 2021.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring Kelly Nieforth to the city of Neenah to professionally lead and guide our community development efforts," Mayor Jane Lang said in a statement. "We anticipate she will quickly make very positive contributions to our city's growth and future develop-

Nieforth will officially begin her duties April 28.



Man arrested twice in same morning for OWI

A man was arrested twice early Saturday morning for operating while intoxicated (OWI), according to the Fox Crossing Police Department.

At around 4:40 a.m. April 12 police located a vehicle on the roadway near County CB and U.S. 10 in Fox Crossing that had run out of gas, according to the police blotter.

The driver, whose name has not yet been released, had been arrested by a

neighboring agency just two hours earlier for OWI. For the second time that morn-

The driver was taken into custody for

ing, the driver was arrested for OWI. He was also cited for failure to install an ignition interlock device and operating while suspended, indicating he likely has a previous OWI conviction. a blood draw and released to a relative.

Criminal charges have been referred to the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office.



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April 18, 2025

Craft beer drinking stories as wonderful as the brews

In our previous "Wife + Husband = Beer" column, we shared the histories of some craft beer pioneers. People such as Michael Jackson, Larry Bell and Charlie Papazian inspired so many others to appreciate as well as create well-crafted beer. Today's column is more personal.

We asked beer-loving people about their journey into craft beer; more specifically, if there was one person, beer or event that sparked their passion for great-tasting beer. As you read these entertaining stories, presented in the author's own words, think about your own path to discovering enjoyable beer.

Alex Wensel, owner of Lion's Tail Brewing Co.: "One summer during college, I worked as a shoeshine boy at a country club. A group of guys would play cards in the lounge and have me fetch beers for them. The bar had George Killian's Irish Red on tap and served it in a European-style dimpled mug and, instead of tipping me in cash, they'd order an extra pint for me. I had only really drunk cheap, light macro lagers, so drinking this full-flavored, rich amber beer (poured perfectly in a beautiful glass) was a truly life-changing experience."

David Hall, regular content contributor to Neenah News: "In grad school, I drove a friend out to a Madison homebrewers' event. Dark winding roads in the middle of nowhere ... out to a warehouse-like building where I saw my first brewery. After a tour, we lined up in front of a bright tank to have the first taste of the brewer's latest beer, which was marvelous. The location of the brewery: New Glarus. The name of the brewer: Dan Carey. The beer: The first tasting of Spotted Cow!"

Sam Yanda, co-owner of Badger State Brewing (Green Bay): "Around senior year in college, I started trying different beers besides the normal American light lagers, mainly Guinness and Newcastle Brown Ale, plus the occasional Belgian beer. Shortly after I graduated, a co-worker and friend got bored, so we went halfsies on a homebrew kit. I then started paying attention to local craft breweries and one, Hinterland, would do a regular firkin tapping. I would attend and pick the brewer's mind (Scott Kissman) and annoy the hell out of him."

Dave Tohtz, brewer at Goose Island Brewing (Chicago): "A friend worked at a (now defunct) brewery called Baderbräu, and they had a Bohemian lager and a dark ale. Cases were around \$15. We



Wife + Husband = Beer

Jami and Eric Severstad

went on the tour, drank from the tanks, walked back to his house and slept like the dead. That led to a lot of craft beer things and people."

Will Mueller, salesperson at Delta Beer Lab (Madison): "While watching M*A*S*H reruns, I told my dad I was interested in building a still. He didn't think that was a good idea, but he tried homebrewing instead. That led me to the Beer Barons of Milwaukee homebrewers club and a never-ending rabbit hole of craft beer experiences."

Jeff Wright (Portland, Oregon):
"I started trying imported beers and discovered a great witbier from Belgium called Hoegaarden. I then met some online friends at TheBeerSpot.com, and they were talking about IPAs. I didn't know what that was, but during a business trip to Washington D.C., I had Dogfish Head 60 Minute IPA on tap and loved it."

Mary Poulter (Green Bay): "I have no single good beer story, but I remember happily and fuzzily drinking a Thai chili ale from Right Brain Brewery at The Great Taste of the Midwest beer fest, a firkin of an ale with fresh raspberries from Ahnapee Brewing during Green Bay Craft Beer Week and a pickle juice lager on a warm summer evening at Zipline Brewing Co. in Lincoln, Nebraska. But my favorite beer experience was sitting around the backyard with sampler glasses and sharing bombers with you (Wife and Husband)."

Wife: "For me, it was a boyfriend's patience and encouragement that inspired my love of craft beer. I used to think that all beer was bland and boring, like large American lagers such as Miller and Budweiser. While dating, I tried McEwan's Scotch Ale at Pat's Tap (Appleton) and discovered the missing beer element for me: malt! With this man, together we explored tastings, events and breweries while we fell in love. Yes, I married him, and we even ended up co-writing a beer-focused newspaper column. Cheers, Husband!"

Husband: "How sweet is that? I remember it well. Homebrewed beer was the catalyst for a different lifelong friendship I made in 2001. Dan Roherty,



Photo by Rune Severstad

The lifelong friendship between "Wife" and "Husband" and Neenah News editor Dan Roherty (center) started by simply sharing a beer.

Art by Jami Severstad Friendships can develop while creating beer, as one did with this homebrewed Black Dog Doppelbock between Neenah News editor Dan Roherty, and Husband, resulting in what he considers a "top 10 beer of my life."



Neenah News editor since its inception, brought a mini-keg of homebrew to a disc golf event attended by myself and quite a few other people that he didn't know. There's no better way to spark a friendship, and he earned the nickname "SuperCool Dan." He and I (and my dog, Ramone) homebrewed several batches together while listening to Led Zeppelin, Captain Beefheart, Legendary Shack Shakers and Frank Zappa. Some initial meetings you never forget, and that's definitely one for me, Dan."

As a couple, Wife and Husband want to congratulate Dan on his upcoming retirement at the end of this month. Dan's background in journalism and his dedication to the newspaper industry resulted in award-winning publications, Neenah News and Oshkosh Herald. Plus, his good taste in music and overall friendship brought joy to our lives for decades. See you on the disc golf course and at local breweries, Dan.

Attending beer-focused events (beer fests, tastings, dinners) is another way

people create lasting memories and friendships. Most are reasonably priced for what the experience provides, especially The Great Taste of the Midwest in Madison (the country's second oldest beer festival). Get tickets in-person the first week of May or mail in for the lottery drawing (details at mhtg.org). The effort to get tickets is worth it when you're part of the happiest place on Earth in August.

