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MORE INFO

City approves wheel tax to fund road work

Residents will see \$30
hike in registration fees

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah has approved a wheel tax to fund road and sidewalk work after suspending the previous Transportation Assessment Replacement Fee (TARF)

over concerns it would be declared unconstitutional by Wisconsin courts.

The council voted May 7 to establish a \$30 per vehicle annual registration fee that goes into effect next year, impacting an estimated 27,075 vehicles registered to properties within city limits. The tax will not apply to vehicles over 8,000 pounds.

Previously, the city used a TARF to fund sidewalk and street improvements, which

was charged based on the size of a property's hard surfaces, with single family residents charged \$40, and other properties charged up to a maximum of \$3,600.

Before implementing the TARF in 2019, the city funded street work through special assessments. If the city were to return to special assessments, residents

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HeadsUp provides transitional housing
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Alta Alley
Downtown park under development
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Photo by David Hall

Dancing fun

Decorations went up and dance playlists blared for the fun-filled Pint-Sized Prom family event Saturday at the Neenah Public Library. Organizers invited attendees to share their favorite tunes to help create a morning of unforgettable moves for kids and their grown-up dance partners.

Supervisors approve transfer of UW Fox Cities campus

Weis Museum collection
headed to Appleton

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

It was an emotional, tearful and hopeful meeting Tuesday as Outagamie County Supervisors voted to transfer the county's share of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus in Menasha to Winnebago County for a nominal fee of \$1 and take ownership of the Weis Earth Science Museum's collection to donate to Appleton's History Museum at the Castle.

Though it's the direction both counties were headed, the vote finalizes the plan

that will transfer control and expenses to Winnebago County, other than the museum's collection. Outagamie County is expected to save \$400,000-\$500,000 per year by relinquishing ownership, according to information provided at the meeting.

In addition to the Weis Museum, the 43-acre campus includes the Barlow Planetarium, Communication Arts Center, University Children's Center and Community Gardens. The property transfer is part of a broader plan to ensure its continued use following UW Fox Cities' planned closure in June due to declining enrollment. Both

SEE **UW Fox Cities** ON PAGE 11



Neenah News

The Weis Earth Science Museum and the Barlow Planetarium are situated on the UW-Fox Cities campus in Menasha. Outagamie County voted this week to transfer ownership of the campus to Winnebago County and move the museum's collection to Appleton's History Museum at the Castle.

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

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Musical theater program cites local students and high schools

Several local students and high schools will be recognized as part of the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center 2024-2025 Center Stage High School Musical Theater program.

More than 2,100 students from 34 high schools in Northeast Wisconsin participated in the program this school year.

Participating high schools include Neenah and St. Mary Catholic.

Mary McCurdy is being recognized for Outstanding Performance in a Lead Role in St. Mary Catholic’s production of The

Sound of Music. Jack Clark and Juliette Bergstrom are being recognized for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role in the same St. Mary Catholic production.

Neenah High School is being recognized for Outstanding Pit Orchestra.

Schools and recognition recipients will be celebrated during a showcase at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the PAC. Two nominees will be announced as regional representatives to The Jimmy Awards/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards June 13- 24 in New York City.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Radio Lunch Room

The “Radio Lunch Room” at 224 W. Wisconsin Avenue was a local hotspot from 1928-33. An advertisement from 1931 touts the establishment as “A Booster to the Community.” The truth however was that the Radio Lunch was under surveillance for serving illegal alcohol during prohibition. Arguments often ensued between patrons and the city of Neenah eventually revoked its operating license in 1933 by orders from Mayor George E. Sande.

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Calendar of events

- Friday, May 16**
Brigade rummage sale, 8 a.m., Brigade gym, 109 W. Columbian Ave.
Wildlife photographer Tony Chapa photo show, 5 p.m., The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art
Campfire with a Cop, 5:30 p.m., Memorial Park
Christine Salerno Duo, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive
- Saturday, May 17**
Brigade rummage sale, 8 a.m., Brigade gym, 109 W. Columbian Ave.
Electronics Recycling Event, 8 a.m., Neenah City Garage, 1495 Tullar Rd.
Neenah Animal Shelter Garden Party, 9 a.m., 2475 Progress Court
Neenah Street Party, 2 p.m., Church Street and Wisconsin Avenue
- Sunday, May 18**
Take Your Parents to the Playground Day, 10 a.m., Fritse Park, 1780 Cold Spring Rd.
Sunday Concert Series: The Driftless Plowboys, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Monday, May 19**
Wild Child, 10 a.m., Riverside Park
- Tuesday, May 20**
Cookbook Club, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Monday, May 26**
Waterfront Ceremony, 8 a.m., Menasha waterfront on Mill Street
Memorial Day parade, 9 a.m.
Car Show and Bake Sale, 9 a.m., Lucky Dog’s Bar parking lot, 157 S. Green Bay Rd.
Cemetery Memorial Service, 10:45 a.m., Oak Hill Cemetery
- Tuesday, May 27**
Movie Talks, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Saturday, May 31**
Author Meet and Greet, Jeanne Gehrke, 10:30 a.m., Lyons Books
- Sunday, June 1**
Family Day at the Octagon House, 11 a.m., Neenah Historical Society, 343 Smith St.
- Tuesday, June 3**
Ambassadors and Friends band concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park
- Saturday, June 7**
Learn to Sail, 10 a.m., Riverside Park
- Tuesday, June 10**
Summer Library Program Kick-off, 1:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Neenah Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park
- Saturday, June 14**
Udderly Euro Car Show, 1:30 p.m., Shattuck Park

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HeadsUp provides hope and housing for foster youth

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Just two years after launching a nonprofit to support foster youth, Laura Kuehl has taken her mission a step further with the opening of a new community center and transitional housing for teens aging out of the foster care system.

Kuehl, founder and board president of HeadsUp Fox Cities, brings personal experience to the mission. A former foster youth herself, she endured abuse, homelessness, teen pregnancy and mental health struggles. Now, she's using her lived experience to create support systems she says were missing during her own time in foster care.

The new HeadsUp community center, located on Apple Blossom Drive in Neenah, offers young people ages 17 to 24 a safe space for mentoring, life-skills training and access to essential services. Next door, HeadsUp manages six transitional housing units with 12 beds in partnership with the local nonprofit Pillars.

Kuehl said Wisconsin's Act 22 allows shelters to take in 17-year-old unaccompanied minors, who don't have traditional support systems.

"Unaccompanied minor is really just that their family doesn't want them, the system won't take them, they're essentially just alone before they can legally be emancipated," she said.

Both the housing units and community center were part of the Ascend transitional living program for young adults launched in 2017 with a \$1 million property donation from philanthropist Lynne Cumings Keller.

The housing units offer stable living arrangements and support for young people at risk of homelessness after aging out of foster care. Participants pay \$300 monthly after an initial 90-day period with no fees, designed to help them develop financial stability.

The typical stay is anticipated to be around two years given the current housing market, but Kuehl said support doesn't end when participants move out.

"We don't have an expiration date on support," she said. "Our intention is to build relationships."

