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Harwood pitches in for Pointers

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS



Harwood

After completing her stellar softball career at Neenah High School, Morgan Harwood had pretty simple aspirations when she joined the team at UW-Stevens Point. “I mean you always wish for the best, but I didn’t come onto this team thinking I’m going to do this and this and this,” Harwood said. “Honestly, I really wanted to just get on the team and just be able to have a couple innings. I just wanted to play.”

Harwood has accomplished that and

SEE **Point pitcher** ON PAGE 11

Conservancy Park undergoes restoration

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

When a crew began cutting down dozens of trees in Conservancy Park this spring, some residents were alarmed that so much of the wooded area was being cleared.

But what looks like destruction is actually the start of a restoration aimed at reviving a native ecosystem overtaken by invasive species.

Since late last year, the town of Neenah has removed dead ash trees on 2.2 acres in Conservancy Park. The trees were infested by the emerald ash borer, an invasive, wood-boring beetle that kills ash trees by eating the tissues under the bark, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Parks and Trails Committee chair Tom Jankowski said the town has also worked to clear out invasive buckthorn that had overtaken much of the forest’s undergrowth. Buckthorn forms dense thickets in wetlands which reduce light availability for understory species and prevent native tree regeneration, according to the DNR.

“It’s very thorny and it has berries, and the birds eat the berries, and they scatter them everywhere, and every city is having trouble with trying to mitigate it because it takes over everything,” Jankowski said.

Jankowski is encouraging residents who live in the neighboring Adella Beach area to remove dead ash trees now and begin replanting. Free logs are available in Con-

SEE **Park restoration** ON PAGE 3



Neenah News

Yellow marsh marigolds are shown growing in an area of Conservancy Park that was recently cleared of ash trees.



Photo by Paul Wolters

Tom Jensen launched the Summer Fun Runs in 1995 to inspire kids to stay active and enjoy exercise. Although he passed away unexpectedly earlier this year, organizers are planning to carry on the event in his memory.

Fun Run series honors late founder

Special events slated for 30th season

By Eric Endres
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah Summer Fun Run series turns 30 this year, with special activities scheduled for opening night on June 1.

The anniversary is bittersweet, however, as the driving force behind the Fun Runs, retired Neenah High School teacher and cross-country coach Tom Jensen, passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. But organizers are keeping spirits high as an-

tipication for the upcoming season builds, while continuing to honor Jensen’s legacy.

“Those of us volunteering for the Fun Runs know they will always be Tom Jensen’s Neenah Summer Fun Runs,” says current Summer Fun Runs organizer Lee Hillstrom. “It will certainly feel different this summer without him there.”

The Fun Runs are designed for children ages 14 and under and are held in Memorial Park each summer. Young runners eager to lace up their best running shoes have four opportunities to do so this year: June 1, June 15, June 29 and July 13. All dates will include treats from Dairy Queen and

Great Harvest Bread Company.

The Fun Runs sprinted onto the scene in 1995 shortly after Jensen retired when he gathered with a group of coaches and former runners to create a program for kids that encouraged fun and exercise. Hillstrom worked with Jensen and other volunteers throughout the years, typically year-round, to create a joyful and welcoming experience for the community.

“Tom and I, along with the many volunteers, ... share the same love of running for all ages and abilities as a way to keep

SEE **Fun run** ON PAGE 5

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Shoe collection supports girls’ athletics

Neenah News

A fundraising drive currently underway in the Neenah area aims to put old shoes to good use.

Girl Athletics in Neenah (GAIN) is collecting shoes to raise money for the organization. The goal is to collect 2,500 pairs of shoes, or 100 bags, through the end of the month, said Jen Beschta, who is helping to organize the collection.

Collection boxes are at Neenah locations including Krueger True Value, Cranked Bike Studio, Neenah Public Library, Neenah High School and Neenah Middle School prior to school concerts in Pickard Auditorium. Appleton locations include Runaway Shoes and Fleet Farm.

Beschta said sandals, dress and tennis shoes are acceptable; however, no shoes with holes or tears and no rollerblades or ice skates will be accepted.

According to Beschta, GAIN was established in 1984 to support female athletes involved in programs offered by Neenah Joint School District. She said the funds are used for coaches to provide equipment and supplies not covered in traditional athletic budgets.

Last year, GAIN donated more than \$27,000 to girls’ sports programs. The organization generates revenue through memberships, with families asked to donate \$5 per sport.

Other money is raised through concession sales at sporting events, staffed by team volunteers. Along with concessions, Beschta said they are doing other events to help raise money, including the shoe drive.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Decoration Day Parade

West Wisconsin Avenue was a lively scene during the 1942 Decoration Day Parade – what we now call Memorial Day. Downtown Neenah bustled with children riding bicycles, families lining the sidewalks and residents perched on car bumpers to catch a glimpse of the festivities.

