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## County's new executive outlines vision

### Hintz maps out a path for the future

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz doesn't rush his words.

In a recent interview after taking over as the county's leader, long pauses filled the space between questions and answers. For a man who once led state Democrats as minority leader, the quiet seems almost strategic.

Hintz's demeanor and thoughtful com-

munication style reflect a broader shift in county leadership. While former County

Executive Jon Doemel was known for his fast-paced, outspoken approach, Hintz brings a more measured, reserved tone to the role.

Hintz was sworn into office on April 15, joined by his wife Liz and their two children, Beatrix and Gethin, who were there to support him.

The 51-year-old former state legislator

represented the Oshkosh area in the Assembly from 2007 to 2023. Most recently, he worked as the director of a nonprofit labor-management partnership, before returning to local government.

"I've always been motivated by public service, and I thought I could make a real difference in improving lives and creating opportunity in Winnebago County," he said.

Hintz's campaign platform focused on collaboration, accountability and restoring public trust after what was seen by

SEE **Hintz's vision** ON PAGE 6

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Photo by David Hall

## Casting lines and making memories

Fishing season started in Wisconsin on Saturday. Young anglers were among those ready to see what they could catch on the first day of the season at Fritse Park in Neenah.

## Planet, Washatka to be featured with Big Band Reunion

By George Halas  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Every Monday evening from the end of September to Memorial Day, a rare and delightfully surprising musical treasure is revealed from 7:30-9 p.m. at Cranky Pat's in Neenah.

Just as delightful, there is no cover charge.

On the verge of completing its 34th season, The Big Band Reunion is comprised of 18 of the best musicians in Wisconsin playing selections from a "book" that over the years has grown to include over 1,200 compositions.

"Each week, it's a totally different mix," BBR co-director Ken Skitch said. "We cover all decades and all genres of big band jazz as well as Latin, blues and rock tunes. We're the only big band that plays every week, and we could go an entire season without playing the same composition twice."

While the fellowship among the musicians is genuine and clearly evident, "the music is the number one thing," Skitch said. "Musicians want to play in this band. We stress quality and when you play quality music, it's more fun."

Founded originally by Lawrence Uni-

versity professors Bob Levy and Nick Keelan, the torch of Levy's visionary leadership was passed to Skitch and co-director Marty Robinson eight years ago.

One of their first challenges was to find a new venue.

Cranky Pat's owner David Earle immediately and enthusiastically embraced the idea of being the new home of the BBR. It produced a win-win situation.

"Cranky Pat's is a great room for us," Skitch noted. "Acoustically, it's the best room we've played in 34 years."

SEE **Big Band Reunion** ON PAGE 7



Submitted photo

Tom Washatka and Janet Planet will be the featured guest artists as part of a special double feature Monday.



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

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

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



Photo from Fox Crossing Fire Department

## Firehouse flapjacks

Volunteers served more than 300 meals Sunday morning during the Fox Crossing Fire Department's third annual drive-thru pancake breakfast. The event supports the Fox Crossing Fire Association, a nonprofit that provides scholarships to area students pursuing fire service careers and supports the annual Fox Crossing Santa Float. Other opportunities to support the association include a brat fry May 23 at Festival Foods in Menasha and an open house Sept. 13 at Fire Station 40 on Cold Spring Road. More information is on the Fox Crossing Fire Association Facebook page.

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# Calendar of events

**Friday, May 9**  
The Point of Jazz, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive

**Saturday, May 10**  
Junk in the Trunk rummage sale, 8 a.m., Washington Park, 631 W. Winneconne Ave.  
Treasure in the Trunk rummage sale, 8 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 S Park Ave.  
Pint-sized Prom, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library  
Wine Walk, 11 a.m., downtown Neenah locations  
Neenah High School Vintage show choir finale concert, 7:30 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

**Monday, May 12**  
Big Band Reunion, 7:30 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.  
Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing

**Wednesday, May 14**  
Fox Valley Women's Connection luncheon and program, noon, Bridgewood Hotel Resort

**Thursday, May 15**  
Downtown Neenah Blood Drive, 8 a.m., DoubleTree Neenah Hotel  
Spencer and Katie Jones book launches, 4 p.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

**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.  
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**  
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

## Correction

**MAY 2, PAGE 9:** In the Calendar of Events, the location of the Junk in the Trunk event on May 10 was incorrectly listed. The event is being held at Washington Park, 631 W. Winneconne Ave.

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# Area clinician sheds light on autism treatments

By Eric Severstad  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

What does an autistic person look like? What does a depressed person look like? Can you tell if a person has been bullied just by looking at them?

You may think you have answers, but science tells us that many psychological and behavioral concerns cannot be seen visually and societal norms seem to be enhancing the misconceptions.

“People will often say, especially to teenagers, ‘You don’t look as though you have autism.’ So, naturally, one of the main questions I get from teenagers is, ‘Do you think I look like I have autism?’” said Candace Debban-Anderson, MA, LCSW, a clinician who practices behavioral and psychological health in Neenah.

“In society, people still think that individuals with autism have a certain look to them. The truth is there’s no ‘look’ to autism spectrum disorder (ASD). That’s one of many misconceptions, which can be hurtful and harmful,” Debban-Anderson said.