The organization's approach is low-barrier and trauma-informed, meeting basic needs and making sure the youth feel safe before asking them to set goals.

"When you don't have safety, you're not going to be honest with somebody," Kuehl said. "It's going to feel like a system."

The transitional housing program has already seen significant growth. Starting with one resident in January, they've now filled all available beds, with a waiting list forming for their intensive one-on-one program.

Referrals come from county agencies and local organizations that serve youth, such as Pillars, Advocap, and Harbor House. Kuehl said these groups often reach out with names of young people who may be a good fit for the program. Participants also self-refer after learning about HeadsUp through word of mouth.

The program goes beyond simply providing a roof. They've created a community center with a welcoming kitchen, a calm room for quiet reflection, an art room, a living room, laundry facilities and a pantry stocked with essentials.

HeadsUp is offering meals, group activities and outings, transportation assistance, employment help, personal wellness support and resources such as food, hygiene and cleaning supplies. Even those not currently in transitional housing are



Above: A living room area with comfortable seating is part of the amenities for former foster youth at the HeadsUp community center in Neenah.

At right: Director of operations Beth Weiler (left) and board president Laura Kuehl are shown in the kitchen at the HeadsUp community center last week.

welcome to attend support groups and access resources.

Corporate and nonprofit donations have played a key role in supporting the program. U.S. Venture sponsored the art room and calm room, while Fox Communities Credit Union donated a washer and dryer. The St. Joseph Food Program in Menasha supplies most of the food. A \$2,500 grant from the nonprofit Canary Fund helped the organization purchase culturally specific items – such as Black hair care products – that are often missing from traditional donations.

Community members can support HeadsUp and former foster youth by donating money, supplies, or food. Details are online at headsupfc.org/donate. On Thursday nights, community members can sign up to either drop off a meal or bring ingredients and cook in the facility's kitchen.

Beth Weiler, the new director of operations, brings corporate project management and nonprofit volunteer experience to the role.

"When this position opened up, I thought it was the perfect time to make my passion my career," she said.

As of next week, HeadsUp will have four full-time employees. That includes Weiler and three life skills coordinators.

Kuehl, a full-time volunteer, is quick to deflect personal praise.

"The real accomplishment was bringing in a team who can empower folks to do their own work," she said.

When asked what such a program would have meant to her when she was aging out of the foster care system, Kuehl shared, "I struggled with being unhoused. This would have been a huge building block on how I could get started."

As HeadsUp continues to grow, Kuehl hopes the organization can serve as a launchpad – not a lifeline – for former foster youth.

"We don't want to make it sound like we're going to be the heroes in someone's situation," she said. "We really want folks who read this – especially the young people – to realize what they're capable of. They don't need us; we're just removing barriers, because they've got it."





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Photo by David Hall

Carnival fun

Bright lights and big smiles fill the Lucky Dog’s parking lot, 157 S. Green Bay Rd., as a carnival sets up for a week of family fun. The event started May 9 and continues through Sunday with open hours kicking off at 5 p.m. today and 1 p.m. this weekend.

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Volunteer needs

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass seeks volunteers Aug. 8-9 for the GLASS Arts Festival, a free, community event celebrating all things glass. Help with activities like the Kids Tent, artist/vendor areas and glassblowing demos. Perks include a free t-shirt, drink voucher (post-shift) and a golden ticket for a free art activity. Contact Jayme at eisch@bmmglass.com to sign up or learn more.

Community Clothes Closet is looking for a volunteer to help keep their building’s landscaping beautiful this summer. Flexible weekday hours (8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday). Tasks include weeding, pruning, mulching and general upkeep. Help once a week or as needed. To learn more, contact Samantha at sam@communityclothescloset.org.

Make the Ride Happen, a Lutheran Social Services Program is looking for volunteers to drive seniors (60+) to appointments, shopping and social visits in Oshkosh and the Fox Cities. Volunteers use their own car and gas, and scheduling is flexible — sign up for a half-day a month or be available on call. Visit maketheridehappen.org to learn more.

Pillars, Inc. seeks volunteers to prepare (or purchase) a nutritious meal for 55-60 shelter clients. This opportunity is open to remote volunteers who deliver the already prepared meal or to individuals/groups who prepare the meal on-site from 4:45-5 p.m. daily (Adult & Family Shelter) and 5:15-5:30 p.m. daily (Adult Shelter). Contact Tessa at tevers@pillars-inc.org.

Valley VNA is looking for volunteer drivers who will be scheduled for a meal delivery route within the Neenah and Menasha area. Volunteer drivers will pick up meals at around 11 a.m. at ThedaCare Hospital and then follow delivery route map and drop off a healthy meal for their clients. Once all meals are delivered, the delivery bag is returned to ThedaCare Hospital. The routes usually take an hour. Contact Kristi at kristia@valleyvna.org to learn more.

St. Joseph Food Program helps to fight hunger and sustain hope in the community by packing and distributing groceries. Volunteer opportunities are available Monday through Thursday mornings, and Monday evenings from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. To apply, contact Peggy at 920-734-9461 ext. 313 or plynch@stjoesfoodprogram.org.

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Short story collection being released

Neenah News

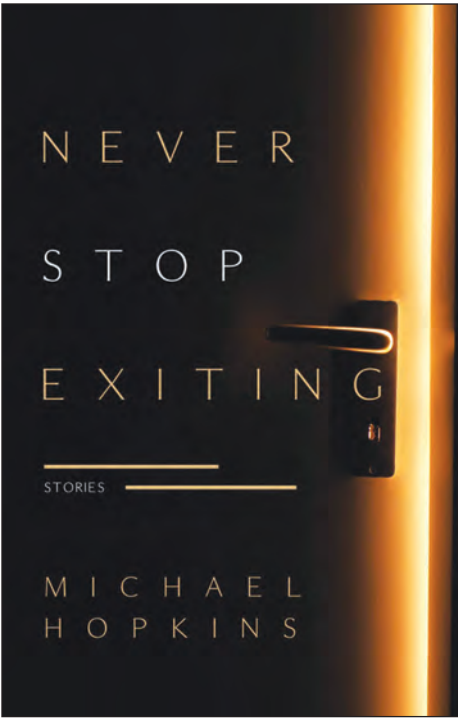
Neenah resident and writer Michael Hopkins has his first collection of short stories, “Never Stop Exiting,” released this week through Cornerstone Press.

The mix of stories include those of an unhittable baseball pitcher, a young woman who wants to keep her amputated leg and a couple dealing with an Alzheimer’s-afflicted father. A Philadelphia native, Hopkins’ short fiction has been published in Coolest American Stories 2022, Millwork, Pleiades, 365 Tomorrows, Wisconsin People and Ideas, Black Petals and Moss Piglet.

“I’m very excited to have my book published and have been delighted with the team at Cornerstone Press,” Hopkins said by email. “I continue to write short stories and hope to have another collection published in the future.”

He said his short story “Static” has been made into a short film that will be featured at film festivals over the next year.