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Calendar of events

- Monday, May 26**
Waterfront Ceremony, 8 a.m., Menasha waterfront on Mill Street
Memorial Day procession, 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, 127 Wisconsin Ave.
- 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
Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
- Tuesday, June 10**
Nutman sale, 10 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah
Summer Library Program Kick-off, 1:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Children’s Entertainer Randy Peterson, 6 p.m., Schildt Park
Neenah Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park
- Wednesday, June 11**
Nutman sale and Adirondack Set Raffle, 9 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah
- Thursday, June 12**
Out to Lunch concert featuring Isiah, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park
- Saturday, June 14**
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m. Shattuck Park
Udderly Euro Car Show, 1:30 p.m., Shattuck Park

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Park restoration

FROM PAGE 1

servancy Park until gone. Adella Beach residents seeking guidance on which species to plant for reforestation, or members of the public interested in the available wood, can contact Jankowski at 920-851-5539.

The cleared-out acreage of Conservancy Park will be replanted with native prairie grasses and sections of oak savanna.

Located along County Highway A, Conservancy Park is about 100 yards from Lake Winnebago and bordered by a stream to the east. The location was considered to be a wasteland in a 100-year floodplain, meaning it has a 1% chance of flooding each year, according to the DNR.

What is now a park was previously a strawberry farm owned by the Herzinger family. Town chair Bob Schmeichel said its origins date to 2009, when the town approached the Herzinger family about acquiring the 12.5-acre parcel.

“So when we talked to the Herzinger family back then, it was a negotiation type thing back and forth, but they pretty well came to the understanding that that would be the best use of the property, not only for the town, but for residents want-



A pair of Canada geese and their goslings are shown near the Conservancy Park pond.

ing the little park there, but we needed it for a stormwater pond area, so that was that the primary reason,” he said.

The town purchased the parcel with the assistance of a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant, which provided \$75,000 for land acquisition and redevelopment. A stormwater pond was constructed on 1.5 acres through the DNR’s Clean Water Fund program and the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The pond stores and slows stormwater runoff and removes pollutants. It features two fountains and is not intended for fishing or swimming. The town has implemented muskrat trapping to prevent damage to the pond’s liner.

“You take care of your land and water, and your land and water will take care of you,” Schmeichel said, quoting a mantra learned from his father, a soil conservationist who studied under educator and conservationist Aldo Leopold.

Over the past decade the town has been working to redevelop the other 11 acres into a park. With its location across from Lakeview Elementary, it often serves as an outdoor classroom for students and a nature preserve for the community.

“This park is uniquely different than an active park for play use,” Schmeichel said. “This is a conservancy type of attitude that people have to appreciate for its natural setting.”

McMahon Senior Ecologist Stuart Boerst, who took part in designing the park, has continued to play a key role in its development. He recently transplanted yellow marsh marigolds from the wetland area into the section that was cleared of ash trees.

The park’s prairie has more than 100 species of grasses and wildflowers that bloom from mid-May through November. The area is subject to a prescribed burn by the Town of Neenah Fire Department annually.

Wildlife commonly seen in Conservancy Park include Canada geese, bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, egrets, blue herons and turtles. The park is also home to a colony of Rusty Patched Bumble Bees, a species



The town’s Conservancy Park is recognizable by its two fountains that are turned on each spring.

classified as federally endangered and of special concern in the state.

The DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife are supporting the project through matching grants, with a focus on reforestation and native species preservation. The prairie restoration is expected to take approximately four years to fully establish.

“When you put in a prairie, there’s a step process, and it takes quite a while,” Schmeichel said. “The first year it sleeps, the second and third year it creeps, and the fourth year is when it really leaps.”

Future plans include the addition of a rustic, wilderness-style trail and native plantings such as raspberry bushes.

“It’s already looking much different with the existing prairie greening up, that’s all going to start blooming now, every week it’s going to look different,” Schmeichel said.

He described the park’s development as “almost like watching a kid grow up... in another few years, it’s going to be just a wonderful setting for everybody to enjoy.”

Jankowski said the trees being replanted will include bur oak, known for its broad canopy that can span up to 80 feet, with a root system that extends just as far. Bur oaks are also long-lived, often surviving 300 to 400 years.

“So we’re planting a legacy,” he said.

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Photo by Dave Hall

Paws and petals

The Neenah Animal Shelter hosted its first-ever Garden Party at its new location on Progress Court, welcoming guests last Saturday with a mix of plant sales, raffles, garden decor, a bake sale and brat fry. Proceeds from the event are used for animal care and adoption efforts.

District names principals for two elementary schools

Neenah News

Two individuals with Neenah connections have been selected as elementary school principals in the Neenah Joint School District.

Carrie Naparalla, who is a Neenah resident, has been selected as the new principal at Alliance Charter Elementary School, while Cassandra Shipman, a teacher at Tullar Elementary School, will be the new principal at Clayton Elementary School.

Naparalla has been the administrator and CEO for the Chain Exploration Center charter school within the School District of Waupaca since 2020. The school is a project-based learning curriculum that serves students from four-year-old kin-

dergarten through eighth grade. She also is in charge of the Waupaca four-year-old kindergarten program.

Naparalla earned her teaching degree from UW-Oshkosh and a master’s degree from Marian University.

Shipman has taught first grade at Tullar since 2015. She previously taught one year of first grade in Menasha. Shipman recently completed her principal licensure while earning a master’s degree from UW-Oshkosh. She received her teaching degree from UW-Green Bay.

Shipman has been a primary principal contact in the absence of an administrator at Tullar.

Both principals will officially begin their new roles on July 1.