Autism spectrum disorder includes conditions that were once considered separate: autism, Asperger’s syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder and other developmental disorders.

It’s no surprise that young people are hyper-conscious about their looks, especially girls, while developing physically and mentally throughout adolescence.

“For females with autism, (outward appearance) is their main concern,” Debban-Anderson said. “Females put a lot of energy into masking their symptoms to fit in with their peers, which mirrors girls’ behavior overall in our society. They typically don’t get diagnosed (with autism) until later (in life). Or, even worse, misdiagnosed.”

That leads into another misconception about autism: some people believe that only boys are autistic, or it’s exclusively a childhood disorder. More misconceptions? Autism is a learning disability, or autism is the result of bad parenting, or autistic people lack emotions or feelings.

A neurodevelopmental disorder that someone is born with and is present throughout a lifetime, autism is one of the most common neurodivergent disorders, and yet its reputation carries with it numerous social misconceptions. Autistic children (male and female) grow into adults with autism, they experience a full range of feelings, and their parents raise them using as much skill, or more, than any other parents.

“Misconceptions like these are hurtful and harmful,” Debban-Anderson said. “There’s so much societal pressure and stigma, which is really unfortunate.”

People tend to classify others based on their ability to contribute to society because it’s easier for people to understand. Yet, it’s these unprofessional classifications that add to the stigma of many types of behavioral disorders.

As discussed, people with autism are often overly insecure about their own looks. They’ve heard that the disorder is visible, and so they wonder what it looks like. The Mayo Clinic describes “common signs” of people with autism on its website, and zero of the 21 listed were physical; they all focused on behavioral and communication traits.

Similar to spending mental energy on physical appearance, young people with autism often find that living up to society’s expectations can be exhausting and nearly terrifying in some cases. Unfortunately for many, they don’t get life-changing help from experts.



Photo by Jami Severstad

*Candace Debban-Anderson is a Neenah-based autism specialist who works with children and families to navigate their unique life demands and challenges.*

“(People’s personal biases) impact individuals and families, often preventing them from getting the support they need and deserve,” Debban-Anderson added. “These are people in need and in fragile situations. With kids and adults and the whole family, we counsel with compassion.”

The “we” part of that is the clinical psychologists at Psychological and Behavioral Health of the Fox Cities, founded in 2024 by Dr. Phan Hong-Lishner and located at 145 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Neenah. About half of the practice’s clients are children and half are adults.

“We provide evidence-based, non-judgmental treatment, and we do it with compassion,” Debban-Anderson said. “(Dr. Hong-Lishner) is an experienced, certified and licensed psychologist and professor whose vision is shaping the practice as it grows.”

As a psychologist, Dr. Hong-Lishner has the experience and certifications to both diagnose psychological/behavioral issues, such as autism, and treat them, a welcome combination to many in the Neenah area.

When the foundation of a practice is its empirical approach to disorders and problematic behaviors, treatment is based on evidence produced through scientific means, not emotion or bias or fear.

“What’s really cool that I see during therapy, is that when parents hear the diagnosis (that their child has autism), there’s a shift. They stop making their kids have to perform on these bench levels according to society. They start embracing their child for who he or she is, and just let them be,” Debban-Anderson added.

“I do not take a ‘cookie-cutter’ approach with people. I interweave the modalities as needed,” she added, referring to empirically based treatment possibilities, including cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR), dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT), exposure therapy, family therapy and child therapy.

While this alphabet soup of treatments may not be familiar to clients or families at first, they soon understand that Debban-Anderson has the skills to treat not only autism, but also ADHD, anxiety, depression, trauma and abandonment issues. Even the effects of bullying can be addressed using these techniques.

“I have a passion to help adults, children and families navigate through difficult emotions and hardships and develop resilience and healthy coping skills,” Debban-Anderson said. “Their life matters.

They are valuable and needed here.”

Even with decades of experience handling various behavioral and psychological issues, Debban-Anderson still has a passion for learning, which improves and extends the counseling she provides.

“My recent training in EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing) was extensive and rigorous,” she said. “Classes, conferences, consulting with other professionals, hands-on experience, studies, exams; it’s all based on science, which has proven these treatments to be effective.”

EMDR may be the most cutting-edge of the treatments, yet few clinicians are trained in using it with children and adolescents. “That’s what I want to bring to the table, into the community,” Debban-Anderson said. “That specialized approach is another level that is effective at dealing with trauma, and it requires parental approval.”

Speaking of approval, in Wisconsin, the age of confidentiality is 14. That means any client age 14 or older must approve of a mental health professional sharing session details with parents.

“I tell kids that I’d like to keep our discussions confidential unless I feel their parents need to know something. But, I will always tell (the child) if I’m going to discuss it with their parents, and I’d like them to be part of that discussion, if they wish.” That adolescent privacy law changes if a child is hurting themselves or someone is hurting them.

“I like to incorporate families when I can (in treatment). I’m sensitive as to when is the right time to bring parents into the therapy. I always tell them, ‘You will always

be an intricate part of the therapy;” she stated.

Sessions with parents usually happen after several one-on-one child sessions and child-counselor trust is built.