Hopkins was the winner of the 2018 Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters annual fiction contest, then taking third place the next year. His book and music criticism have appeared in various newspapers and magazines while his sto-



ries have won awards from Glimmer Train and The Mill.

The book is available through Cornerstone Press (uwsp.edu/cornerstone), on Amazon and Barnes & Noble online, at Lyons Books in Neenah and Caramel Crisp Cafe in Oshkosh. Hopkins can be reached at michaelhopkinswriter.com.

Sunday concert to feature The Driftless Plowboys

Neenah News

The Driftless Plowboys band will be playing vintage music that combines hillbilly pre-country with Hawaiian steel guitar at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Neenah Public Library.

The free event will take place in the Shattuck Community Room.

If accommodations are needed to attend, contact the library at least 24 hours in advance of the program.

For more information, contact the Adult Reference Desk by phone: 920-886-6315, email: library@neenahlibrary.org or go to www.neenahlibrary.org.

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Photos from Mello/Becky St. Mary

The owners of Salon di Amici transformed a historic building on Commercial Street into a spa, Mello, that offers specialized wellness services. Mello provides a tranquil setting for spa treatments.

Salon di Amici’s Mello spa offers specialized services



Photos from Mello/Becky St. Mary

Business partners Jonelle Jolly, left, and Becky St. Mary wanted to offer more services at the spa than they could previously at the salon.

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*Subscription rates are Winnebago County.

By Jennifer Parmley
News Contributor

Salon di Amici now offers specialized wellness services with the recent opening of its spa, Mello, 433 S. Commercial St. Mello offers cold plunge therapy and infrared sauna sessions, facials, massage, lip and brow treatments and other services it previously could not offer due to space limitations at the salon’s Green Bay Road location.

Owner Becky St. Mary, along with business partner Jonelle Jolly, chose the historic building on Commercial Street as it provides a tranquil setting for spa treatments and a different energy from the busy salon, which just celebrated 19 years in business.

“I wanted to be the first person to bring infrared sauna and cold plunge into the Neenah area,” St. Mary said. “This building is perfect for these types of services.”

Infrared sauna is a therapeutic treatment where the sauna is heated to 100 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Unlike a traditional wet sauna or steam room that uses water vapor, the infrared sauna uses rays that penetrate deeper into the skin, directly heating the body, according to the salon’s website.

The sauna at Mello accommodates up to two people and, for hygiene purposes, lightweight clothing or swimsuits are re-

quired. Cold plunging is a form of hydrotherapy where the body is immersed in cold water for a short period of time.

Both offer numerous health benefits, St. Mary said, especially when used in conjunction with one another. Proponents of infrared sauna sessions say it helps improve circulation, reduces inflammation and improves the skin, for example. Cold plunge therapy enthusiasts say it reduces muscle soreness, supports immune function and increases mental clarity.

St. Mary said she also intends to incorporate head spas into the mix in the future. A head spa is a treatment that originated in Japan and focuses on the hair and scalp. It incorporates massage, deep cleansing and treatments to promote healthy scalp.

“We’ll have enough room for two stations so it would be a fun experience for couples or friends,” she said.

Mello will host a grand opening event on May 31. It will include mimosas and flavored waters, charcuterie, giveaways and mini sessions. Special pricing will be offered for new customers and those who are curious about trying a new service.

For more information, visit the Salon di Amici website or its Facebook and Instagram pages.

Business news roundup

Barb LaMue plans to retire as president and CEO of New North, which serves as the regional economic development corporation for 18 counties in Northeast Wisconsin, including Winnebago. She will remain in the position into September, or until a successor is in place.



Covey, a non-profit organization serving the Fox Valley, has announced a leadership transition. Pam Schutz, Covey’s longtime CEO, is retiring

effective October 1. The organization said that Tony Gonzalez, Covey’s current Chief Operating Officer, has been appointed by the Board of Directors as her successor.

J.J. Keller & Associates, Inc. has successfully demonstrated continued compliance with the Professional Background Screening Association (PBSA®) Background Screening Credentialing Council’s (BSCC) Background Screening Organization Accreditation Program (BSOAP) and is again recognized as BSCC Accredited. According to the company, the accreditation supports its full suite of driver qualification services and ongoing commitment to clients’ data security.

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Downtown park project gets green light

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah was recently approved for a \$33,000 Vibrant Spaces grant to help fund the development of a small downtown park.

The project, called “Alta Alley,” will transform an unused drive-thru area into a public park with lighting, landscaping, seating, interactive features and aesthetic improvements.

The site at 101 W. Wisconsin Ave. is located between Knox Furniture Gallery and the former Bank Mutual. It is owned by Alta Resources, which agreed to allow the city to use the space.

Future Neenah partnered with the city to secure matching funds for the grant and is assisting with the project’s development.

“It is going to be a brand new activated space in the center of our community,” Future Neenah assistant executive director Sara Hanneman said in a video announcement.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) provides Vibrant Spaces grants of up to \$50,000 to assist with local efforts that will transform vacant or underused spaces into multi-purpose community gathering spaces to attract visitors and residents.

“People want to live and work in thriving communities and offerings like parks, trailheads, and town squares create places for people to gather and hold events as well as boost nearby businesses and im-



Photo from Future Neenah

A concept rendering shows the proposed Alta Alley in downtown Neenah, which will be developed into a park with support from a state grant and a partnership between the city and Future Neenah.

prove quality of life,” said Missy Hughes, secretary and CEO of WEDC. “Creating vibrant communities is the foundation of economic development.”

Neenah was one of 27 communities awarded a combined total of more than

\$1.1 million in the latest round of Vibrant Spaces grants that will fund projects ranging from bandshells for outdoor performances, plazas to enhance downtown spaces and trailheads for recreational activities.

Log Your Loops initiative returns, starts Memorial Day

Neenah News

The Log Your Loops initiative is returning for its seventh year.

The Future Neenah program encourages residents and visitors to get outside, get active and enjoy the scenic Loop the Little

Lake Trail this summer.

From May 26-Sept. 1, participants can walk, run, bike, skate or move however they like around the trail and log their completed loops. To participate, they can register for free, log their loops during the

99-day challenge window and complete 50 loops to earn a T-shirt.

With the support of ThedaCare, registration for the program is free.

“The community loves this challenge because it keeps them motivated — whether they’re training for a race or working toward a personal goal,” said Michelle Dunning, Outreach & Development Coordinator for Future Neenah. “We hear so many inspiring stories, and we’re expecting another big year.”

Last year, Dunning said more than 1,600 people signed up and 350 completed the full challenge.

For more information, visit neenah.org or call 920-722-1920.

Applications open for Chamber leadership program

Neenah News

Applications for the 2025-2026 class of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Fox Cities Program are now being accepted.

Applications are due by June 19.

Starting in fall of each year, Leadership Fox Cities participants gather monthly for day-long educational sessions in the community focused on topics including business, education, government and media, human services, health and wellness, law

enforcement, environment and the arts.

They will also participate in a hands-on project in small groups.