Memorial Day events set for Monday

Neenah News

The annual Memorial Day celebration put on by Twin Cities veterans’ organizations, which include Neenah American Legion Post 33, Menasha American Legion Post 152, Menasha VFW Post 2126, and the cities of Neenah, Menasha and Village of Fox Crossing, will be held on Monday.

The event will start at 8 a.m. at the waterfront on Mill Street in Menasha, with a tribute and flowers put in the water for veterans who were lost at sea. Music will be performed by the Menasha High School marching band. There will also be a rifle salute by the Neenah-Menasha Veterans Honor Guard and Taps sounded.

The procession starts at Second and

Milwaukee streets, proceeds down Milwaukee to Main Street and continues to Tayco Street, then to Commercial Street in Neenah to Main Street, where it ends at Main and Doty.

After the procession at about 10:45 a.m., the celebration moves to Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah for military honors. The event includes a guest speaker, four student speakers from St. Mary Catholic High School, and the marching band. Wreaths will be placed at the military monuments in the cemetery along with a rifle salute from the Neenah-Menasha Honor Guard.

There is a car show, brat fry and bake sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lucky Dog’s on Green Bay Road in Neenah, sponsored by American Legion Post 33.

Business news roundup

Shane Wiegert has joined Schaper, Benz & Wise Investment Counsel as an investment analyst. His primary role is to generate comprehensive fundamental research and analysis on current working list companies and prospective new investment ideas.

Rich Curran has been added to the McMahon team in Wisconsin. The Neenah-based company is a professional engineering, architectural and consulting firm. Curran will serve as the organization’s operations and business development senior manager, focusing on strengthening internal teams, driving business development and securing impactful projects.

Adrienne Hartman will become the executive vice president of marketing for J.J. Keller & Associates, Inc. on June 2. She

will replace Lisa Karpinski, who is retiring from the company following more than 12 years with the organization. In her new role, Hartman will be responsible for overseeing J. J. Keller’s 180-person marketing organization, which includes product line marketing, digital commerce, marketing operations, technology, analytics and the J.J. Keller Sales Academy, a 6-month internal program that prepares individuals for a career in sales.

Kimberly-Clark Corporation announced that it will voluntarily transfer its U.S. stock exchange listing to the Nasdaq Global Select Market from the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). Kimberly-Clark expects that its common stock will cease trading on the NYSE at market close on May 29 and will commence trading on Nasdaq on May 30.



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Fun run

FROM PAGE 1

our bodies healthy and enjoy the environment we live in,” Hillstrom explains. “We wanted to provide a great family atmosphere where the parents and children would want to come back again and again.”

Runners are divided by three age groups: 6 and under, 7-9 and 10-14, with boys and girls running separately within their groups. The 6 and under group runs either a 400- or 800-meter course, the 7-9 group tackles an 800-meter course and the 10-14 group takes on a full mile.

Race finishers will receive ribbons, with placement ribbons up for grabs in the 7-9 and 10-14 age groups. Kids who run two races receive a Fun Run T-shirt, while participating in all four races nets runners a custom Fun Run medal. The races are free thanks to the efforts of sponsors and volunteers.

The series began with 44 participants for the first run in 1996 at Bill Miller Park, but it didn’t take long for the Neenah Summer Fun Runs to grow, with an ever-increasing number of runners requiring an eventual relocation to the north side of the larger Memorial Park. Prior to the pandemic, Hillstrom estimates the number of participants climbed over 700, with the 6 and under group accounting for close to half that.

The Fun Runs later set up shop at Memorial Park’s George Sherck Shelter and what’s been called “The Great Lawn,” giving organizers a better place to operate and parents a chance to see their children traverse the entire course. Today, parents are even encouraged to participate right alongside the youngest runners.

“Tom was amazed at what the Fun Runs had become and the number of parents

that would come up to him and thank him for this opportunity for their children,” Hillstrom says. “Parents from other cities would tell Tom they wished their cities could have a Fun Run program like we have in Neenah.”

With Jensen’s passing in February, the Fun Runs lost a towering presence and community leader. Hillstrom recalls Jensen being the first arrival on run nights and the last one to leave while frequently expressing his appreciation for the work the volunteers dedicated to make each Fun Run a success.

“There was not a time longer than a couple weeks all year where Tom and I would not be working on something related to the Fun Runs,” Hillstrom recounts. “Our emails, phone calls and in-person meetings easily numbered in the hundreds over the years.”

Now, the baton has been passed to Hillstrom and other volunteers as they adjust to the loss while stepping up to further the legacy of the program Jensen dreamed of all those years ago. But Jensen’s presence will still be felt every race night. “The Great Lawn” of Memorial Park will now be known as “Tom Jensen Field” — recognition which joins his inductions in the Neenah Joint School District Hall of Fame and the Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

To celebrate the 30-year milestone, special events and guests are lined up for the June 1 opener, which begins at 5 p.m. Kids can try conquering a 35-foot inflatable obstacle course or jump around in a pirate bounce house.

Other activities on the agenda: face painting; balloon twisting; a police honor guard presentation; a live performance of the national anthem; a proclamation read by Neenah Mayor Jane Lang; and a sec-

ond proclamation from Governor Tony Evers presented by State Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim.