“How (people) have been parented affects their parenting, so I may bring in grandparents. Grandparents have a wealth of information, both about the child and the child’s parents,” said Debban-Anderson. “Plus, they’re often caretakers these days, so they’re there.”

“I help [family members] look at the world from the child’s eyes, not their own and based on their trauma. To see how the child is uniquely struggling,” she said. “The most common phrase I’ve heard from parents, from both fathers and mothers, during the 35 years I’ve counseled is, ‘I didn’t know you felt that way,’ after hearing their child share during a session.”

Often times, those dealing with psychological and behavioral issues don’t understand the disorder themselves. They see the same media coverage and hear the same stereotypes we all do, but they haven’t had professionals to help them through it. It’s a difficult path to walk without guidance.

“Science and research are delving deeper into the underpinnings and mechanism of autism. We are discovering more information on genetics, environmental factors and neurological factors that help,” Debban-Anderson added.

“As much as we know, stereotypes and misconceptions about mental health continue,” Debban-Anderson concluded. “As a community, we can support these individuals by understanding the disorder and not trying to fix it. Understanding starts with listening and rejecting myths and stereotypes.”



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# Months-long investigation leads to drug charges

Neenah News

A Neenah woman is facing a dozen drug charges after investigators with the Lake Winnebago area MEG Unit seized more than 500 grams of methamphetamine from her residence last month.

The arrest follows a months-long investigation that began in December, when a confidential informant told investigators they had previously purchased meth from Markie Donnellan, 38, at a home on Darrow Road. Officers conducted several undercover controlled drug purchases over the following weeks, with meth quantities increasing over time.

In January, Donnellan was a passenger in a vehicle that was stopped by a Winnebago sheriff's deputy and consented

to a search of her residence, but declined to allow officers to search her phone. Officers found small amounts of meth and drug paraphernalia in the residence before Donnellan ended the search, stating that her boyfriend would be coming home and would be upset. She later stopped responding to investigators.

Donnellan's boyfriend, who she shared the residence with, is named in the criminal complaint and allegedly received a \$400 payment through his cash app for one of the controlled drug purchases. He has not been charged in connection with the case.

A second search warrant was executed at the residence on April 16, where officers discovered more than 500 grams of

meth, a small amount of cocaine and fentanyl, drug paraphernalia, and firearms including a loaded revolver, seven rifles and three shotguns.

Donnellan has remained incarcerated at the Winnebago County Jail since her arrest last month on a \$10,000 cash bond with conditions that include an order of no contact with her boyfriend. A request filed by her attorneys to reduce her bond and remove the no contact order was denied by a judge last week.

Donnellan faces eight felony and four misdemeanor drug possession and traf-

ficking charges. She is due back in court June 9 for further proceedings.

The case came to light after the Facebook page "Every Child A Blessing" began sharing details about the investigation. A spokesperson for the group said they were contacted by individuals familiar with the situation.

The page was created in 2012 and regularly shares news articles involving missing or abused children and highlights cases where children are affected by parental drug use in an effort to raise awareness.

## Missing local man found deceased

Neenah News

A local man who had been missing for more than a week was found deceased Tuesday near where he was last seen.

Nineteen-year-old Diego Alejandro Ramirez went missing in the early morning hours of April 27 near Elru Drive and Ninth Street, by the border of Fox Crossing and Menasha. Officers had been searching for Ramirez, but as days passed without leads, his family organized a press conference and volunteer search party to aid in the effort.

On Tuesday, Fox Crossing Police confirmed that law enforcement found a body in the area near the Racine Street off ramp from U.S. 10 eastbound. The location is near the back of the manufactured home community where Ramirez was last seen. His identification was confirmed by police



Ramirez

and the Winnebago County Medical Examiner's office.

Ramirez's family issued a statement Tuesday after he was found.

"Diego was a beloved son and brother, and we are heartbroken by this loss," the Ramirez family wrote. "We are overwhelmed with grief, but also so grateful for the love and support shown by the community while we searched for him. We also want to thank Detective Meredith Birmingham with the Fox Crossing Police Department for all her support. This isn't the outcome we wanted. As we try to process this unimaginable loss, we kindly ask for privacy to grieve and honor Diego's memory. Thank you for your prayers and compassion."

Fox Crossing Police said there is no indication of foul play and the investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Fox Crossing Police at (920) 720-7109. Anonymous tips can be submitted through the Winnebago County Crime Stoppers P3 mobile app or by calling (920) 231-8477 (T.I.P.S.).

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# Contractor fraud case sentencing postponed

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A Fond du Lac contractor accused of taking payments for construction work he never completed was in court last week for a sentencing hearing that was rescheduled to June as the defense works out a restitution agreement.

Christopher Koehler, 45, owner of Elite Construction, faces two felony theft charges in Winnebago County after business owners in Oshkosh and Neenah reported paying him a combined \$38,486 for work that remained unfinished or was never started at all.

Koehler was hired in 2022 to repair the roof and replace windows at Satori Imports in Oshkosh, and to install new windows at The Tailored Hide in Neenah after a drunk driver crashed into the building. Both business owners told police they paid large deposits and spent two years trying to get Koehler to follow through, only to be met with repeated excuses and delays.