A kickoff retreat is held in September and programming starts in October. The experience culminates in May, with a formal graduation event and induction into the Leadership Fox Cities Alumni Association.

For questions or more information, contact Amy Schanke, Director, Leadership Fox Cities at 920-422-0041 or aschanke@foxcc.net.



Photo from Neenah School District

Student celebration

The third annual Neenah Applauding Student Abilities (NASA) day was held May 7 at Neenah High School for more than 100 students from all levels and all schools across the district. The day celebrating students with adaptive PE or other disabilities started with a kickoff event in the performing arts center and then proceeded to Rocket Stadium for games and activities. High school student volunteers assisted in running the games and activities.

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Photo by David Hall

Community comes together

The Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin's Fox Valley Chapter hosted an event Saturday at Riverside Park to raise funds for local programs supporting individuals on the autism spectrum. Serving Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Waupaca counties, the all-volunteer nonprofit works year-round to connect more than 200 families with resources, social outings, support groups and educational outreach.



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ALL ARE WELCOME

Mental health matters in May and beyond

Each May, communities across the country observe Mental Health Awareness Month — a dedicated time to elevate conversations about emotional well-being, reduce stigma, and shine a light on the supports available for those who need them.

But in the Neenah Joint School District, we believe mental health deserves our attention not just in May, but every day of the year. Mental health is not something separate from education; it is the foundation on which student success is built.


When students feel safe, supported, and emotionally healthy, they are more prepared to learn, take on challenges, and grow into their full potential. That's why our district is deeply committed to supporting the whole child — not only in academics, but also in their mental, emotional, and social development.

In every school across our district, students can turn to a caring network of school counselors, social workers, and trusted adults who are here to listen, guide and assist.

Whether students are navigating peer relationships, managing the stress of school and activities, or preparing for post-high school plans, these professionals offer vital help. They work alongside families to provide individualized support, understanding that no two students' needs are exactly alike.

We are also proud of the strong partnerships we've developed with local organizations to bring additional mental health services right into our schools.

One powerful example is our HOPE Program (Healthy Outcomes Through Positive Engagement), a collaboration with Us2 Behavioral Health Care. Through HOPE, students from kindergarten through 12th grade can access



Dr. Steve Harrison
NJSD superintendent

on-site counseling services during the school day.

This not only removes barriers to care — such as transportation or missed class time — but also ensures that help is available in a setting where students feel familiar and supported. Beyond school-based services, our district actively connects families with a wide network of community supports, including mental health providers, food and housing resources, and crisis services.

We know that families are essential partners in a child's well-being, and we aim to equip them with the tools and information they need to navigate life's challenges and build resilience together. Mental Health Awareness Month is an important reminder that emotional well-being is not a luxury — it is a necessity.

But even as May shines a national spotlight on this issue, our work continues throughout the entire year. Through daily interactions with caring adults, targeted programs like HOPE, and strong community connections, we are building a culture where every student knows they are seen, heard, and valued.

If you are a parent, guardian, or student looking for support, I encourage you to reach out to your school counselor or visit our district website to learn more about the many resources available. In Neenah, we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive — and we are here to help, every step of the way.



Neenah News

Fiddlin' with the classics

Pickard Auditorium hosted the Neenah Middle School Spring String Orchestra Concert on Monday evening. The fourth and fifth grade Beginning Orchestra, led by Heather Karollson, kicked off the evening with "Fiddlin' with the Classics" featuring sections by famous composers including Beethoven and Mozart.

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City to observe Poppy Days in honor of veterans

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

As Memorial Day approaches, the community will once again come together to honor service members through the observance of Poppy Days.

American Legion Neenah Post 33 will celebrate Poppy Days May 22-23, distributing red paper poppies – symbolizing the blood shed by soldiers on the battlefield – at local businesses throughout the city.

“Many Neenah businesses have served our patriotic service organization for many successful years, raising funds for local and statewide veterans, active duty military and their families,” poppy chairman Patti Julius said. “We are looking forward to another successful year of remembering our heroes of today and the past, and the sacrifices made by all.”

Mayor Jane Lang joined members of the Legion Auxiliary at the Common Council meeting on May 7 to sign the official Poppy Proclamation.

“I urge all patriotic citizens to wear a poppy as mute evidence of our gratitude to the men and women of this country who have risked their lives in defense of the freedoms which we continue to enjoy as American citizens,” Lang said.

Poppy Days dates back to the aftermath of World War I and was inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields,” written by Lt. Col. John McCrae while serving on the front lines, to honor soldiers killed in battle.

National Poppy Day is observed each year on the Friday before Memorial Day. Veterans organizations across the country distribute thousands of crepe paper poppies – handmade by hospitalized and disabled veterans – in exchange for free-will donations. Proceeds are used to support veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

Residents are encouraged to wear a red poppy during Poppy Days as a symbol of gratitude and remembrance.



Mayor Jane Lang was joined by American Legion Post 33 Auxiliary members as she signed the Poppy Proclamation at the Common Council meeting on May 7.



Photo from Neenah Police Department

Police fundraiser

Proceeds from sales of Archie’s Famous Popcorn at the Dairy Queen on South Commercial Street on April 10 were donated to the Fox Cities Victim Crisis Response Team. The event raised \$2,000. Another fundraiser was scheduled for Thursday with proceeds donated to local police K9 units.



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Submitted photo

Kylie Kempen is the reigning Miss Rural Winnebago.

Leadership program seeks youth advocate

Neenah News

The Miss Rural Winnebago program, which has been offering opportunities for young women to develop leadership skills, learn about agriculture and connect with rural communities since 1969, is seeking applicants for its 57th Miss Rural Winnebago.

Girls ages 13-17 who live or attend school in the county are eligible to apply. Applicants don't need to have rural or agricultural background but are willing to serve in their community.

Applicants will participate in a committee interview and communication training June 7. The crowned candidate will have the opportunity to go on tours to learn more about Winnebago County, volunteer at local events, and develop

personal and professional skills during her yearlong term. Those interested can email missruralwinnebago@gmail.com or visit missruralwinnebago.wixsite.com/mrwwi to obtain the application. The deadline to apply is May 31.

Program coordinator Jodie Weyland said the reigning Miss Rural Winnebago has the freedom to shape her year through her interests while gaining professional and personal skills that can be applied for her benefit.

The Waukau Youth Group organizes the program every year and hosts several family-friendly events at its location, 2711 State 116. During the Waukau Youth Days Chicken Barbeque set for June 8, the program will crown the 57th Miss Rural Winnebago.

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UW Fox Cities

FROM PAGE 1

counties have been meeting regularly for nearly a year to discuss the next steps.

The urgency behind the transfer stems from the impact on child care services, as 25 families have been notified that care will end by June 20. Transferring full control to Winnebago County is expected to simplify future planning and speed up approval of funding for ongoing operations.

The options Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson presented to supervisors at the meeting this week were to approve the sale to Winnebago or to deny it and the property would be placed for sale on the private market and the power would be cut off on January 1. He told the supervisors that if the deal fails, he will not bring forward another proposal.