The third Fun Run of the summer on June 29 will include appearances from local mascots as well as 13-time Ironman finisher Brian Cleven, who will sign copies of his book “Kenzie Runs the World.”

Parents can register their children on the Fun Run website at neenahfunrun.com. Registration is free, and children only need to be registered once to participate in all dates. Day-of registration is also available pre-run at the George Scherck Shelter in Memorial Park, though Hillstrom says online registration is preferred.

On race days, all age groups start and end on the grass of Tom Jensen Field with a portion of the runs taking place on a paved trail.

While this celebratory season of the Neenah Summer Fun Runs will feel heavier on the hearts with the loss of the Fun Runs’ founder, Hillstrom remains optimistic for the future of the races.

“Going forward without Tom, we hope to provide families with the same high-quality and free Neenah Summer Fun Runs that Tom envisioned back in 1995,” he said.



Photo from Jackie Gerken
Event organizer Lee Hillstrom’s grandson Tyler Gerken wears the 2025 Fun Run shirt.

EARLY JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Please be advised the Neenah News will have early deadlines for the June 20th issue:

Space and copy deadline: Friday, June 13, 2025 NOON
Materials complete deadline: Monday, June 16, 2025 3PM
This is for classified and display advertising.
OBITS deadline is Monday, June 16 at 3PM



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Zoning updates aim to attract new housing to area

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

As part of ongoing efforts to deal with housing shortages, the city of Neenah is moving forward with zoning code amendments aimed at removing barriers to residential development.

The changes stem from recommendations in the city’s Housing Study and Needs Assessment, completed by Stantec Consulting earlier this year, which found Neenah needs nearly 1,000 new housing units over the next decade to meet demand.

City staff and Plan Commission members recently reviewed several initial proposals intended to ease zoning restrictions and make residential construction more feasible, particularly on smaller or irregularly shaped lots in older parts of the city.

Easing restrictions for smaller homes

One zoning change would eliminate the minimum 20-foot dwelling width currently required in certain residential zoning districts.

Brad Schmidt, deputy director of Community Development, wrote in a memo that there haven’t been specific complaints about the requirement, but said there’s no clear reason to maintain it – especially on narrow lots.

“On lots that have widths less than 60 feet, smaller houses may be appropriate,” he wrote. “Removing the minimum dwell-

ing width does not negate the requirements in the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) which regulates one and two-family construction.”

Another proposal would reduce the side yard setback requirements in the R-2 Two-Family District. For lots narrower than 60 feet – a common size in Neenah’s historic core – the current code requires a six-foot setback on one side and 10 feet on the other. The new plan would allow for six-foot setbacks on both sides, giving property owners more usable building space.

Zoning conflicts in commercial districts

The city also wants to resolve issues surrounding existing single-family and two-family homes located in commercially zoned districts. Currently, these residences are considered legal but non-conforming, meaning they’re grandfathered in but technically not allowed under present zoning rules.

This status has created problems for homeowners seeking Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans, which are often used by first-time buyers or those with limited financial resources. The zoning change would permit these residential uses outright, removing a potential financing barrier.

Learning from past challenges

The Housing Study highlighted that

Neenah’s housing production has consistently lagged behind demand. Between 2014 and 2023, median home prices increased by 125%, and from 2019 to 2021, the city saw an 8% increase in renters while median rent rose by 27%.

Meanwhile, 37% of households are now considered cost-burdened – spending more than 30% of their income on housing – with low-income renters particularly affected.

Urban planner Spencer Cox of Stantec warned that development slowdowns, combined with resistance to projects like the failed rezoning of the former Shattuck Middle School site, send mixed signals to developers.

“And the main emphasis that I want to put here is that while zoning remains one of the major aspects, a big aspect of attracting new development is creating a level playing field that’s very clear to developers what their costs will be going in up front, and knowing that if they’re starting to develop a project, that they won’t face community resistance when it comes to developing the kind of housing that’s been developed within the community,” Cox said at a February council meeting.

The initially proposed Shattuck development would have transformed the vacant school into a mixed-income housing development, including 89 apartments inside the building and 49 single family homes on the surrounding property.

The developer planned to use low-income and historic preservation housing tax credits to help finance the redevelopment.

A proposal to rezone the Shattuck site for

redevelopment was rejected by the Common Council in 2023 after strong pushback from nearby residents, leaving the property vacant for more than two years.

The Shattuck building and property was later purchased by local developer Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations who has recently begun to take steps to redevelop the former courtside fields on the southern portion of the site into a 31-lot single-family subdivision.

Looking to broader changes

Longer-term strategies outlined in the housing study include establishing new single-family zoning districts with smaller minimum lot sizes, expanding zero-lot-line development, exploring the use of accessory dwelling units, and identifying city-owned parcels suitable for infill development.

As part of that effort, Schmidt presented an initial list of 25 potentially developable lots owned by the city, including parcels held by the water utility and Community Development Authority.

He also encouraged officials to evaluate other underutilized public lands – such as areas acquired for future infrastructure projects like overpasses – as opportunities for new housing.

The Common Council was expected to vote Wednesday to approve the initial zoning amendments. While these early changes focus on the more easily implemented recommendations from the study, city officials say this is just the starting point in a broader, long-term effort to ease Neenah’s housing shortage and improve affordability.