You know you're nearing beer fest season when the Wisconsin Micro-Brewers Beer Fest happens. Held at the Calumet County Fairgrounds on May 18 this year, it features two live bands and 18 breweries, but bring your own lawn chair! Tickets (\$45) may only be purchased in advance and are limited, so get over to Rowland's Calumet Brewing Co. in Chilton soon.

Wife and Husband are also retiring this monthly column, Wife + Husband = Beer. Thank you to Dan and Karen Schneider (the paper's fearless publisher) for taking a chance on inexperienced newspaper writers and for three great years. Our goal was to educate and entertain our neighbors on the joy of craft beer, and we're honored to have done that with help from so many contributors.

We're proud to have appeared in the first edition of the paper and in every month since, and we wish it the best moving forward. We'll see you all at breweries, festivals and taverns (that serve good beer). Cheers!

Want to stay in touch? Email us at: wife.husband. beer@gmail.com.

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APRIL 11, 2025

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Photo from ThedaCar

ThedaCare Medical Center-Fond du Lac's new campus off Interstate 41 is shown.

ThedaCare's Fond du Lac hospital opens

Oshkosh Herald

ThedaCare Medical Center-Fond du Lac became the health system's ninth hospital this week as care teams welcomed their first patients to the facility while work continues on a second new ThedaCare hospital in Oshkosh set to open later this year.

ThedaCare broke ground on the Fond du Lac campus at 755 W. Johnson St. near Interstate 41 in February 2024.

"ThedaCare Medical Center-Fond du Lac expands convenient access to care for those living in northeast and central Wisconsin," stated Dr. Robert Cavagnol, North Region president for Froedtert ThedaCare Health. "It also gives us an opportunity to ensure access to higher levels of care when needed – which can be done as part of our larger integrated system."

The 25,000-square-foot campus, which will be open at all times, is equipped with an emergency department and 10 inpatient beds. For patients requiring additional care, computed tomography (CT) scans, X-ray and ultrasound with outpatient access will be offered.

ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh is projected to be about 114,000 square feet with emergency care, inpatient beds and 24/7 coverage with a retail pharmacy, ambulatory surgery center with operating rooms and a medical office building for primary care and specialties.

Construction partners for both projects include Hplex Solutions as owner representative; HGA as architect and engineer; Miron Construction Co., Inc. as construction manager; and the Sigma Group as civil engineer and landscape architect.



Teacher gets Saudi consulate post

Neenah News

Former Neenah High School teacher Eric Thiede has been assigned as a consular officer at the U.S. consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and will begin his assignment in January after a series of training programs.

The longtime social studies instructor learned of his assignment in late February from the U.S. Department of State after a two-year process that tested his background and skills.

Thiede is currently immersed in a 36-week training program in Washington, D.C., learning Arabic to a level of fluency to meet his job assignment by the end of October.

"After that I will have weeks of consular and visa law training, as well as a few other

training sessions before the end of 2025," he said.

Thiede, who taught for 13 years at Neenah High and 12 in Kaukauna, said he chose public diplomacy because it related to many of his experiences in teaching.

Thiede has foreign travel experience, having taught in Scotland while wife Stacey, an ELL teacher in the Oshkosh Area School District, has taught in Mexico.

"Eventually I will be doing things like helping run and manage exchange programs between whatever country I'm in and the U.S. (or) when athletes or entertainers come to visit, doing cultural diplomacy with them that we will be organizing around the country, doing some media on behalf of the embassy or consulate," Thiede said in an interview in January.

High school seniors honored by DAR chapter

High school seniors will be honored as Good Citizens by the Appleton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) who were chosen by their respective schools based on their dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

The students could elect to enter the scholarship portion of the program if they wished, and 13 of the 15 chose to do so.

Among the honorees were Elise Hendrickson from Neenah High and Jacob Duquaine from St. Mary Catholic.



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OMETOWN NEWS SOURCE

Clinic institute welcomes ticks for second year of study

Marshfield Clinic Research Institute is again asking Wisconsin residents to send in ticks they find while working and recreating outside this year.

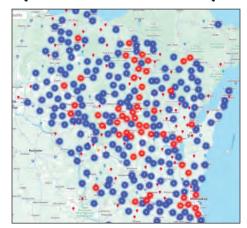
The institute launched the Tick Inventory via Citizen Science (TICS) last year in an effort to identify ticks found in the state to help assess risk of encountering a tickborne disease and learn who is being exposed and diagnosed.

More than 6,000 ticks were submitted in 2024. About 4,200, or more than 70%, were the American dog (wood) tick and the majority of the remainder were the deer (blacklegged) tick. Much of that difference is likely due to the larger wood ticks being easier to spot than the smaller deer ticks.

"We had overwhelming support from people are curious and invested in helping better identify the health threats associated with ticks," said Jennifer Meece, institute executive director. "We had many calls last year from people who told us about the impact tick-borne disease had on their lives."

Deer ticks carry pathogens that may cause diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis and babesiosis. The large number of ticks submitted allowed the research team to detect an influx of ticks from typically warmer climates, including the lone star tick that spreads ehrlichiosis and could cause Alpha-gal Syndrome (also known as the meat allergy), and Brown dog ticks that spread Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

"With new tick species becoming more prevalent in Wisconsin, the risk for potential newly introduced diseases increases," Meece said. "We are trying to determine the extent and significance of this spread and the po-



A state map identifies where ticks have been collected and sent to the Marshfield Clinic Research Institute for identification.

tential health effects."

For more information or to request a pre-paid collection kit, contact tics@marsh-fieldclinic.org or 715-389-7796 (extension 16462).

New this year inside the kit will be additional survey questions. Optional questions include the types of precautions the person is taking to avoid ticks, if they've ever been diagnosed with a tickborne disease and if the Research Institute can follow up with the person for potential future studies.

Thomas Boyce, a pediatric infectious disease physician with Marshfield Clinic Health System, said, "If you remove a deer tick that is attached and engorged, a single dose of an antibiotic (doxycycline) can reduce the risk of contracting Lyme disease ten-fold."

To reduce the risk of bites, spray insecticide such as permethrin on clothing, sleeping bags and tent fabric, and wear clothing that covers the skin.



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NJSD photo

Sporting unity

Students from Neenah High School and Oshkosh West High School hosted a unified basketball game followed later by an inclusive prom for students with and without disabilities last Friday night at Neenah High.

Chamber offers program for management, leadership

Neenah News

The Fox Cities Chamber is offering a seminar on effective management and leadership as part of its Fox Talks series from 8 to 9:30 a.m. May 14 at Community First Credit Union, 1575 Dresang Way, Neenah.