The plan was developed by Nelson and Winnebago County’s previous county executive, Jon Doemel, who lost to Gordon Hintz in the spring election. Winnebago Supervisors already approved it and Hintz said he supports the transfer.

Relocating the Weis Museum to the History Museum has sparked debate. Executive director Dustin Mack said the museum’s mission is to document local history. With the inclusion of the Weis collection, he said the History Museum would add natural history.

Weis Museum curator Donald Mikulic urged supervisors to allow the collection to remain in Menasha.

“There’s just absolutely no reason to do this,” Mikulic said. “And might I point out that there are no specimens in our collection from Outagamie County at all, period. We’re a statewide museum, not a local museum. And we don’t value the collections as our primary focus; our primary focus is education.”

Though previous meetings included multiple speakers against the proposal, this week’s meeting drew more public support, with some saying they’re hopeful for the future of both the Weis Museum’s collection and the campus.

Winnebago County residents were not allowed to speak during the public forum

Law Enforcement Torch Run slated for Wednesday

Neenah News

This year’s Law Enforcement Torch Run will pass through parts of Fox Crossing and other neighboring cities on Wednesday.

The Fox Crossing Police Department encourages residents to come out and cheer on Special Olympics Wisconsin athletes and local law enforcement during the event.

The police department said three routes will run through Fox Crossing.

According to the police, Route 1 will

portion of the meeting after a proposal to suspend the rules to allow out-of-county public participation failed to pass by the two-thirds majority vote required.

Stephen Weis, whose parents Leonard and Donna Weis founded the museum, became visibly emotional while expressing his support for the move.

“It’s a sad day but I think it’s for the best to move to the History Museum ...” he said.

Bruce Danz, whose fossil collection is among the museum’s contents, also spoke in favor of the plan, stating that even if the Weis collection does not go to the History Museum, his collection will.

“I’m not a commercial real estate expert but common sense tells me that that campus is going to go away in two years ... that would be the end of the Weis Museum if it remains there. But the idea that the campus will be used in its present form with the Weis, planetarium and theater intact ... is just pie in the sky wishful thinking,” he said.

Supervisor Yvonne Monfils estimated the Weis Museum’s contents are worth several million dollars in the open market and noted about 7,000 items in the 20,000-artifact collection have been cataloged.

“To move this collection, it needs to be cataloged, dismantled and carefully moved,” she said.

The History Museum has secured the estimated \$233,000 needed to relocate the collection and plans to hire two limited-term employees to facilitate the move.

Outagamie supervisors voted 26-3 to approve the plan to sell the campus to Winnebago and 28-0 to transfer the Weis Museum’s contents to the History Museum, with Monfils abstaining from the vote.

The Weis Museum posted on social media after the meeting that its final day open to the public is May 31.

Nelson said the UW Fox Cities property has been deeded to both counties since 1948.

“Not only is this a big deal because we’re looking at the significant sale proposal, but this also is a historical moment here in our community,” he said.

last 1.58 miles beginning at 9:30 a.m. until about 9:50 a.m. starting at Kwik Trip on S. Memorial Drive and ending on Astor Lane next to McDonald’s.

Route 2 will be 2.25 miles beginning about 10 a.m. until around 10:50 a.m. from Wittman Park on W. Airport Road until ending at 4th and Tayco Street.

Route 3 will be .96 miles beginning at about 11:15 a.m. until around 11:45 a.m. starting at Arrowhead Park to the end at Riverside Park.

Winnebago County ranks among most deer-related crashes

Neenah News

Winnebago County was among the top 10 Wisconsin counties for crashes involving deer in 2024, according to the Wisconsin State Patrol.

Last year, 532 deer-related crashes were reported in the county.

The State Patrol said there were more than 17,000 crashes involving deer in the state last year.

It added preliminary data showing nine people were killed and 708 were injured in those incidents.

The most crashes involving deer reported in 2024 was in Waukesha County with 937 such incidents.

The State Patrol reminds drivers to keep an eye out for deer on roadways this spring to avoid potentially dangerous crashes. It



Neenah News

A semi-truck is shown on Henry Street turning into Galloway Co. Some residents say roads like this one are damaged by semis which won't be impacted by the city's newly approved wheel tax.

Wheel tax

FROM PAGE 1

could be required to pay between \$5,000 and \$10,000 out of pocket.

The city was contacted last year by Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, which noted Neenah’s TARF was invalidated by recent state Supreme Court rulings. For the 2025 budget, the Common Council voted to suspend the TARF and use the debt levy to offset the lost revenue. That added an estimated \$81.20 to the tax bill for a homeowner with a home valued at \$280,000.

This year, the city considered several options to replace the revenue previously generated by the TARF: reinstating special assessments, relying on the debt levy, introducing a wheel tax, or not repairing streets at all. City officials determined that the wheel tax was the most equitable solution.

Wheel taxes have become common in Wisconsin, with 48 municipalities and 13 counties implementing them. Rates range from \$10 to \$40, including \$30 in Appleton and \$35 in Oshkosh.

Some residents spoke out against the wheel tax at the council meeting last week, arguing that it excludes commercial and industrial properties with vehicles over 8,000 pounds, even though those vehicles cause the most damage to roads.

“I’m in industrial sales and I’m very thankful to say that we have a vibrant industry in this area, but I also know that with that vibrant industry comes very heavy trucks, significant traffic, and wear and tear on the roads in this area, especially, that isn’t caused by the citizens of

Neenah,” resident Cameron Clark said. “A wheel tax unfairly burdens those individuals with damage and maintenance needs and wear that, frankly, my little Equinox just doesn’t cause.”

Resident Scott Becher echoed those sentiments, stating that Neenah is a major industrial city.

“The wheel tax is a bad idea,” Becher said. “It’s going to put it onto residents who right now (are) already (paying) 80% of the property taxes, so we need to think about other ways, other funding.”

Alderman Bill Pollnow Jr. also spoke out against the wheel tax, stating that it unfairly impacts residential properties and advocated for the continued use of the debt levy to offset road and sidewalk construction costs.

The council voted 8-1 in favor of the wheel tax, with Pollnow voting against it.

Starting Jan. 1, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will collect wheel tax fees with Neenah residents’ annual vehicle registration, keep an administrative fee of about 3 cents per vehicle and send the rest to the city, which must use it for transportation related purposes.

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS LACROSSE

Neenah collects trio of victories

Rae Schoultz finished with six goals and picked up a pair of assists as Neenah topped Kimberly, 15-9, in a Bay Valley Conference game last week.

Ellery Marsh, Ellie Hammerschmidt, Skye Rojotte and Josie Mroczkowski each added a pair of goals in the win, while Ella Olson added one. Jadyn Juedes had two assists for the Rockets, with Savannah Blocksom, Mara Dorow, Hammerschmidt and Mroczkowski each adding one.

Elliott Pershing finished with 11 saves. Neenah then split a pair of games on Saturday, beating Superior, 11-5 – behind four goals each from Marsh and Schoultz – while falling to Bay Port, 6-1. Blocksom had the lone goal against Bay Port with Pershing notching seven saves.