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Town green lights condo development

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A proposed 38-unit condominium development along County Road JJ and Cumings Lane is moving forward, with a zoning change and certified survey map approved Monday by the Town of Neenah.

The Homestead Acres condominium development is planned by LFK Enterprises, which is owned by Lynne Cumings Keller. It will bring single-family condominium homes to a 17-acre parcel on the town's southeastern edge, close to the city limits.

The area features a mix of residential homes and agricultural land, with open fields and newer subdivisions. The town board voted this week to rezone a 0.81-acre parcel to align with the larger property and the intended residential use. That parcel will primarily serve as roadway space.

A new public road called Centennial Drive will be constructed through the

center of the development, beginning on the east side at Cumings Lane. It will connect to Woodside Lane on the southwest side, providing one main road with access to all of the newly created lots. Another new road, called Acre View Drive, will branch off from County Road JJ on the

north side, curve south and connect into Centennial Drive, providing a second entrance into the development.

Originally proposed as a 40-unit project, the development has been scaled back to 38 standalone condominiums. Each unit

will be detached – meaning no shared walls – with optional basements and separate garages.

Homeowners will own the structure and the interior of their units, while common land and shared spaces will be owned and maintained by a homeowners' association or the condominium developer.

The site's current use is agricultural and includes some wetlands. The develop-

ment will include two large stormwater ponds, a recreational area in the northeast section with a playground, and a clubhouse or pavilion for private gatherings.

Town clerk Ellen Skerke said the development mirrors that of nearby residential neighborhoods.

"This looks very busy with the 38 units on it, but it's really a very similar density to what's right next door to it," she said.

Skerke noted that a boundary agreement between the city and town of Neenah, in place since 2003, designates certain areas for future growth. Some areas, although currently within the town, are marked for annexation into the city when development occurs. Other areas – like the site of the proposed condominium project – are designated as town growth areas, meaning the property will remain in the town even as it develops.

Town chair Bob Schmeichel said the development comes with an economic benefit, calling it "excellent for our tax rates," and represents part of the town's ongoing transformation from a rural to a suburban landscape.

"The town of Neenah is here to stay," he said. "We've got a very strong base."



Schmeichel



Skerke

Future Neenah's downtown concert series starting up

Neenah News

Future Neenah's 2025 Summer Concert Series with regional artists and bands opens June 18 with a concert in downtown Neenah featuring A-Town Unplugged from 6 to 8 p.m.

Family-friendly evening concerts in Shattuck Park will be Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. through Aug. 13. No alcohol will be allowed in the park.

Different food trucks will be onsite each week with food and beverage available for purchase.

The concerts are presented by Richard & Amy Jo Aylward.

The lineup includes:

- June 18: A-Town Unplugged
- June 25: Avenue 55
- July 2: No concert
- July 9: Star Six Nine
- July 16: Jet Pack Stereo
- July 23: STEEM
- July 30: The Britins (Donor Appreciation Concert)
- Aug. 6: Arilya

Aug. 13: Murphy's Law

Out to Lunch concerts will be held Thursdays at Shattuck Park from June 12 until Aug. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The lineup includes:

- June 12: Isiah
- June 19: Barefoot Americans
- June 26: Tim Dorsey, held at The Plaza in Gateway Park

July 3: No concert

July 10: Mr. Billy and Friends, held at The Plaza in Gateway Park

- July 17: Jacob Fannin
- July 24: Seth Brown Duo
- July 31: Randy Peterson (Kids' Concert)
- Aug. 7: Kyle Megna Duo
- Aug. 14: Jim n Nancy

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Prep sports roundup

TRACK AND FIELD

Gentile wins four events to lead Rockets

Sophomore Celia Gentile put on an impressive performance, winning four events to lead the Neenah girls to the team title at the Fox Valley Association meet on Monday at Kaukauna.

The Rockets claimed their first FVA title since 2013 by scoring 164.5 points, 3.5 points ahead of Appleton North. Defending champion Kaukauna was a distant third with 102.5 points.

Gentile spearheaded Neenah's charge to the title with her four first-place finishes. The sophomore won her second straight conference crown in the long jump, winning the title by almost a foot, while also adding a win in the triple jump where she topped the field by more than four feet.

On the track, Gentile finished first in the 100 meters and 200 meters.

Mazie Olkowski also was a repeat champion, winning the 3,200 meters while also placing second in the 1,600 meters. Emma

Severson collected Neenah's other individual win by placing first in the shot put, while the freshman also earned a second place in the discus.

The Rockets also won three of the four relays at the meet, posting wins in the 400-meter, 800-meter and 3,200-meter races. Brynn Fox, Kristin Manteufel, Janae Rodriguez and Kobi Meyer made up the 400-meter relay team, while Fox, Rodriguez and Meyer were joined by Molly Snider on the winning 800-meter relay team.

The winning foursome in the 3,200-meter relay was Elsa Gruber, Izzy Malloy, Natalie Willes and Anna Berthein.

The Rockets also finished second in the 1,600-meter relay.

Other top five finishers for the Rockets were: Lexi Davis, third in the shot put; Malloy, fourth in the 800 meters; Lani Storm, fourth in the pole vault; Payton Schaefer, fifth in the 400 meters; Gruber, fifth in the 800 meters; Aubrey Strosahl, fifth in the 300-meter hurdles; and Avery Gentile, tied for fifth in the high jump.