Presenters Matt Becker from Guident Business Solutions, Paula Rauenbuehler from Leading UP and Christine Wales from River Crossing Coaching will equip participants with actionables and tools to drive growth, build teams and navigate challenging interactions.

Becker's presentation, "Building Strong,

Cohesive Teams," will focus on a strategic, systemic, and intentional approach to maximize team effectiveness. Rauenbuehler's "The New Leader's Playbook: Strategies for Success," discusses making the transition from individual contributor to a people manager. Wales' "Confronting Challenges with Confidence: Key Skills for Navigating Difficult Conversations," will delve into the role of emotional intelligence in shaping behavior.

The program is free for chamber members and \$25 for nonmembers.

Go to foxcitieschamber.com for more information.

Spring boaters urged to exercise caution

Neenah News

Area boaters and paddlers are being reminded that spring storms with high winds, fluctuating temperatures, cold water and potential flood conditions can make navigating lakes and rivers dangerous this time of the season.

"People are always in a rush for that first paddle or fishing excursion of the year," said Lt. Darren Kuhn, state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) boating law administrator. "While the air temperatures might be warm, the water is just above freezing, and accidental falls overboard could prove deadly quickly as hypothermia sets in. Cold water immersion can lead to hypothermia more quickly than during the traditional summer boating season."

Recent storms brought a wintery mix of precipitation to southern Wisconsin and ice storms to northern Wisconsin, resulting in broken branches, downed trees, power outages and substantial debris in waterways, which increases the dangers of spring boating activities.

Spring runoff and melting ice cover increase water levels, bringing the risk of dangerous currents that might affect how a boat handles on the water and could cause drowning. It's also important to be mindful near dams. Never anchor below a dam, as water levels can change.

Kuhn says the first item in the boat should be a life jacket for the operator and enough for each passenger.

Memorial Day parade entries near deadline

Entries for the Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day Parade must be in by April 30. Contact Chase Friemark at 920-354-7069 or Dave Mix at 920-851-2306 for more information.

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April 18, 2025

Lawmakers push back on Evers' \$856 million ask for UW

By Hallie Claflin WISCONSIN WATCH

At an April 1 hearing, in a sign of what the most contentious issues will be in this year's state budget, the Republican-controlled budget committee only heard from two state agencies: Corrections and the Universities of Wisconsin system.

UW system President Jay Rothman told lawmakers he agreed with Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' assessment that the 2025-27 biennial state budget is a "make it or break it" budget year for the public university system.

Evers' budget request for the Universities of Wisconsin matched the agency's ask of \$856 million in additional funding over two years, which would be one of the largest increases in the university system's history. Evers told reporters this funding, in addition to \$1.6 billion proposed for capital projects, is essential even without the Trump administration's threats to cut university funding.

Republican lawmakers on the Joint Finance Committee asked Rothman to justify "administrative bloat" across the system's 13 universities, as well as the sizable budget ask. Rothman said while the request is large, Wisconsin currently ranks 43rd out of 50 in state spending on public universities. Evers' budget would add 214 state-funded positions to UW campuses. Rothman said that excluding UW-Madison, the universities have lost over 1,000 positions since 2019.

The share of the UW system budget that comes from state funds has decreased by about 15 percentage points in the last two decades, from 33% to 18%.

"If we get the budget funded, we will not have to raise tuition," Rothman told the JFC. "If we don't get funded at an adequate level, that's one of the levers we have. We keep our branch campuses open, that's another lever we have that I don't want to have to use."

But amid declining birth rates and enrollment in public schools across the state, Republican lawmakers questioned whether the \$856 million ask is reasonable considering university enrollments may soon drop significantly. Five of the 13 campuses had enrollments shrink last year.

"You cannot cut your way to success," Rothman told the committee. "You need to invest."

State funding for UW-Madison, the state's flagship university, in inflation-adjusted dollars was \$644 million in 1974. Since then, it has declined by \$93 million in inflation-adjusted dollars, according to the university's 2023-24 budget report. Figures aren't available system-wide.

Republican Rep. Mark Born, co-chair of the committee, asked Rothman why the request called for 13 new staff positions — one on each campus — to support students who have aged out of the foster care system. He cited a UW system report that found there were 420 students in that program across nine of the campuses. He questioned why a position would need to be created at a school like UW-Platteville, which served nine of those students last year. The report also shows that the program didn't serve all 570 students who qualify, including 23 on that campus.

"I think this is a shining example of the governor's desire to grow government and your desire to grow your system, and it's not focused on the reality of how you invest in this stuff," Born told Rothman.

Rothman said the intent behind the positions is to expand the number of foster

care students who could be served.

Republican lawmakers have criticized enrollment and admissions at the state's flagship university in recent years, citing constituents who say their high-achieving children have been rejected from attending UW-Madison. They have also raised concerns that the university is denying admission to in-state students in favor of out-of-state or international students.

Unlike some of the smaller Wisconsin campuses, UW-Madison has maintained high enrollment numbers likely due to its ability to attract out-of-state and international students.

If the university significantly increased its enrollment of in-state students from an already declining pool of applicants, enrollment at other UW system schools could be negatively affected, UW-Madison vice provost for enrollment management Derek Kindle told WPR.

During the April 1 hearing, Sen. Rob Stafsholt, R-New Richmond, said he adamantly believes in retaining Wisconsin-based students in the university system. He asked Rothman why one of his young constituents — who has a 4.3 GPA, 32 ACT score and a father who is a military veteran — was rejected from UW-Madison.

"How are we not serving our own kids, as they graduate, by admitting them to our universities before we spend taxpayer dollars and increase taxpayer dollars to attract people from other parts of the world?" Stafsholt asked.

Rothman said he didn't have the specifics of that student's case, but pointed to a bill signed into law last year that allows graduating high school students who rank in the top 10% of their high school's graduating class to gain admission to any UW system school and guarantees admission to UW-Madison for those in the top 5% of their class. The bill takes effect for college admissions starting next fall.

In fall 2024, UW-Madison admitted around 59.3% of in-state applicants, down from an average of 66.8% over the previous nine years. The out-of-state U.S. student admission rate was 46.5%, and the interna-

tional student admission rate was 33.3%, compared with a previous nine-year average of 52.7% and 38.6% respectively.

The questioning was similar to a national talking point about high-achieving students being rejected from universities, which some Republicans have attributed to diversity, equity and inclusion practices. Right-wing activists like Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA, have questioned whether the government should be funding higher education.