The Rockets bounced back Monday with a 4-3 win over De Pere as Marsh and Blockson each tallied two goals and Pershing made six saves in goal.

BOYS LACROSSE

Strong first half lifts Neenah to win

The Rockets built a 4-0 lead at halftime and held on to the lead in the second half in a 7-5 win over Waunakee last week.

Jackson Herres and Jack Klundt each finished with two goals to lead Neenah, while Keane Sullivan, Drew Green and Jackson Brown also scored for the Rockets. Brown and Brandon Price each chipped in a pair of assists.

Isaac Scholl totaled five saves in goal to earn the win.

The Rockets then suffered a 10-9 loss to Hudson on the road on Saturday. Four of Neenah's five losses this season have been by one goal.

Price finished with three goals and an assist against Hudson, while Brown and Lenny Coulman each tallied two goals. Sullivan and Herres also scored for the Rockets, while Herres and Reshawn Vaughn each had two assists in the game.

Scholl made nine saves in goal for Neenah.

The Rockets got back on the winning track on Tuesday with a 19-5 rout of Wausau at home.

TENNIS

Neenah picks up pair of 7-0 wins

The Fox Valley Association-leading Rockets cruised to a pair of 7-0 wins over Kaukauna and Appleton East over the past week.

Neenah did not drop a game against the Ghosts winning all seven matches by 6-0, 6-0 margins.

Hunter Brown, Joshua Youngwerth, Seth Vickman and Tim Zhao posted singles wins, while Brady Lawatsch and An-

drew Werner, Luke Grassl and Henry Farrell and Joe Schultz and Harrison Tanger posted doubles wins.

In the win over Appleton East, Vickman at No. 4 singles and the doubles teams of Grassl and Farrell and Tanger and Schultz each posted 6-0, 6-0 wins in their matches.

The No. 1 doubles team of Werner and Lawatsch and Brown at No. 2 singles lost only one game in their victories. Carl Hein, Youngwerth and Vickman also picked up singles wins for the Rockets.

Neenah also scored a 6-1 win over Oshkosh West on Tuesday with the Rockets sweeping the singles matches with wins from Hein, Brown, Youngwerth and Vickman.

Grassl and Farrell posted a win at No. 2 doubles, while Tanger and Schultz added victory at No. 3 doubles.

Zephyrs roll past Sheboygan Falls

Gabe Groom posted a 6-0, 6-0 win at No. 4 singles to highlight St. Mary Catholic's 7-0 win over Sheboygan Falls last week.

Wesley Auth at No. 1 singles, Nicolas Miller at No. 2 singles and Zach Beyer at No. 3 singles also posted straight-set wins, while the Zephyrs' three doubles teams of Aiden Tines and Harry Bergstrom, John Osland and Sean Osland and Dan Harness and Dominic Todd also posted wins.

The Zephyrs also cruised past Kewaskum last week, collecting a 7-0 win without dropping a game in any of the matches.

Auth, Miller, Beyer and Groom earned singles wins for the Zephyrs, while Bergstrom and Tines, John Osland and Sean Osland and Harness and Todd completed the doubles sweep.

St. Mary Catholic then improved to 6-0 in Eastern Wisconsin Conference dual meets with a 6-1 win over Ripon on Monday.

Auth at No. 1 singles, Miller at No. 2 singles and the No. 2 doubles pairing of John Osland and Sean Osland each won their matches by 6-0, 6-0 margins. Groom added a win at No. 4 singles, while Bergstrom and Tines and Harness and Todd each won their doubles matches.

GOLF

Neenah takes third at Manitowoc invite

The Rockets had a pair of golfers finish in the top 10 as Neenah placed third among the 17 teams at the Manitowoc Invitational last week.

Henry Gretebeck led the way for Neenah, tying for fifth place after shooting a round of 82 at Autumn Ridge. Mason Peitersen finished in a tie for 10th place with an 83, while Carson Seitz carded an 84. Cartyr Simonson rounded out the scoring golfers with an 89.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 338, five shots behind Appleton East. Bay Port won the team title with 323.

The Rockets also finished sixth in the

Appleton Metro Meet held at High Cliff Golf Course.

Simonson and Ryan Geary led the way for Neenah as each finished with a round of 76, finishing just outside of the top five individuals.

Seitz added an 81 and Peitersen chipped in an 89 to round out the Rocket golfers. Neenah finished with a team score of 322, three shots behind Appleton East and four behind Hortonville.

Whaley leads St. Mary Catholic at mini-meet

Charlie Whaley finished in a tie for fifth place to lead St. Mary Catholic at a Big East North mini-meet at Sheboygan Town and Country Golf Club on Tuesday.

Whaley shot a 44 to pace the Zephyrs, who finished with a team total of 187 – six shots behind Mishicot.

Brady Deleeuw added a 46 and Finnley McClone had a 48, while Wyatt Birling chipped in a 49.

The Zephyrs also competed in the Appleton Metro Meet at High Cliff Golf Course on Monday where they finished 7th out of 19 teams with a score of 374.

Charlie Whaley was the low scorer for the Zephyrs with an 86, while Mason Uhlenbrauck added a 91 and Romy Weninger had a 94.

SOFTBALL

Rockets rout Terrors to cap busy stretch

Neenah broke the game open with a nine-run second inning and rolled to a 13-0 win over Appleton West on Tuesday night to cap a grueling section of the schedule.

The Rockets played six games over a six-day stretch that ended Tuesday, finishing 4-2 in those contests with the four wins coming in Fox Valley Association games.

Against Appleton West, Natalie Coffey, Kyleigh Mathe and Adrienne Oitzinger each finished with two hits in the game, while Olivia McNulty drove in three runs and Mathe added a pair of RBIs.

Taytum West and Kayleigh Johnson combined on a one-hitter with Johnson racking up eight strikeouts in four innings of work.

On Monday, Neenah fell behind Fond du Lac 1-0 after the first inning but handed the Cardinals a 7-1 loss. The Rockets tied the game with a run in the fourth and then erupted for six runs in the fifth inning to take the lead for good.

Carson Harwood went 3-for-4 with a home run and finished the game with three RBIs, while Mathe and Johnson each drove in two runs in the game.

Mathe also got the win on the mound allowing three hits and striking out nine.

Neenah dropped a pair of close games to ranked opponents on Saturday, losing 1-0 to Ashwaubenon – ranked No. 9 in Division 1 – while being dealt a 2-0 loss by Mishicot, the No. 2 team in Division 4.

The Rockets were held without a hit against Ashwaubenon, while Mathe struck out six and surrendered just two hits. The Jaguars scored an unearned run in the sixth inning to earn the win.

Mathe and Kaylee Marhefke each had hits in the loss to Mishicot with West suffering the loss in the circle allowing two hits and two walks while striking out 10.

Mathe struck out 12 in a four-hit shut-out as the Rockets beat Hortonville, 3-0, on Friday. Neenah broke a scoreless tie with two runs in the fifth and added another run in the sixth with West, Johnson and Jillian Matheny each driving in runs in

the win.