The Neenah boys finished tied for third

with Fond du Lac at 80 points, one point behind Kaukauna. Kimberly scored 162 points to wins its eighth title in the last nine FVA meets.

Ben Donaldson and Finn Lettau each posted a pair of top-five finishes at the meet. Donaldson was second in the 300-meter hurdles and fifth in the 110-meter hurdles, while Lettau was third in the 3,200 meters and fifth in the 1,600 meters.

Nathan Johnson in the 800 meters and Will Kirkman in the shot put were each third, while Owen Fox in the 110-meter hurdles, Luke Jung in the discus and Jonathan Stolen in the pole vault were each fourth.

Neenah also finished second in the 1,600-meter relay and took fourth in both the 800-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

Zephyr girls capture Big East title

Ellie Davel won both hurdle events and claimed three top-two finishes overall to help St. Mary Catholic claim the girls title at Big East Conference meet at Cedar Grove on Monday.

The Zephyrs finished eight points ahead of Mishicot atop the 14-team conference field.

Davel led three Zephyrs in the top five in the 100-meter hurdles with Moorea Steckling taking fourth and Lucy Norville finishing fifth. Davel finished first and Steckling was fourth in the 300-meter hurdles.

Davel added a second-place finish in the 200 meters with teammate Audrey Wanless finishing fifth.

Nolie Anderson also picked up a win in the discus, while finishing third in the shot put. Marissa Hahn joined Anderson in the top five in the shot put placing fifth.

Lauren Ripley had three top-three finishes at the meet, placing second in the 800 meters and third in both the 1,600 meters and 3,200 meters. Madeline Weninger added a fourth place in the pole vault and

Wanless was fifth in the 400 meters.

St. Mary Catholic also finished third in both the 1,600-meter relay and 3,200-meter relay, while placing fifth in the 400-meter and 800-meter relays.

The Zephyr boys were 10th in the final team standings with Isaiah Hennessy in the shot put and Gavin Post in the pole vault leading the way with fourth-place finishes.

St. Mary Catholic was also fourth in the 400-meter relay and fifth in the 1,600-meter relay.

BASEBALL

Rockets pick up shutout win over Polar Bears

Cal Juckem and Henry St. Claire combined on a three-hit shutout as Neenah blanked Hortonville, 8-0, in a Fox Valley Association game last week.

Juckem struck out eight and walked one in six innings to earn the win, while St. Clair pitched a scoreless seventh frame, allowing one hit and striking out two.

Neenah seized control of the game with a five-run second inning before adding two runs in the third and one run in the sixth.

Mack Krause, Jack Weinholzer and Ethan Hellengreen each finished with two hits in the game, while Juckem and Gus Weinholzer each drove in two runs.

The Rockets then pulled out a wild 6-5 win over Ashwaubenon in the first of two games on Saturday. The Jaguars scored three runs in the top of the seventh to take a 5-1 lead, but Neenah scored four runs in the bottom of the inning to tie the score. The Rockets then scored a run in the bottom of the eighth to earn the win.

St. Clair finished 3-for-4 with a pair of RBIs, while Juckem, Krause, Hellengreen and Gus Weinholzer each had two hits. Gus Weinholzer also added two RBIs.

In the second game on Saturday, the

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 10

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Werner doubles up for successful on court career

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

When Andrew Werner steps out on a tennis court, he is never alone.

Mostly because the Neenah High School senior is part of the Rockets’ No. 1 doubles team along with Brady Lawatsch. The duo has helped lead Neenah to another undefeated conference dual meet season and the pair is looking forward to making a run in the WIAA postseason.

But he also brings along with him the thousands of memories spent playing with his two older brothers, sister and parents that he says has helped shape him into the player he is today for the Rockets.

“Whoever was able to play we would just go out and hit. My parents would play with us sometimes, too. It was a great family thing,” Werner said at a practice earlier this week. “All my siblings have played tennis every fall, spring, summer for since I can remember.”

Werner’s oldest brother, Graham, was part of the top-seeded doubles team at the 2016 WIAA Individual State Tournament, who ended up taking fourth place with partner Evan Kubiak. Another brother, Henry, was two-time state qualifier in doubles for the Rockets, and was the 11th seed with Satchel Moss.

His sister, Meredith, played at No. 1 doubles last fall for the Rockets and advanced to state.

“Growing up with them was awesome. Being in a tennis family and in a tennis environment made me a better player,” Werner said. “(My brothers) were always giving me some good tips, good lessons but they were definitely better than me.”

Werner has been a stalwart in the Rockets’ varsity doubles lineup since his freshman season.

After playing mostly exhibition matches with partner Brady Hildreth in his first year of high school, the duo made the jump to the No. 2 flight on varsity in Werner’s sophomore season. That year, the tandem made it all the way to the individual state tournament.

Despite each player getting his first taste of the varsity level that season, Werner said the success wasn’t a surprise.

“We had a good season. We had good chemistry. We were a good team, so I think we did expect that and we made it happen,” Werner said. “I think No. 2 doubles is a really good spot for your first varsity position. It was a ton of fun.”



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Neenah senior Andrew Werner is aiming to be a three-time state qualifier in doubles this season for the Rockets’ tennis team.