One of the victims, Kay Bahr, wrote in an impact statement that the historic building housing Satori Imports suffered further damage while waiting for repairs. The other, Leeann Wasinger, said she lost significant retail space and had to delay retirement due to the financial hit.

Koehler admitted to an investigator that he used the money from the Neenah and Oshkosh jobs to cover a separate siding project in Jackson, which he claimed became his priority. Neither business has received a refund.

Koehler also faces a separate contrac-



Neenah News  
Christopher Koehler (left) is shown in the courtroom last week with his attorney.

tor theft charge in Fond du Lac County involving between \$5,000 and \$10,000. He is scheduled to appear in court June 4 in that case, and June 11 in Winnebago County, with plea and sentencing hearings set for both.

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# Hintz’s vision

FROM PAGE 1

some as a rocky few years of county government, marked by an administration that faced criticism for a lack of transparency in the use of federal pandemic relief funds and difficulties in communicating with municipalities.

Now a few weeks in, Hintz is settling into a new role that focuses on evaluating county operations and taking a deliberate approach to issues.

He’s leading the county with one less key staff member than his predecessor. Doemel ran as an Independent for the nonpartisan role, but just days into office, created a new chief of staff position and appointed former Republican communications aide Ethan Hollenberger to fill the newly created role – without County Board approval.

Hollenberger resigned after Doemel’s election loss and chose not to stay on with the new administration. Hintz has yet to hire a replacement.

“We’re sort of evaluating roles and responsibilities,” Hintz said. “There are things that the county is working on, county initiatives (and) some policy initiatives or decisions that may have been priorities for the previous administration, that we will evaluate and decide if that’s the direction we want to continue to go with.”

Hintz plans to deal with long-standing issues facing Winnebago County that require strong intergovernmental relationships and careful fiscal planning. He is prioritizing communicating with municipal

leaders, noting the “north-south divide” between communities like Neenah, Menasha, Fox Crossing and Oshkosh.

“The county does need to do a better job of communicating what we are doing as a county with the public, but also with the municipalities,” he said.

His approach involves bringing county services directly to communities.

“You can’t expect people to come to you,” he said. “We need to do a better job of bringing our services to where people are, especially when people are unfamiliar with what the county does.”

Hintz steps into the role inheriting both the successes and challenges of his predecessor, key among them being the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh-Fox Cities campus in Menasha, which is shutting down in June after classes end.

Though jointly owned by both Outagamie and Winnebago counties, Outagamie supervisors will vote Tuesday on approving a deal that would give ownership of the campus to Winnebago in exchange for the contents of the Weis Earth Science Museum, which will be donated to Appleton’s History Museum at the Castle.

Hintz said he shares community members’ disappointment over the loss of both UW Fox Cities and the Weis Museum.

“That said, the collection will remain in the area, and the viable space presents a new opportunity next to the Barlow (Planetarium) for something new, and we will want the creative minds to be involved in that,” he said.

Hintz is optimistic about preserving key community assets at the campus like the planetarium and child care center. Once



Photo by Michael Cooney

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz is shown in his downtown Oshkosh office with a map of the UW Fox Cities campus in front of him.

Winnebago is in sole possession of the property, he plans to hold a forum or community listening session to answer questions, gather input and share information.

The campus acquisition comes with complications. Hintz acknowledged the county will face immediate costs, including utility expenses, while seeking ways to generate revenue and maintain critical services.

The additional expenses come as the county faces the potential of increased debt due to federal funding cuts.

“We’re looking at a loss of funding for programs we currently do have, and then we’re looking at the potential of more loss of funding for programs that we’ve done for years,” he said. “And then we’ve got things like UW Fox, which are additional increased spending to the budget. You can imagine this is all creating a challenging situation for the county.”

Hintz said Winnebago County remains in a good financial position, with a healthy fund balance for more than a decade.

“That gives us the ability to absorb some cuts, but at the same time, it’s not sustainable,” he said.

Multiple grant-funded programs face potential elimination, including the STAR

(Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery) program, which offers recovery resources to jail inmates, and the HELP (Homelessness, Evictions and Loss Prevention) program, which provides homeless prevention services. Public health vending machines in Neenah and Oshkosh that dispense overdose-reversing Narcan could also be on the chopping block.

“Local government is sort of the last line of resort in terms of the services that we provide,” Hintz said. “If we’re faced with a lot of federal cuts, we need to do our best to try to protect the public from those impacts.”

Hintz acknowledged that the county has unappropriated Spirit Funds received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). According to the county’s Spirit Fund Dashboard, about \$8.9 million is still available. However, Hintz is uncertain whether the one-time ARPA funds can be used for expenses, or if the costs would need to come from the existing fund balance, noting those decisions will need to be made by the Board of Supervisors.

While major shifts like the closure of UW Fox Cities and potential funding cuts will challenge the county, Hintz remains focused on what lies ahead. For him, these issues are opportunities in areas like redevelopment, housing and regional collaboration, where the county can take an active role in shaping its future.

The county is also facing decisions about its facility infrastructure. Hintz said he is skeptical about a proposed plan under Doemel to centralize county services to one campus, citing potential negative impacts on downtown Oshkosh and service accessibility.