On the same day as the hearing, Kirk took to social media to share an example of a high-achieving student similar to the one Stafsholt spoke of.

"Why are we giving hundreds of billions of dollars to universities so stupid they won't offer this kid an admission because of his skin color (and let's be honest, that's why he was rejected everywhere)?" Kirk wrote on X. "Defund the college scam."

Last month, the federal Department of Education notified UW-Madison that it was one of 60 universities across the country under investigation by the Office for Civil Rights. The letter warned that the university could lose federal funding if it failed to protect its Jewish students.

The move was part of the Trump administration's crackdown on antisemitism on college campuses, which has involved detaining, deporting and terminating the visas of students with ties to the national pro-Palestinian protests last spring.

UW-Madison is also one of 45 universities being investigated for alleged racial discrimination related to its diversity, equity and inclusion practices. The Trump administration has made sweeping threats to pull federal funding from colleges that continue to consider race and diversity in their policies and programs.

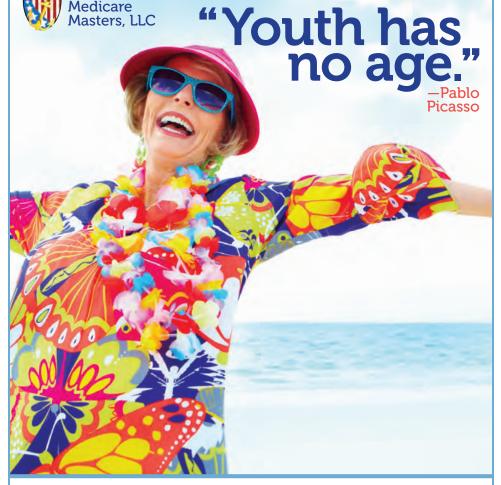
But how much funding is at stake here? According to the Associated Press, out of 50 public universities under OCR investigation, UW-Madison is among the top five that received the most federal revenue in 2022-23. The university collected more than \$827 million in federal funds that year, which was just over 20% of its total revenue.



The Wisconsin State Patrol's April Law of the Month encourages drivers to help create a safe space for crews who work on and alongside the road as construction season ramps up.

"Construction crews and county highway personnel often work within feet of traffic," said Superintendent Tim Carnahan said. "These people need to be able to rely on drivers to do their part to ensure a safe work zone. The Wisconsin State Patrol is working to combat unsafe driving in work zones with the help of troopers on the road and overhead with our Air Support Unit. Last year, we issued over 7,000 citations and warnings for traffic law violations in work zones."

Speeding, following too closely and distracted driving cause most work zone crashes. There were 2,174 state work zone crashes in 2024, resulting in 10 fatalities and 779 injuries.



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Spring 2025



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ATV access

FROM PAGE 1

UTVs to operate on certain county roads with an average daily traffic count of 1,000 or less and a low accident history. Some municipalities have also designated local roadways as ATV/UTV routes in conjunction with designated county roadways. An ATV route map is on the county website.

Though the proposal is still in the preliminary stages, if approved, all county roadways including highways would be open to ATVs and UTVs unless explicitly prohibited. County highways CB, AP, P, and II and JJ east of State 76 are being considered as ATV/UTV prohibited. Limitations on daily traffic count and accident history for roadways approved for the routes would be removed.

Rice added that the change would provide an opportunity for ATVs and UTVs to get to Lake Winnebago, as they're commonly used by ice fishers to haul gear and travel across the frozen lake.

"Essentially, it's opening up recreational opportunities for those who choose to use UTVs as their mode of transportation," he said.

To drive on county roads, ATV and UTV riders must be 16 years old, have a valid license and insurance. The vehicles are not required to have turn signals, but must have head, tail and brake lights, and operators are legally required to use hand signals.

Though previously ATVs and UTVs were only allowed to use roadways during daylight, the proposed ordinance changes would open up roadways for use at any time.

The proposal is a turnaround from statements Sheriff John Matz made to the media when the initial county ordinance was approved in 2019.

"It's been problematic with serious car crashes, so now by mixing the ATV/ UTV traffic, it just makes it more dangerous," Matz said at the time.

Matz told Neenah News this week that he changed his mind on road usage because the surrounding counties have changed their ordinances, leaving Winnebago County ATV and UTV users "on an island."

"Also, we have not seen any type of uptick in crashes related to ATV/UTV use following the current ordinance that we have," he said.

Winnebago County has seen three fatal ATV or UTV collisions in the past two years that claimed the lives of four people. In 2023, a 15-year-old boy on at ATV failed to yield for a stop sign in Omro and was fatally struck by a truck.

Last year, an 11-year-old girl and her 6-year-old passenger were fatally struck by a vehicle while attempting to cross a public road on an ATV in Utica. A few days later, a 94-year-old man who was traveling on the shoulder of the roadway in Winneconne was fatally struck by a vehicle attempting to pass his UTV.

Matz said in some of the county incidents, the ATV drivers shouldn't have been on the road because they were too young to hold a valid driver's license.

"As far as ATV/UTV crash data, we haven't had anything that was related to the ordinance that was passed back then," he said.

As of Wednesday, the DNR reported nine fatal accidents in the state so far this year, all with UTVs and only two of the deaths caused by an automobile collision, with the others attributed to breaking through ice or a rollover. Of the 40 fatal ATV or UTV accidents statewide last year, 27 of the incidents were on public routes, roads or trails, with seven deaths attributed to automobile collisions.

County Board Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke questioned Rice on how fast ATVs and UTVs travel and whether they endanger other motorists.

"When I look at this I'm thinking, OK, is this making Winnebago County safer? No, I would say not," she said. "And the push is because it's becoming more popular."

Rice acknowledged ATVs and UTVs can travel at high speeds. Several hobbyist websites note average speeds of 45-50 mph, with some able to reach 85 mph.

"Essentially, there is a large group of people using this as their primary mode of transportation," Rice told Hancock-Cooke.

Rice said the biggest concerns for the sheriff's office are the highly traveled roadways and ATVs and UTVs interacting with other motorists, "but we have not seen a large number of incidents in the ... years that we've had the ordinance in place and every year the approved roadways continue to grow."

Supervisor Bryan Stafford said the ATV and UTV riders he has met were "very respectful of those around them and I've never met anyone personally who I felt like was riding dangerously. I've seen much more dangerous behaviors on snowmobiles than I have on ATVs and UTVs."

Rice added that the ATV and UTV clubs will take care of ensuring riders are aware of the rules and educating others on the requirements.