Senior Standout



The same pairing played at the No. 1 flight last year and returned to the state tournament where they were seeded 13th and posted a pair of wins before losing to the eventual state champions.

But Hildreth graduated after last season meaning that Werner would play his senior year with a new partner and was paired with Lawatsch. After three years with the same playing partner, some players might be resistant to becoming part of a new tandem, but Werner was excited about the chance.

“When I found out we were playing together I was super hyped, but it was a change,” Werner said. “It’s always a big change when you get a new partner and have to find that chemistry. We are starting to get it going right now. Maybe it was a little rough early in the season, but we are really getting it together now and are excited for the conference tournament.”

Werner believes that the two can advance to the state tournament with their play the next couple of weeks.

That would mean three straight trips to the individual state tournament for Werner, while Lawatsch qualified in singles last season.

“We have high expectations but there is a lot of good doubles competition in the state this year. We want to make a run. We want to get to the third day and I think we really can do it. We are peaking at the right time and feeling good about it,” Werner said. “(Winning a match at state) is what every tennis player in the state shoots for. It’s one of those things where all of the offseason work, all the work you put in during the season really pays off. There is nothing like it.”

Although he has played plenty of singles matches away from the Rocket lineup, Werner said that playing doubles was fine with him.

“I’m a doubles player because it helps the team,” Werner said. “Coach (Kyle Falk’s) philosophy is that he’s going to put you in a spot that’s best for the team. I played exhibition my freshman year and since then, I kind of developed into a doubles player more than a singles player.”

Plus, he gets to follow in his brother’s footsteps and help carry on the strong tradition of Neenah tennis.

“Watching my brothers play for Neenah tennis when I was growing up was a huge inspiration,” Werner said. “A lot of the guys on the team now have siblings who have played or siblings who are going to play and that’s pretty special. That’s what tennis is all about.”

“Keeping up that tradition is important. Neenah tennis is known for dominance in this conference and keeping it going, keeping it alive is really a credit to all these guys.”

Werner said he is looking into playing club tennis next season when he attends the University of Wisconsin because he certainly wants to keep a racquet in his hand.

“I definitely want to keep playing. I’ve put all this work in so why not,” Werner said. “The cool thing about tennis is the people you meet. Pretty much all of my best friends are tennis players. I met them through camps when I was younger and keep meeting new friends through tennis now. The tennis community is really special and the fact it’s a lifetime sport makes it even better.”

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Point pitcher

FROM PAGE 1

then some.

After a breakthrough freshman season pitching for the Pointers, Harwood has doubled down as a sophomore and continues to lead the squad to lofty levels. Last weekend, Harwood was named the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA Division III Oshkosh Regional after helping lead the Pointers to the regional tournament title, earning the team its first appearance in a NCAA Division III Super Regional.

Harwood threw 4 1/3 no-hit innings in the tournament-opener against Central College and followed it up with 3 1/3 shutout innings in a 1-0 win over nationally ranked UW-Oshkosh in the semifinals. She also pitched four innings in a loss to the Titans on the final day of the tournament but Stevens Point rebounded for a 3-1 win last Saturday to claim the crown.

“I had a lot of my friends and family here and it’s always great to play in front of those guys,” Harwood said. “It’s nice being able to play so close to home but it is weird staying in a hotel so close to home. I’m in a hotel 10 minutes from my house.”

Harwood has pitched in 39 of the Pointers’ 44 games this season and leads the team with a 1.37 earned run average in a team-high 148 innings heading into Thursday’s Super Regional at Angola, Ind. She has totaled 164 strikeouts already this season while compiling a 16-5 record and holding opposing hitters to a miniscule .171 batting average.

This comes after a freshman season when she was named the WIAC Pitcher of the Year and WIAC Newcomer of the Year after posting a 14-3 record with a 1.04 earned run average – the 12th best mark in the nation.

“I felt a lot of anxiety the first couple of games (this season) feeling that pressure of trying to live up to the expectations after the year before,” Harwood said. “I think a lot of my mental game this year was focused on not necessarily replicating my numbers from last year but more so just trying my best and doing my best. That was the biggest thing for me.

“And then just keep having fun because why be here if you are not having fun.”

Having pitched nearly a complete second season, Harwood said that in some ways it does get easier having one year of college softball under her belt.

However, the weight of expectations can be cumbersome – especially after the season she had as a freshman.

“The fun part of being a freshman is that there are no expectations and you can



Neenah News

Neenah alum Morgan Harwood helped UW-Stevens Point win its first NCAA Division III regional tournament title last weekend in Oshkosh.

kind of mess up and it’s alright,” Harwood said. “But the experience definitely helps being aware of the people around you and the great defense you have behind you, that’s really great.”

Harwood also can take from her times in the Rockets’ red and white and believes that playing for Neenah helped her transition to the college game.

“I think having that experience and not letting these games become too much,” Harwood said. “Being in some of those bigger games in high school definitely helps lead you into college.”

Many of those big games were a part of Neenah’s schedule in the Fox Valley Association.

Harwood laughed a bit when she admitted that she sees plenty of former conference opponents when the Pointers face another WIAC team but knows that those battles did help prepare her.