“It’s hard to imagine human services providing their services in the middle of nowhere,” he said. “It’s hard to imagine three large abandoned former county buildings in downtown Oshkosh and the loss of workers without it having a negative impact on the city.”

Despite the obstacles, Hintz remains optimistic.

“I’d like to bring some structure back to county government,” he said. “What I mean is getting our departments to collectively share the county’s mission of service by really working together again and feeling supported by the administration.”

## Road construction project set to begin

Neenah News

Work is scheduled to begin Monday on a road construction project in Neenah.

The City of Neenah has contracted with Vinton Construction to make improvements at the intersection of Church Street and Wisconsin Avenue.

Wisconsin Avenue will remain open to both west and east bound traffic. South

Church Street will be closed to traffic. North Church Street will be open to the parking ramp.

The work will include concrete pavement, colored crosswalks, sidewalk construction and constructing a bump out on the northwest corner of the intersection.

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# Community invited to UWO chancellor farewell reception

Neenah News

The community is invited to join students, faculty, staff and alumni from 3-6 p.m. May 14 on the Leffin Family Terrace between Reeve Memorial Union and Albee Hall on the Oshkosh campus for a farewell reception recognizing and celebrating more than a decade of Chancellor Andy Leavitt's service and leadership at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

The event is an opportunity to gather and share appreciation for Leavitt and his wife Karen as they prepare for a July 1 transition away from UWO.

A short program will take place at 4:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Parking is available in Lot 15 off Algoma Boulevard from Reeve Union. The event will move to Reeve Union's Ballrooms in the event of inclement weather.

Manohar Singh has been selected to replace Leavitt as chancellor.

## Show choir set to hold finale concert Saturday

Neenah News

The Neenah High School Vintage show choir will host its annual finale concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Pickard Auditorium.

All reserved seat tickets are \$10 and will also be sold at the Pickard box office, beginning at 6:30 p.m. the night of the show.



Submitted photo

The season is wrapping up for Big Band Reunion concerts, which are held every Monday evening from the end of September to Memorial Day at Cranky Pat's in Neenah.

## Big Band Reunion

FROM PAGE 1

The BBR often features guest artists, and this Monday is a special double-feature as the band welcomes Janet Planet and Tom Washatka.

Based in Oshkosh, Planet is the Fox Cities' own international jazz star. In addition to fans around the world, she has performed in several countries including Japan, South Africa, Canada, Germany and Kurgan, Russia. She has been honored by the Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) with six individual WAMI Awards and was the second woman ever elected to the WAMI Hall of Fame.

She is currently nominated for another WAMI Best Female Vocalist.

She remains grounded while continuing to push the creative envelope and adding to

her discography that includes 24 albums.

Quoting Della Reese, she says, "I like to be called a working singer."

There is a history of creative cooperation. Skitch and Robinson played on Planet's breakthrough "Just Like A Woman" album, produced by Washatka, that featured big band arrangements of Bob Dylan compositions while Planet and Washatka have appeared many times with the BBR and contributed to the band's album "Frank's Place."

"Janet brings professionalism and a sound that fits the band perfectly," Skitch said. "She leads by example, puts everyone at ease and actually increases the quality of the music."

Planet and Washatka have been married for 20 years and own Steel Moon Recording in Oshkosh.

Washatka has an equally impressive resume. He won the 2024 WAMI Award for

Best Saxophone Player, won the WAMI for Best Producer/Studio Engineer in 2018 and is nominated again this year for both awards while Steel Moon is nominated for Best Recording Studio.

In addition, to being a mainstay of the legendary Fox Cities bands Matrix and Fire & Ice, Washatka has produced and recorded 52 albums for other artists and bands since 1995. He also had two original compositions included in the score of the film, "The Bucket List."

Washatka truly enjoys playing with the BBR.

"They're always playing new tunes," he said. "The band sounds great, and they have good energy under the direction of Kenny and Marty."

He also enjoys playing with Planet.

"We know each other so well musically and we connect at a higher level," Washatka said.

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# NIL amendment passed by WIAA Board

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Wisconsin has joined the large number of states around the country that have name, image and likeness guidelines in place for its resident high school athletes.

At its annual meeting in Stevens Point on April 25, the WIAA membership voted 293-108 to approve an NIL amendment to ensure that the governing body of high school sports in Wisconsin has language overseeing NIL opportunities for its athletes.

"I think it's a positive we did it," Neenah athletic director Mike Elkin said. "It's definitely a change but I think it's a change that if it doesn't happen, we head into the wild, wild west."

Wisconsin joins the more than 40 states that permit student-athletes to enter into NIL agreements, however, those opportunities also come with a list of restrictions and guardrails.

Less than one percent of high school student-athletes nationwide enter into NIL agreements, and so the landscape of prep sports in Wisconsin being altered by the new amendment.

"I don't think things will change," St. Mary Catholic athletic director Matt Schoultz said. "There may be some student-athletes who can take advantage of it. It will be interesting to see how things play out, but I really don't think it's going to change the landscape of high school sports."