Neenah started the rugged stretch with a 3-1 win over Oshkosh North as Coffey went 2-for-4 with a two-run home run to key the win. West scattered seven hits and did not allow an earned run to get the win in the circle. She also struck out four and did not walk a batter.

Late runs carry Zephyrs past Lancers

St. Mary Catholic scored four runs over its final three at bats to break a 4-4 tie and claim an 8-4 win over Manitowoc Lutheran in a Big East North contest last Friday.

The Lancers took a 4-2 lead after the top of the third inning before the Zephyrs – who scored in every inning – tied the game in the bottom of the inning and then took the lead for good in the fourth.

Samantha Weiss and Gabby Guerrero each had a pair of hits in the game, while Scarlett Recihenbacher and Emily Vogel each scored two runs in the game.

Guerrero struck out four and allowed five hits to earn the win.

The Zephyrs lost to state-ranked Mishicot on Tuesday night in a conference game.

Weiss belted a solo home run for St. Mary Catholic's only hit in the game.

The Zephyrs also lost a Big East contest to Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah, 12-7, last week.

St. Mary Catholic took a 5-4 lead with a five-run fourth inning but the Resorters answered with five runs in the top of the fifth and held on for the win.

Guerrero and Ainslie Liddy each finished with two hits and two RBIs in game to lead the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic also dropped a non-conference game to Winneconne, 10-0, last week with Liddy picking up the only hit for the Zephyrs.

BASEBALL

Printz, Rockets blank Oshkosh North

Sam Printz allowed just four hits in throwing a complete-game shutout to lead Neenah to a 6-0 win over Oshkosh North on Tuesday night.

Printz needed just 66 pitches to finish off the Spartans, walking one and striking out two.

Cal Juckem finished 3-for-4 at the plate with a pair of triples and scored two runs to lead the Neenah offense, which used a four-run fourth inning to seize control of the game.

It was the second straight strong start for Printz, who allowed one run over six innings in an 11-1 win over Oshkosh West last week. Printz scattered six hits in a walk and struck out two to earn the win.

The Rockets led 2-0 after two innings before erupting for six runs in the third to break the game open. They finished the game with two outs in the sixth inning, scoring a pair of runs.

Henry St. Clair and Mack Krause each finished with two hits in the game as 11 different batters had at least one hit in the game. Levi Bolvin led the team with two RBIs.

The Rockets also suffered a 13-4 loss to Kimberly on Friday, despite pounding out 12 hits in the game. Krause went 4-for-4 with a double, while Bolvin finished with two hits and a pair of RBIs.

Plutz pitches Zephyrs past Lancers

Ethan Plutz tossed seven strong innings and St. Mary Catholic posted its third win



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Senior Standout is brought to you by: 

Healthy Marhefke plays leading role for Rockets



Photo by Dawn Bauer

After missing her junior season because of injury, Kaylee Marhefke is back healthy and has played a key role in the success of the Neenah softball team.

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Kaylee Marhefke had to deal with one of the toughest things for any athlete.

Six games into her junior softball season, Marhefke was catching when she took a foul ball off her hand resulting in a fracture between her thumb and wrist. That meant instead of taking the field with her Neenah teammates, she was forced to watch from the dugout.

“It was tough, especially in those close games when I really wanted to get in and try to help the team out,” said Marhefke, who had been on varsity since her freshman season. “I guess I learned that I don’t take playing the game for granted anymore.”

Instead of driving in a key run or making a big defensive play, Marhefke had to find another way to help her teammates.

“Normally, I’m one of the loudest people and I found that sitting on the bench and using my voice maybe helped more than I thought,” Marhefke said. “It was fun to cheer the team on but it was difficult sitting back and watching.”


A now healthy Marhefke has been one of the leaders for a Rocket team that is 15-5 this season and in second place in the always strong Fox Valley Association. Neenah has also hovered around the bottom of the top 10 ranked teams in Division 1 this season.

Marhefke has anchored the Rockets’ defense, normally starting at third base, while also batting comfortably over .300 with five doubles and a home run.

All of the hits and RBIs and wins are great but for Marhefke, the biggest thing is being able to be back on the diamond.

“With coming back from the injury, I’m just happy finally getting to play more games than I did last year,” said Marhefke, who was the team’s regular starter in left field as a sophomore, while seeing limited action her freshman season. “I don’t think there are any side effects (from the injury).

Senior Standout



I don’t hold back anymore. I just go out there, have fun and see what happens.”

That wasn’t always the case.

When Marhefke returned to action last summer – about a month before what was originally projected – she did so with some natural concern about the thumb.

“It was difficult getting over the mental side of it. My mental state when I was coming back wasn’t the greatest,” Marhefke said. “I did a lot of training when I did get back and in the offseason. I trained all of the time and I finally gained the confidence that, yeah I can do this. I have what it takes.”

Marhefke still occasionally catches for the Rockets, but usually makes her home at third base. It’s a position where she can still show off a strong throwing arm and she still gets her nose in quite a bit of action.

Yet, it’s a different workload than being a catcher where she would be a part of every pitch.

Some players might find it difficult to maintain their focus going from behind the plate to an infielder’s spot – especially with the lack of action that can result from the work of Neenah’s pitchers – but Marhefke finds ways to make sure she keeps her focus.

“My shortstop (Olivia McNulty), if neither one of us are getting a lot of balls we are probably cracking a joke with each other,” Marhefke said. “Mostly, just talking around the infield or talking to my left fielder. I just try to keep everyone in the game when (pitcher Kyleigh Mathe) is striking everyone out and we don’t have much to do. If Kyleigh is in a good enough mood, I will

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

even give a joke to her.”

Creating chatter and keeping her teammates focused is one of the forms Marhefke’s leadership takes for Neenah. It’s a responsibility that is important to her and one she takes seriously.

And just like some of the fielding and hitting skills that can be passed down from or learned from previous teammates, Marhefke has watched some of the program’s leaders while a young player in the program and pocketed what she saw.

“It is big to watch the different leaders that we have had. People have gone about it in different ways and each person brings something different to the table,” Marhefke said. “I’ve been on varsity since freshman year and I have watched the other leaders (before) me. As a leader, you have to have the fun in you but also drive to get better and hold everyone accountable to that.”

Marhefke said that as a freshman, Madie Jagoditsh had a big influence on her while she also learned a lot of leadership from Quinn Marnocha – who was a senior during her sophomore year.

However, she said her biggest role model as a leader was Savannah Knuth, with whom she had a strong connection.

“She was like one of my biggest cheerleaders when it came to anything,” Marhefke said. “She knew how to have a good time, but she also knew when to dial it in and focus and I think I’m very much like that.”

Marhefke also drew from another well for her leadership skills.

Her older brothers, Sam, 24, and Steve, 23, were both baseball players at Neenah and Marhefke said she also learned a lot

from watching them and wanted to follow what they did.

That isn’t limited to the diamond, either.

Both of her brothers like to hunt and fish and have from a young age and – just as she looked to imitate them in softball – she’s just as eager to hit the woods or a lake with them as well.