The ordinance will need to be reviewed by the Highway and Judiciary & Public Safety committees before going to the county board for a final vote.

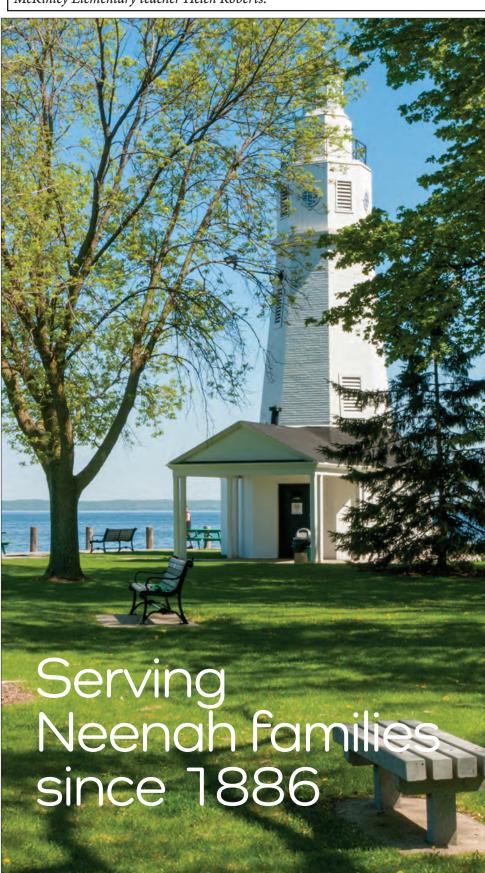




Neenah Historical Society photo

Easter festivities

First- and second-graders show off their Easter bonnets in this 1949 image from McKinley Elementary teacher Helen Roberts.



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UW campus

FROM PAGE 1

County Executive Tom Nelson's plan to sell portions of the campus to the Menasha Joint School District to be used for child care.

The Menasha school district backed out of the plan late last month after residents voiced concerns about transparency and the impact on property taxes, with preliminary estimates suggesting the campus will see annual costs of \$750,000 just for heating.

The haste in Tuesday's decision is due to the impending closure of the University Children's Center, with Winnebago corporation counsel Mary Anne Mueller stating that 25 families have been notified they will be without day care as of June 20. Mueller said child care workers have been reassigned to other sites but added the employees are "basically something that should be trea-

According to Mueller, funding for child care and ongoing campus operations after classes end "is a separate but urgent discussion" that would need to come before the county board for approval, but noted the discussion can't happen until Winnebago County acquires ownership.

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz, who started in the position this past Tuesday, said he has had limited conversations with Doemel and Nelson about the campus and its future, and the county would need a third party to step up and operate the child care center.

"It is my understanding that the justification for, and timing of the proposal, is to reduce the complications from having two counties trying to agree on every decision

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made about the campus, and to avoid any suspension in the existing child care operations," Hintz said by email.

The closure has sparked community interest in preserving the campus' assets, which in addition to the child care center and museum include the Barlow Planetarium, Communication Arts Center and outdoor Community Gardens. More than a dozen community members spoke at the County Board meeting, with many urging supervisors to keep the Weis Museum in place.

Supervisor Steven Binder suggested the counties split the museum's collection, while Mueller told supervisors that obtaining the collection is a "deal breaker" for Outagamie County, whose county executive was in attendance.

"They're going to walk away with a collection that they're going to put in their art museum and their headaches are done," Binder said. "Our headaches are to figure out what we're going to do with that building and I know it's going to take at least a year before we have anybody in that actual building."

According to the resolution, Winnebago County would operate the campus for the benefit of the public for two years and own it outright after that. The county could lease portions to third parties for non-public use, with revenue going to fund operations and improvements. The county could also sell the property, with proceeds beyond expenses divided between the two counties.

The plan has not yet been finalized and will now go to Outagamie County's Property Committee on Tuesday and its county board in May for approval. The final step will be for the UW Board of Regents to terminate its agreement with both counties, expected to be completed sometime next month.

Discover

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Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation photo

Games at the park

The fourth annual Brews with the Bunny event at Fritsch Park in Fox Crossing on Saturday featured fun table games and yard games along with live music, food trucks and craft beer.

Neonics a growing concern for water, wildlife, farms

A class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids — also called neonics — is raising red flags among farmers, environmentalists, scientists and residents statewide. The widely used insecticides applied on agricultural crops as well as landscape and plant nurseries have been linked to declining bee populations, contaminated drinking water and potential threats to natural resources.

A free public presentation at 6:30 p.m. May 1 at the J.P. Coughlin Center titled "The Human Toll of Insect Decline: Neonicotinoid Pesticide Connections" will include experts from the UW Extension and local conservation groups to discuss neonicotinoids, pollinator health and what the public can do to help.

Presenters include Shannon vis-Foust, a University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh biology professor and senior lecturer in the Department of Biology & Environmental Studies Program; and Sara Walling, water and agriculture program director for Clean Wisconsin.

Neonicotinoids were introduced in the 1990s to protect crops such as corn, soybeans and cranberries by targeting insect pests systemically — absorbed into the plant making the entire plant toxic to insects.

While neonics can help reduce crop damage, their effectiveness and broader environmental impacts are drawing increased scrutiny. Exposure can harm bees' ability to forage, navigate and reproduce, contributing to colony collapse disorder.

Neonics have been found in nearby rivers and streams, where they can affect aquatic insects, birds and other wildlife. Studies suggest they're contributing to declines in insect-eating birds.

Recent testing of 380 private wells by the state Department of Agriculture found that 43% contained pesticides, many of them neonics that don't yet have established safety limits in drinking water.

about phishing scam **DMV** warns consumers

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is warning consumers of reported phishing attempts via text where scammers are pretending to be from Wis-DOT to get individuals to click on fraudulent links or reveal personal information.

The most common warns of a "final reminder" of an "outstanding toll..." Some scams duplicate the look of official WisDOT

content. These are not from WisDOT or DMV. Wisconsin does not have tolls.

The DMV urges consumers to be suspicious of demands for money, not share personal information with unsolicited emails or messages and not to respond or engage with the caller or click on links.

Scam victims may consider filing a police report locally or report internet-based crime at www.ic3.gov.







Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. ALL ARE WELCOME

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Prep sports roundup

SOCCER

Rockets collect victory over Hortonville

Amelia Wasco scored two goals 20 seconds apart early in the second half to help Neenah rally from a 1-0 deficit to claim a 3-1 victory over Hortonville in a Fox Valley Association soccer match Monday night.