When the term NIL is used, there is a lot of focus on how it has affected college sports in general. Both athletic directors were quick to point out that just because it is an NIL amendment, high school sports in Wisconsin aren't about to look like what's happening in the NCAA right now. "When we compare what the NCAA is

doing and what the high school is going to be doing, there is no comparison – it's apples to oranges," Elkin said. "I was honestly in a panic about what direction this is going to go. As time went on and the education continued to come, I think it's a good thing."

Although NIL will be allowed for high school student-athletes, there are stringent guidelines in place that prevent most individuals from receiving funds.

No party – an individual or business – that is associated in the school in any way can pay a student-athlete.

"Being a private school we rely heavily on sponsors financially," Schoultz said. "There's not going to be a lot of opportunities for student-athletes to do an NIL because of the relationship a lot of companies and people have with our school financially."

Elkin said that another big difference between the college and high school levels is that even with the NIL amendment, the transfer process in Wisconsin will not change.

Students can open enroll in a different district before entering high school but once they attend a school, they have to follow the strict WIAA guidelines.

"You can transfer all you want in college and there is no penalty and you can't in high school," Elkin said. "I think that's one of the big things that's being missed in the uproar from people who haven't had the information in front of them to look through."

The WIAA membership had a very similar proposal last year but that measure failed.

Over the past year, though, the WIAA has offered plenty of educational opportunities for athletic directors and school administrators to get the amendment to pass.

"We saw what the wording was (last year) but didn't really understand what that meant. The wording was there but there wasn't a lot of education with it," Schoultz said. "The WIAA had a lot of educational sessions this year to explain it to administrators and athletic directors and so I think there was a better understanding of what it was."

Added Elkin: "There are huge issues in college football, college sports because of NIL. That's our instant reaction to what (NIL) is and the reality is it isn't that. But we needed to be educated on that before we voted the way we did on (April 25)."

Under the NIL amendment, student-athletes will have the opportunity to profit off of their name, image and likeness but can't do so with any reference to the school, conference or the WIAA in the process.

Elkin likened it to a student with musical talent playing in a band and profiting off of those talents.

"Before an athlete couldn't do that. Now they can," Elkin said.

The WIAA has a section on its website devoted to NIL regulations and frequently asked questions that people can access for more information.

Elkin said the FVA recently had a presentation for anyone interested at Pickard Auditorium to offer more information on NIL. The same company that worked with the WIAA was brought in to put on the event and answer any questions.

"We're trying to educate everyone as much as we can," Elkin said. "(At last year's vote) we just didn't have enough information for what it really meant and I think that's what's going on in the public eyes - just not understanding it."



Elkin



Schoultz

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# Zephyrs' Auth follows family footsteps onto courts

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

When Wesley Auth started playing tennis hitting a ball over the net wasn't the only concern.

Simply being able to look over the net was a problem.

But when you grow up in a tennis-playing family, hitting the courts at a young age was just part of the deal and the St. Mary Catholic senior has certainly grown up with the sport he loves playing today.

"I actually started playing tennis when I was 2 1/2-years-old and by the time I was seven I was playing five or six times a week," Auth said after a recent practice. "My family has just been playing for so long and growing up playing tennis was fun. There are a lot of us who play."

"I've liked tennis pretty much from the get-go. There has never been a time when I have wanted to quit or even play less."

The strong foundation growing up has led to plenty of success on the courts at St. Mary Catholic.

Auth, who plays for his mom, Lizzy, who is the team's head coach, jumped right into the No. 1 singles position as a freshman and found immediate success for the Zephyrs. He won his first 22 high school matches and went 4-1 at the WIAA state tournament to finish fifth in Division 2.

Stepping into a varsity team as a freshman can be a difficult situation but Auth credits his teammates for making his transition easy.

"When I was in eighth grade, I played with most of the guys on the team and they welcomed me into the family so from a team standpoint (playing as a freshman) wasn't that big of an issue," Auth said. "At state, I was definitely scared that first year but once I got through those first two matches, I was fine."

Auth returned to state as a sophomore and again made the awards podium with

Senior Standout

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a sixth-place finish but last season, things took a bit of a turn.

In order to limit the wear on a slightly ailing elbow, Auth filled one-half of the No. 1 doubles team for the Zephyrs, joining forces with cousin Grant Bergstrom – a two-time state qualifier in doubles.

The pair immediately gelled and put together a 26-6 record that was capped by a third-place finish at the state meet.

"Playing with Grant, who I was really close with was a really great experience," Auth said. "I wouldn't say we expected (to place at state) but that was our goal going into the season that we wanted to accomplish. We did very well which was great."

Auth may have also enhanced an important skill to better round out his game.

He admits that playing at the net wasn't a strength of his in his first two seasons playing singles and not something he felt completely comfortable with.

But after playing in doubles – where players are forced to play at the net and hit volleys – he entered his senior season a lot more confident in that aspect of his game.

"(Playing doubles) definitely helped me with my volley game and by the end of the year I wanted to be more at the net," Auth said. "My freshman and sophomore year I would say I was a little bit scared to come to the net but now that's not that big of an issue."

With that added to his court arsenal, Auth certainly has his sights set on another state appearance and medal-winning finish and is on track to accomplish that goal.