“We will be playing and it’s like ‘Oh my gosh, I know you,’” Harwood said. “The FVA was an extremely competitive conference and I think that helped me in a way. College is always going to be different – it’s a way different level of play – but definitely having a really tough conference in the FVA definitely helped me a lot lead-

ing into some of these games in college.”

One of the biggest differences that Harwood has had to adjust to at the college level is that she isn’t in the pitching circle the entire game much anymore.

Harwood rarely came out of a game when she pitched for Neenah but with the Pointers three-pitcher staff – and with the trend of colleges frequently changing their hurlers – she rarely pitches a full game.

“It’s extremely different but I enjoy it more,” said Harwood, who had the team’s only complete game this season. “I think the hard part in high school is dealing with the stamina. Through all the games and innings you do decrease in speed and all of that and you do pitch not to your standards. But when you are only pitching four innings, you can pitch to a way higher standard.”

Harwood takes pride in the fact that the Pointers have made two straight trips to the NCAA Tournament in her first two seasons. Last year’s NCAA Tournament appearance was the programs first since 2007.

Having that type of team success is something that is important to her.

“I’m trying to build off of (the team success) I had in high school,” Harwood said. “With not being able to make it to state, I’m trying to work extremely hard to the NCAA Tournament and trying to play key roles in that situation.”

Harwood – who has a former Neenah teammate, freshman Parker Zipperer, on the Pointers’ roster – hopes the brightest days are still ahead for her and her Pointer teammates.

“I just want to hopefully win a WIAC title (in the next two years and make it farther in the tournament,” Harwood said. “My biggest goal personally is I want to hit 500 strikeouts for career. I think that would be really cool.”

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Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! Leaf Filter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE Leaf Filter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-920-3533

Miscellaneous

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-748-6332

DIRECTV OVER INTERNET - Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-844-724-0738

Occasional house sitter wanted for nice Neenah home. Must have references Call 919-998-9092. GOOD PAY.

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

Do you love the Neenah News?

Looking for ways to support the work we do?

It’s easy!

Take a look around and support the local businesses that support local journalism!

Let them know you saw their ad in the Neenah News.

Neenah News

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

For Sale- Aussiedoodle Pups, Shots, Wormed, Dews Removed, Vet-Checked, Can Deliver. \$400 to \$750 each. 715-255-2661 LI#269146 / Also have AKC Golden Retriever Pups, call for info.

FRITZ BARN PAINTING rusty Roofs, Metal Buildings Free Est. 608-221-3510 or 414-369-7263

King Charles Cavalier Pups. Born 3-26. Registered, Vet checked, shots and dewormed. \$800 call 715-644-5726

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material -steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer -up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-877-845-6606

Garage/Estate Sales


Rummage and Collectables Sale: Every Saturday 10am-6pm, Every Sunday 11am – 6pm. 1930 West College Avenue, Appleton.

Legal Notice

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE FOLLOWING PARTIES NAMED AS DEFENDANTS IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE #25 CV 176, entitled “WISCONSIN WINDOW CONCEPTS, INC. vs. MK Lofts, LLC, et.al., including CHAD REICHEL, Defendant [whose office and home addresses are believed to be:]


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


Kid Scoop Together:
Funny Filler
Have a friend give you each type of word to fill in the blanks. Then read the story aloud!

Pierre's ship sank after someone put a lot of _____ inside one of the cannons.


PLURAL NOUN



Pierre swam to the shore of a very strange island. It was covered with _____ ,

ADJECTIVE PLURAL NOUN

so he knew he'd have plenty to eat.




Instead of coconuts, _____ grew on the trees. And to catch fish, he used _____ for bait!

ADJECTIVE PLURAL NOUN

He built a little hut out of _____ that he found on the _____. It protected him when rain began to _____ from the sky.

PLURAL NOUN NOUN VERB



Pierre was eager to _____ home. He made a tall tower of _____ to catch the attention of passing ships. It worked! The captain of a _____


VERB PLURAL NOUN ADJECTIVE



_____ saw the tower and Pierre

NOUN

was rescued!

Standards Link: Grammar: Understand and use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly.



 **Write On!** 

Needs & Wants

List three things you **NEED** in your life and three things you **WANT**. Write a paragraph explaining your choices.



Thank you for supporting local news!

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Top 5 reasons to support YOUR local community newspaper:

- **Stay Connected to Local News and Events:** Local newspapers provide coverage of community-specific news, events, and issues that larger media outlets often overlook, keeping you informed about what's happening in your area.
- **Support Local Journalism:** By supporting Neenah News with a membership you help sustain independent journalism that holds local governments, businesses, and organizations accountable.
- **Promote Local Businesses:** Community newspapers often feature advertisements, profiles, and stories about local businesses, fostering a stronger local economy and encouraging residents to shop locally.
- **Preserve Local Culture and Voices:** Local newspapers highlight community stories, achievements, traditions, and unique perspectives that contribute to the area's identity and cultural heritage.
- **Build a Sense of Community:** Supporting your local newspaper strengthens community ties by providing a platform for discussion, celebrating shared successes, and addressing collective challenges.

Join online at www.neenahnewsnow.com/product/membership/, calling 920-486-1616 or stopping at or mailing a \$50 annual membership to Neenah News, 124 W. Wisconsin Ave. #090B, Neenah WI 54956