The Rockets trailed 1-0 at halftime but Wasco scored her first goal at 54:17 off an assist from JB Kennedy to even the score. She then tallied her second goal at 54:37 with Annabelle Perry notching the assist.

Neenah tacked on an insurance goal in the $64^{\rm th}$ minute when Maddie Schoonover scored on an assist from Mia Waco.

Neenah, which lost to Plymouth, 6-0, last Thursday, improved to 2-2 overall and is now 1-0 in the FVA.

TRACK AND FIELD

Olkowski, Severson lead Neenah girls to win

Mazie Olkowski and Emma Severson each won two events and Neenah finished first in three of the four relays as the Rockets took first place in a Fox Valley Association triangular meet against Kimberly and Oshkosh West on Monday.

Neenah finished with 85 points to easily outdistance the runner-up Papermakers with 64.5 points.

Olkowski placed first in both the 800 meters and 1,600 meters with Severson winning both the shot put and discus for Neenah.

Brynn Fox in the 200 meters, Payton Schaefer in the 400 meters and Celia Gentile in the long jump also won their events, while Aubrey Murwar tied for first in the high jump. Earning second-place finishes were Fox in the 100 meters, Elsa Gruber in the 3,200 meters and Res Goethel in the pole vault.

Neenah also won the 400-meter, 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

The Neenah boys finished a close second to Kimberly in the final team standings with Rylan Mendoza, Zach Verhagen and Ben Donaldson each winning events for the Rockets. Mendoza finished first in the 200 meters, Verhagen won the 1,600 meters and Donaldson bested the field in the 300-meter hurdles.

Donaldson also picked up a second place in the 110-meter hurdles, with Aidan Apa in the 800 meters, Nathan Johnson in the 3,200 meters, Nyok Ryak in the high jump and Matt Machacek in the long jump also adding runner-up finishes.

Neenah also won the 400-meter and 800-meter relays while taking second in the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

St. Mary Catholic girls win Big East meet

Four different girls won individual events while the Zephyrs also posted a relay win as St. Mary Catholic edged Manitowoc Lutheran for the team title at a Big East North meet hosted by Reedsville.

The Zephyrs finished with 117 points, five better than the rival Lancers in the girls standings. St. Mary Catholic took sixth in the boys meet.

Ellie Davel posted a win in the 100 meters while adding a second place in the 300-meter hurdles, and Nolie Anderson earned the victory in the discus while also taking second place in the shot put. Moorea Steckling finished first in the 100-meter hurdles and collected a third place in the 300-meter hurdles.

Claire Mislinski picked up a win in the pole vault, while the foursome of Claire Higgins, Maria Marti, Lauren Ripley and Audrey Wanless finished first in the 1,600 meters.

Hailey Kane added a second place in the long jump, with Kate Nackers in the 100 meters, Ripley in the 400 meters and Marissa Hahn in discus each taking third. St. Mary Catholic was also second in the 3,200-meter relay.

The boys were led by a 1-2 finish in the pole vault by Jacob Hall and Wyatt Kletschka with Isaiah Hennessy adding third places in the shot put and discus.

BASEBALL

Balanced offense leads Zephyrs past Panthers

Every starter had at least one hit while Jacob Ernsting drove in three runs as St. Mary Catholic topped Reedsville, 8-4, in its Big East North opener Tuesday.

Ethan Plutz and Tarver Trinkner each finished with two hits in the game for the Zephyrs, who scored three runs in the third to break a 2-2 tie and stayed in front the rest of the way. Reedsville pulled to within 5-4 in the top of the sixth but the Zephyrs scored three runs in the bottom of the inning to seal the win.

Grant Brazzale allowed five hits in five innings to earn the win while Joe Pirillo pitched the final two innings for the save.

On Saturday, the Zephyrs split a pair of games in a home triangular tournament. Pirillo finished 2-for-2 and drove in two runs while Plutz tossed five shutout innings with nine strikeouts in a 10-0 win over Ozaukee.

St. Mary Catholic also lost to Waupaca,

3-1, as Trinkner and Alex Rice had the only hits in the game for the Zephyrs. Ernsting allowed just one earned run in five innings, allowing four hits while striking out two.

Neenah knocks off Oshkosh North

Neenah made the most of its seven hits, benefiting from eight walks and six errors by Oshkosh North to hand the Spartans a 12-1 loss in Fox Valley Association play Tuesday.

Cal Juckem was one of seven Rockets to have a hit in the game while also driving in a pair of runs. Juckem, Andrew Carlson and Mack Krause all had doubles as Neenah scored in each of the six innings, plating three runs in the fourth and three more in the sixth to anchor the effort.

Juckem also struck out six over five innings, allowing five hits and a run to get the win on the mound.

Neenah was coming off a 6-0 loss to Kimberly last Thursday as the Rockets managed five hits in the game with Hellengreen and Weinholzer collecting doubles in the game for Neenah.

Carlson took the loss on the mound for the Rockets.

SOFTBALL

Mathe fans 13 to lead Rockets over Spartans

Kyleigh Mathe struck out 13 batters while allowing just four hits and Neenah scored all of its runs in one inning to down Oshkosh North, 4-2, in a Fox Valley Association contest Tuesday.

The Spartans scored two runs in the top of the first off of Mathe but were blanked

the rest of the way while the Rockets took the lead for good with four runs in the bottom of the second.

Olivia McNulty finished 2-for-3 with an RBI to lead the Neenah hitters, while Mathe, Taytum West and Jillian Matheny also drove in runs in the win.

Mathe also had a strong outing in an 11-0, five-inning win over Kimberly last Thursday, striking out seven in just three innings of work, scattering three hits. West allowed one hit while pitching the final two innings.

Kaylee Marhefke had a pair of hits to lead the Rockets, while Mathe, Matheny and Kayleigh Johnson each drove in two runs in the game. Neenah also benefited from nine walks and three Papermaker errors.

On Friday, Neenah broke a 1-1 tie with single runs in the fifth and sixth innings to collect a 3-1 win over Stevens Point.

Johnson, Natalie Coffey and Norah Paider also drove in runs, while Johnson finished 3-for-3 and accounted for half of Neenah's hits.

Mathe allowed two hits and one run over five innings, while striking out five to earn the win with West pitching the final two frames to earn the save.

Neenah, which was ranked ninth in Division 1 in the first state coaches poll, improved to 4-0 on the season.