St. Mary Catholic senior Wesley Auth has earned a state medal in the last three WIAA state tournaments and hopes to add another piece of hardware from the event this spring.

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 8

Zephyrs fall short against Resorters

St. Mary Catholic rallied from an early deficit to take a 5-4 lead in the top of the sixth but Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah scored a run in the bottom of the inning and then won the game in the bottom of the seventh, 6-5.

Sammi Weiss finished with two hits and drove in a pair of runs to lead the Zephyrs, who trailed 4-0 after three innings but tied the game with a four-run fifth inning.

Scarlett Reichenberger also had a pair of hits, while Emily Vogel added two RBIs for the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic then dropped a 9-3 nonconference decision to Iola-Scandinavia on Tuesday, with Sammi Weiss collected three hits in the game, including a pair of doubles.

SOCCER

Rockets finish tourney with tie, loss

Maddie Schoonover finished with a goal and an assist but Neenah fell to De Pere, 4-2, last Friday night in the first game of the De Pere Tournament.

Schoonover scored a goal off an assist from Amelia Wasco before Lily Kane scored off an assist for Schoonover.

On Saturday, the Rockets played to a 0-0 tie with Sheboygan North with Rayleigh Pearson earning the shutout in goal.

BASEBALL

Early runs carry Zephyrs to victory

St. Mary Catholic scored four runs in the first inning and added three more in the second and built an 8-2 lead after the third inning en route to topping Mishicot 11-2 on Friday in a Big East North game.

Jacob Ernsting went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs while Joe Pirillo also tallied three hits in the game to lead the Zephyr offense. Alex Rice also chipped in two hits and two RBIs.

Ernsting also earned the win on the mound for St. Mary Catholic allowing just three hits and one earned run in five innings. He also struck out nine.

The Zephyrs also picked up an 8-3 win over Howards Grove on Tuesday, scoring in all six innings in which they batted.

Luke Fairweather, Mason Wagner, Pirillo and Tarver Trinkner each finished with two hits in the game for St. Mary Catholic, while Ernsting finished with two RBIs.

Trinkner earned the win on the mound allowing just three hits and striking out five over six innings.

On Monday, St. Mary Catholic lost a heartbreaker to Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah as the Resorters scored in the bottom of the seventh inning for a 6-5 victory.

Wagner and Pirillo each had two hits in the game for St. Mary Catholic.

Neenah edges Fondy in FVA contest

The Rockets scored single runs in the second and seventh innings and held on for a 2-1 win over Fond du Lac on Tuesday.

Cal Juckem threw six shutout innings, striking out three to earn the win on the mound to key the win for the Rockets.

Five different players had hits for the Rockets, while Sam Printz picked up the only RBI in the game.

On Saturday, Neenah fell to third-ranked De Pere, 11-1, taking a 1-0 lead after two innings only to have the Redbirds crank up the offense to collect the win.

Gus Weinholzer finished 2-for-3 and scored the Rockets’ only run in the game.

TENNIS

Neenah breezes to win over Fond du Lac

The FVA-leading Rockets cruised to a 7-0 win over Fond du Lac on Tuesday afternoon, winning all seven matches in straight sets and losing just a total of six games combined.

Three singles players earned perfect 6-0, 6-0 wins for Neenah. Hunter Brown at the No. 2 flight and Josh Youngwerth and Seth Vickman at the No. 3 and No. 4 flights, respectively, all won their matches without dropping a game, while the No. 2 doubles team of Luke Grassl and Henry Farrell also posted a 6-0, 6-0 win.

Carl Hein at No. 1 singles, Andrew Werner and Brady Lawatsch at No. 1 doubles and the No. 3 doubles pairing of Joe Schultz and Harrison Tanger also posted wins in the dual meet.

GOLF

Deleeuw, Whaley lead Zephyr golfers

Brady Deleeuw shot a 43 and Charlie Whaley added a 44 to lead St. Mary Catholic at the Big East mini-meet at Riverdale Country Club in Sheboygan on Tuesday.

St. Mary Catholic finished ninth among the 10 full teams at the tournament with a team score of 185 – two shots behind Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah.

Mason Uhlenbrauck added a 47 with Wyatt Birling rounding out the scoring golfers with a 51.

Rockets edge Cardinals in FVA dual meet

Ryan Geary and Calvin Zinda each shot rounds of 40 while Cartyr Simonson added a 41 as Neenah edged Fond du Lac in a conference dual meet at Butte des Morts Country Club.

Neenah finished with a team score of 163, to finish four strokes better than the Cardinals.

Mason Peitersen and Carson Seitz each added 42s for the Rockets.

Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 10

With his sights set on what happens at the end of the season, dealing with the day-to-day grind of the regular season can be a bit difficult. Yet Auth has a way of making sure that every match day – no matter who his opponent might be in a dual meet – is preparing him for the end of the season.

“If I have a match where I know my opponent isn’t at the same skill level, I usually play with (Tate Whitlinger) in the morning – we will play one set, maybe two sets – so I am still sharpening my game throughout the year,” Auth said. “When I go and play with Tate, we will talk about my opponent and we will devise a plan on what I can work on to enhance my game

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Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday. \$15 for first 20 words

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Garage/Estate Sales

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

Treasure in the Trunk: Peace Lutheran Church Rummage Sale, May 10. Multiple families, 8 AM until 12 PM. 1228 S. Park Avenue, Neenah.