“I just saw what my brothers did, shooting big bucks at a young age, and I was like I want to do that. I want to experience the joy of hunting,” Marhefke said. “Our family is either playing baseball or softball or watching it or hunting and fishing.”

Marhefke boasts an eight-point buck as her biggest trophy but hopes that a future trip into the woods will land her something bigger.

“My dad and brothers have shot some pretty big deer and I’m hoping to chase one down,” said Marhefke, who has also been water skiing from a young age. “I haven’t gotten to hunt bear, but I really want to do that, too.”

Marhefke is looking forward to the chance to hunt next fall when she attends Upper Iowa University, located in Fayette, Iowa. Both of her brothers played baseball for the Peacocks.

Earning the chance to play in college is something that Marhefke is grateful for given that her thumb injury happened during a time when many softball players are making impressions on collegiate coaches.

Marhefke, though, had already been connected with the school because of her brothers while also attending camps at the university while growing up. For her, there was no other place she wanted to be.

“I was really invested in going there. I love the school. I love the small town and if I can play softball there, it would just make it 10 times better,” Marhefke said. “With the thumb injury, being able to commit to

a college was absolutely great. It all ended up aligning like I wanted it so I thank God for that.”

Before she heads to college, though, Marhefke hopes to make one last splash for the Rockets and help lead the program to the state tournament.

The past couple of seasons, Neenah has been close to making the trip to Madison and Marhefke believes this could be the year the team gets over the hump.

“It’s been talked about but we don’t talk about it too much because we want to play one game at a time and play our best, but it has definitely been in the back of my mind at least,” Marhefke said. “I think our team chemistry is really good. I think we can be honest with each other and be each other’s biggest supporters.

“I also think Kyleigh as a pitcher is really going to help us. In those games where it’s not offense against offense but pitcher against pitcher, having Kyleigh as our ace is

Pair of Neenah alums honored by WIAC

Neenah News

A pair of former Neenah High School softball standouts were recognized on the WIAC all-league team it was announced.

Morgan Harwood, a sophomore pitcher at UW-Stevens Point, was named to the all-conference first team for the second straight season, while Pointer freshman Parker Zipperer earned a spot on the conference’s all-sportsmanship team.

Harwood was the ace of the Pointers’ rotation, appearing in 36 of the team’s 40 games with 24 starts. She finished the regular season with a 15-4 record and a 1.39 earned run average after allowing just 27

really going to help us. Then, when we get the bats going, it’s going to be hard to stop us. We just have to find that little spark.”

Neenah has only qualified for the state tournament twice in program history and not since winning the state title in 1995.

Marhefke would love for the team to end that drought and be able to head off to college, knowing she played a game in Madison. It would be the perfect addition to all of the things she’s gained from playing softball so far.

“I want to go to state so bad and end my senior year with saying I went to state and we went to Madison,” Marhefke said. “With softball, it’s a game of failure and I’ve learned how to manage that while still having confidence. The relationships I’ve made in softball, the lessons that I’ve learned, I will carry that through my whole life. Everything I’ve learned through sports makes you better as a person and that will translate to any job I have or anything I do in the future.”

earned runs in more than 136 innings of work. She also tallied 152 strikeouts.

Harwood, who was named Newcomer of the Year on last year’s all-conference list, also picked up three saves on the season and had the team’s only complete game shutout.

Zipperer played in 32 games this season for the Pointers, utilized mostly as a pinch-runner. She did get three starts and finished with six stolen bases.

Both Harwood and Zipperer are part of a Stevens Point team that will be playing in an NCAA Division III regional tournament this weekend in Oshkosh.

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CHAD REICHEL (office) 327 Randolph Dr., Ste. A Appleton, WI 54913-9267 CHAD REICHEL (home) 1013 Tana Lane, Menasha, WI. 549523

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is also being mailed to you, states the nature and

basis of the legal action.

Within 45 days of the date of first publication (on May 9, 2025), you must respond with a written Answer, as that term is used in chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The Answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: Winnebago County Clerk of Courts Office, 415 Jackson St., 1st Floor, PO Box 2808, Oshkosh, WI. 54903-2808; AND to Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is stated below. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper Answer within 45 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

DATED: May 5, 2025 /s/ electronically signed by Attorney Mark P. Murphy Attorney Mark P. Murphy State Bar No. 1017745 Attorney for Plaintiff 657 S. 72nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53214 (414) 322-5452 (mobile) m_p_murphy@icloud.com

Runs: May 9, 2025, May 16, 2025 and May 23, 2025

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Water Safety

It's fun to play in water, whether at a pool, beach, lake, river or water park, but it is important to know your limits and stay safe. **Remember, drowning can occur in less than two minutes.**

Swimming Pool Safety Rules

Put a check mark next to the rules that make swimming in a pool safer. Cross out rules that do not make pools safer.

- ☐ Never go in the water alone. Always be sure an adult who can swim is watching you.
- ☐ Do not depend on inflatable toys or water wings to keep your head above water.
- ☐ Dive only from a diving board, not the side of the pool.
- ☐ Don't crawl or walk on a pool cover.
- ☐ Stay in the shallow end of the pool if you are not a strong swimmer.

ANSWER: Did you check them all? Great job!



Find It

Find these things hiding in this picture: a banana, a house, a crayon, a fish, a surfboard and a dinosaur.

Sort It

After finding the hidden pictures, sort each object by the number of syllables.

1 syllable	2 syllables	3 syllables

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Recognize syllables in words; decode words with two or more syllables.

SAFE BOATING WEEK

National Safe Boating Week is in May. If you're going to be enjoying boating, be sure to check out the great info and activities at safeboatingcampaign.com.



How many differences can you find between the boat and its reflection?

Fill in the missing vowels.

W _ RING WAT _ R
SH _ ES IN LAK _ S
C _ N PROT _ CT
Y _ _ R F _ _ T
FR _ M BR _ K _ N
GL _ SS AND
OTH _ R
UND _ RW _ TER
H _ ZARDS.



Extra! Extra! Splashy Search

Look through the newspaper to find:

- A photo that shows a pool, lake or ocean.
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- Something that floats in the water.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

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Use the Lifesaver Letter code to find out what you should always wear when on a boat at the beach or lake.

A I C

▼ ♥ ▲ ● ▸ * ▼ ★ ♣ ▸

CODE:

A=▼ J=*
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E=▸ L=♥
F=● T=▸
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Standards Link: Reading Comprehension; students follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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



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The team member pours the water from the cup into the finish line bucket and runs back to the start, handing the cup to his teammate, who repeats the process.

The first team to move the most water from start to finish is the winner.


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The person who is IT must protect a bucket filled with water balloons. If other players get soaked by a water balloon, even if one drop hits them, they must remain frozen until another player is able to snatch a water balloon from the bucket and unfreeze them by soaking them with it!


Sponge Volley

String a rope between two trees. Hang a tarp so that players can't see the other side of the court. Have full water buckets and big sponges on each side. Toss soaked sponges over to the other side to see if you can hit the other players.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand the health benefits of physical exercise.



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