Early runs lift Zephyrs to win over Wolves

St. Mary Catholic scored three runs in the first and four in the second to take the lead and never looked back in an 11-1, five-inning win over Hilbert last week.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15



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Neenah's Hein finds fun in success on tennis courts

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

When Carl Hein takes the court for the Neenah High School tennis team, he is trying to win.

The effort is there to win points, sets and matches at the No. 1 singles flight and see the number in his personal victory column rise as the year progresses. And in his fourth year on varsity, he's going to see those things happen often.

Yet, for Hein, what his final record is or what happens if he can make another trip to the state tennis tournament isn't going to define whether he views the season as

"What really made me who I am in tennis is how much I enjoyed the game," Hein said before a practice on a frigid day at the Neenah courts earlier this week. "For me, especially this year, I'm trying not to focus on my match results so much or my rank in the state but rather how much I am working and how much I am enjoying the game.

"What I realized as my time with Neenah tennis has gone along, outcome goals are not the important part of your goalsetting. The important goals are the performance and for me particularly, it's the amount I care about the game."

There was a time when tennis wasn't as fun as it is now for Hein.

After getting started at age 6 at the Menasha YMCA in the "Tennis with Dennis" program and progressing to playing at the Neenah YMCA, Hein said he got to a point before high school where he simply got burned out.

He never stopped playing and was able to regain his passion and restore his enjoyment for tennis.

"There was a point I was just hyper focused on preparing for the high school level and I was playing too much and I burned out," Hein said. "I didn't stop playing – I played as much as ever – but practicing when you're heart isn't in it, when you are not enjoying, it is not much better than no practice at all. It wasn't that I had to step away from tennis, it was just that I didn't see much growth there. At the point where tennis starts to feel like a chore to play and practice, that's the point you have played too much and you are being counter-productive."

As Hein reached high school, he wasn't sure what lay ahead for him. He was physically playing well and mentally in a good position, but with the stocked talent of the Neenah program he wasn't sure how

Senior Standout

he stacked up.

Hein ended up playing at No. 3 singles for the majority of the season and was the only freshman in the Rockets' varsity lineup when Neenah finished as the runner-up at the WIAA Team State Tourna-

"I won a couple of close challenge matches and I was fortunate to play No. 3 singles my freshman year. That's when I realized that I was good at the sport. That was my epiphany," Hein said. "All of a sudden I'm on a team and I'm looking at the people next to me and there is Nolan Kubiak and Solomom Dunsirn and Khaled Saleh and I'm like, I'm on the same team with these guys. My freshman tennis season is still one of my fondest memories."

Hein played at the No. 2 singles flight as a sophomore and earned his way into the WIAA Individual State Tournament where he lost in the opening round.

Last year, he took over the role as the Rockets' No. 1 singles player and turned another state-qualifying season where he reached the Round of 16 at Madison.

"(Earning the No. 1 singles spot) was definitely nerve-wracking but also definitely exciting. I was happy, obviously, and I felt pretty proud but I also was definitely nervous because I definitely had some big shoes to fill," Hein said. "I feel like being moved up to No. 1 gave me a lot of extra motivation knowing that."

Hein said one of the adjustments in moving to the top of the singles lineup isn't necessarily in the opponents that spot faces match in and match out. Rather, the expectations that come with filling that role can be a bit intimidating.

"The No. 1 singles spot is really more of a symbolic thing – it's not worth any more than any other spot in a team match but the idea that goes along with it that the No. 1 player is the flagship player of the team, I felt a lot on my shoulders," Hein said. "I think in many ways people put too much stock in the No. 1 singles position."

Hein, who won 26 matches at the No. 1 flight last season, is expected to fill the role again this season and hopes to be a part of another successful season for the Rockets.

Neenah enters the year having won 19 straight Fox Valley Conference titles



Neenah News

Carl Hein has been a stalwart at No. 1 singles for the Neenah tennis team and eyes a return to the state tournament later this spring.

outright and won or shared the last 24 crowns, while the team has also advanced to the team state tournament the last five seasons and 10 of the last 11.

"There is some pressure involved and last year we managed to pull it out in a close dual match (with Kimberly)," Hein said. "But I think it's important to realize our tradition is not all about our confer-

ence win streak. There's a lot more that goes into it.

"The (Neenah tennis) tradition is phenomenal. There is no doubt about it and to be a part of it is an amazing feeling. Knowing that you are not only a part of something great but something that has

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

Emmi Weiss and Emily Vogel each finished with three hits while Vogel - who had a double and a home run - drove in three runs and Weiss had a pair of RBIs. Samantha Weiss added two hits and two

Gabby Guerrero struck out six in five innings while allowing just four hits and one run to earn the win in the circle.

The Zephyrs fell to Reedsville on Tuesday, taking a 3-1 lead to the seventh inning before surrendering six runs to suffer a 7-3

Guerrero finished with two of the Zephyrs' four hits in the game and had the lone RBI. She also fanned six in hurling the complete game.

St. Mary Catholic lost a pair of games Saturday, falling to St. Mary's Springs, 16-9, and to Sevastopol, 8-0.

Scarlett Reichenbacher, Jaylyn Akey and Samantha Weiss each had a pair of hits in the game against the Ledgers, while Vogel, Samantha Weiss and Cadence Kohel each finished with two RBIs.

Guerrero and Vogel had the only two hits in the game against Sevastopol.

TENNIS

Rockets finish 3-2 at **Brookfield Central invite**

Neenah faced some strong competition at its season-opening, two-day tournament in Brookfield over the weekend and finished with a 3-2 record.

The Rockets posted wins over Monona Grove (7-0), Mukwonago (4-3) and Nicolet (4-3), while losing close dual meets to Whitefish Bay (4-3) and Homestead

Neenah used a variety of lineups for the tournament, with Carl Hein and Seth Vickman posting the top singles records. Hein finished 4-1 playing at the No. 1 and No. 2 flights, while Vickman was also 4-1 playing at the No. 3 and No. 4 flights.

Harrison Tanger and Tim Zhao won both of their matches playing together at No. 3 doubles, while Zhao and Tim Schultz were 2-1 at the No. 3 doubles flight. Henry Farrell and Luke Grassl won three of their four matches playing at the No. 2

Andrew Werner and Brady Lawatsch added a pair of wins playing at No. 1 dou-

GIRLS LACROSSE

Blocksom, LeClair spark Rockets to win

Savannah Blocksom and Ainsley Le-Clair each tallied three goals as the Neenah opened the season with a 9-8 win over the West Bend Rush at home Friday.

Rae Schoultz added a pair of goals and Ellery Marsh also scored in the game for the Rockets. Ellie Hammerschmidt finished with a pair of assists.