Miscellaneous

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Eleanor Florence Belle Austin

By (Petitioner) Eleanor Florence Belle Austin

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing

Case No. 2025CV000288

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: Eleanor Florence Belle Austin

To: Kasimir Faville Byron Austin-Morey

Birth Certificate: Eleanor Florence Belle Austin

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:

Judge's Name: Daniel J. Bissett

Place: Winnebago County Courthouse, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 531, 415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901

Date: May 21, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM

f you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4912 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

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

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: March 26, 2025

/s/ Hon. Daniel J. Bissett

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch VI

Runs: April 25, 2025, May 2, 2025 and May 9, 2025.

even though it’s not the same level of competition.”

Auth, who is planning on playing club tennis when he attends Marquette University next year, believes that tennis will be part of his life when his competitive career is over and he likes the idea of it being a lifetime sport.

He also believes that playing tennis has given him helpful skills to use even when he’s not on the court.

“Every sport teaches you character and life lessons that you wouldn’t get elsewhere. I think the perseverance and problem-solving skills I’ve gotten from tennis are things that I wouldn’t have learned as well if I wasn’t playing tennis,” Auth said. “When I see people at Fox Cities Racquet Club and there are people in their 70s and 80s still out on the court, that makes me feel good about my future.”

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 REICHELT, Defendant [whose office and home addresses are believed to be:]

CHAD REICHELT (office) 327 Randolph Dr., Ste. A Appleton, WI 54913-9267

CHAD REICHELT (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

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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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## VENUS FLYTRAP

### THE JAWS OF DOOM

YIKES!

Quick! Help this fly escape the Venus flytrap's grip!

START

FINISH

Beautiful but Hungry

The Venus flytrap is a meat-eating, or **carnivorous**, plant. It is also quite lovely. That is why its name includes Venus. That is the name of the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

But don't worry – a Venus flytrap won't eat you. Mostly they eat bugs. They especially love mosquitoes and flies.

**Jaws of Doom True or False Quiz**

Make a guess about which of these statements are true and which are false. Then read the scientist's notes about the Venus flytrap to check your answers.

1. Venus flytraps have teeth.  
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

2. Venus flytraps only need bugs to survive.  
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

3. Venus flytraps eat anything that falls into their mouth-like leaves.  
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

4. Venus flytraps help keep bugs out of your house.  
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

5. Its "mouth" shuts in under one second.  
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

**Dangers?**

Venus flytraps aren't dangerous to people, but people are endangering them. Venus flytraps are only found growing wild in one small area of the planet – in the grassy wetlands, or bogs, around Cape Fear, North Carolina. This area has just the right climate, amount of water and soil conditions.

Today the plant is threatened in the wild. The draining of bogs for farming and the building of shopping centers and houses has reduced the plant's habitat and numbers. **Less than 5% of the plants are left.**

**Snapping Up a Meal**

Sweet nectar around the edges of the Venus flytrap's open leaves attract insects. As a bug moves across the surface drinking up this treat, it touches small, sensitive bristles on the Venus flytrap. These trigger hairs tell the plant when a possible meal has arrived. Then the plant's "jaws" close very quickly, trapping the insect inside. The long *cilia*, hairs along the leaf edges, act like prison bars, preventing the insect from escaping. Several days later, after the insect has been digested, the leaves open and what's left of the insect body blows away.

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

**Flytrap** is a **compound word**, made by combining two smaller words: **fly** and **trap**. Look at the pictures below. Draw a line between two pictures to make a compound word. Then write the word.

**ARMCHAIR**


**Standards Link:** Follow simple written directions.

**Double Word Search**

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

FLYTRAP	A K A B D L I W T H
CLIMATE	J E S T O M A C H E
STOMACH	U D F V R G J A Y S
SURVIVE	I I E L E U S W T U
BEAUTY	C B A S Y N H O U R
SPIKES	E L R F O T U O A V
EDIBLE	S E K I P S R S E I
DIGEST	C L I M A T E A B V
JUICES	O T S E G I D M P E
VENUS	
LOVE	
BOGS	
FEAR	
WILD	

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



## Kid Scoop Together:

# Cause and Effect

When something happens, there is usually something that caused it to happen. The **cause** comes first, the **effect** second. Here are some examples:

When the hairs on the inside of a Venus flytrap's leaves are touched, the plant snaps shut.

**Cause:** touch the hairs  
**Effect:** plant snaps leaves closed

If a little rock is put inside the mouth-like leaves of a Venus flytrap, the leaves will snap shut. After about 12 hours, the leaves will open so the rock can drop out because it is something the plant can't eat.

Which part of the above is the "cause?"

Which part is the "effect?"

Look through the newspaper for an article that interests you. Can you find one effect and what caused it?

**Cause:**

**Effect:**

**Standards Link:** Research: Students predict likely outcomes.

**Write On!**

## The Magic Seed

One day I planted a magic seed...  
Finish this story.



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- **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.

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