Elliott Pershing stopped 12 saves in goal for Neenah to earn the win.

Neenah fell to De Pere, 6-3, on Tuesday night.

GOLF

Neenah opens season at two-day tournament

The Rockets finished tied for 32nd in the 56-team tournament held over two days at the Washington County Golf Course.

Neenah posted a two-day total of 668, shooting rounds of 332 and 336. Marquette won the team title with a score of

Mason Peitersen led the Rockets by putting up identical rounds of 82 for a total of 164, while Ryan Geary finished with a total of 165, posting scores of 82 and 83. Zach Schneider had a total of 169, followed by Henry Gretebeck with a 170 and Carson Seitz with a 173.

Zephyrs take third in Big East North meet

Mason Uhlenbrauck led St. Mary Cath-

Big East Conference Northern Division meet at Quit Qui Oc on Tuesday. St. Mary Catholic finished with a score of 187 as the Zephyrs finished behind

olic as the Zephyrs finished third at the

only Howards Grove (167) and Mishicot

Uhlenbrauck paced the Zephyrs with a round of 45, with Brady Deleeuw following with a 46. Charlie Whaley and Finnley McClone each shot 48.

Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

been great for a long time. It's really important to me to carry on that tradition."

This season will also be special for Hein because younger brother Eric is on the junior varsity team and he looks forward to the opportunities when he can share a court with his sibling.

"It's definitely cool," the elder Hein said. "Especially for the practices that are on the same courts, it's cool to be on a doubles court with him to face off in a couple singles

So when the two do play each other, does the more established brother take it easy on his sibling and give him some confidence?

"I'm going to have to plead the fifth on that one," Hein said with a laugh.

Despite all of his successes, Hein said he

isn't interested in playing competitively at the collegiate level although he is adamant he is going to continue to play at a club and recreational level.

That puts a lot of his focus on the next couple of months and Hein was excited to get this season going.

"For me, after the last season ends, I spend the whole season looking forward to the next one, so it's fun to be back," Hein said. "One of the big things I like about tennis is that it really is a cross between an individual and a team sport. It's easy to measure your individual performance as the season goes and see how you stack up against other players but even more important is how your team progresses through the various tournaments.

"Sometimes the tennis is just a bonus. Just getting to meet up with my friends and getting to travel together and have fun together, that's what it's all about."

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Diane Kyung Ran Momberg By (Petitioner) Diane Kyung Ran Momberg Notice and Order for Name **Change Hearing** Case No. 2025CV000317

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Diane Kyung Ran-Momberg

To: Diane Kyung Ran Lee-Momberg Birth Certificate: Diane Kyung Ran Henneberry

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County State of vvisconsi Judge's Name: Michael Gibbs Place: 415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: May 2, 2025 Time: 9:00 AM

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

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

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: March 28,

/s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch IV Runs: April 11, 2025, April 18, 2025 and April 25, 2025

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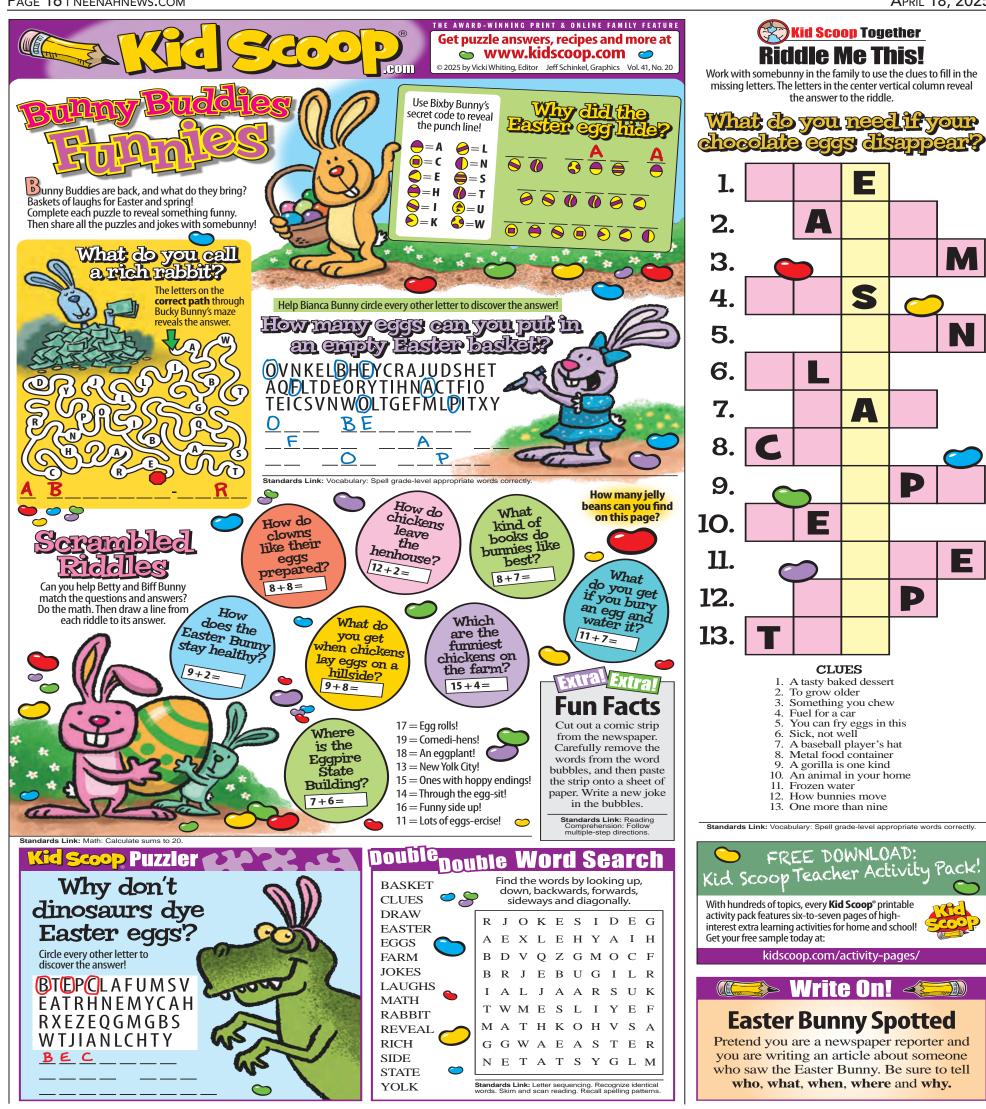


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April 18, 2025



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