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A volunteer stocks items in the cooler at Vinnie's Pantry on South Commercial Street in Neenah.

Vinnie's Pantry new director sees growing need

Clohessy tackles hunger in Neenah

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

In a pantry next to the thrift store on South Commercial Street, St. Vincent de Paul's (SVDP) new director is rolling up her sleeves to tackle growing demand and shrinking food supplies.

Heather Clohessy, who worked her way up from part-time cashier to program

manager, became director in November and says her path was shaped by personal challenges.

"I started here about 10 years ago," she said. "I became a single mother, and I got a job here as a part-time cashier and then worked my way up to the director position."

The pantry opened its doors in 2021 after volunteers noticed increasing requests for food. Clohessy was a helpline

SEE **Food pantry** ON PAGE 5

Water treatment facility in need of \$24M in upgrades

UV disinfection removed from wastewater plant plan

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council is recommending moving forward with design work for a major upgrade to the Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission's wastewater treatment plant, a project driven by new state and federal phosphorus discharge limits.

At a Committee of the Whole meeting last week, Neenah Water Utility Director Anthony Mach discussed a plan to upgrade the plant with cloth disk filters to remove phosphorus, while dropping a previously considered ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system from the plan.

The proposed upgrade comes as the sewerage commission faces a mandate from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to significantly reduce phosphorus discharges by April 2027. The regulations apply to all wastewater dischargers in the U.S.

Phosphorus is removed from wastewater using advanced chemical feed and filtration systems. The plant then discharges into the Menasha channel of the Fox River, which falls under the Lower Fox River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, a regulatory limit for phosphorus.

Wisconsin has a program where facilities that release pollutants can buy "water quality trading credits" instead of making physical upgrades. Under the system, farmers or other landowners reduce phosphorus runoff, for example by using less fertilizer

SEE **Treatment plant** ON PAGE 8

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Neenah tops century mark in FVA win
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Plan approved
Schildt Park renovations will move forward
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Neenah Public Library launches new adventure as year begins

By George Halas
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Despite bitter cold temperatures outside, the Neenah Public Library received emphatic confirmation that it is a highly valued community resource at an event hosted Saturday at the library.

"The event today went very well," said Neenah Public Library Director Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm. "We were hoping for 50 people and a really frill, energized crowd of over 250 people of all ages showed up. They enjoyed the ukulele group and were excited about the Start Your 2026 Adventure Guide."

"The positivity was evident," she added. "They were really excited about what's

ahead and who knows where it will take us?"

The event was the culmination of a year-long effort of the library's Branding Committee and Blue Door Consulting LLC.

"The catalyst was a need to update our brand and we did not have a visual identity to represent the library as a warm, welcoming place, a place for discovery, a place for connections and a place for learning," she said.

"We realized that we need to be better at telling our story, promoting our services and programs and to establish our mission of implementing ideas, enriching lives,

SEE **Neenah library** ON PAGE 7



Photo by David Hall

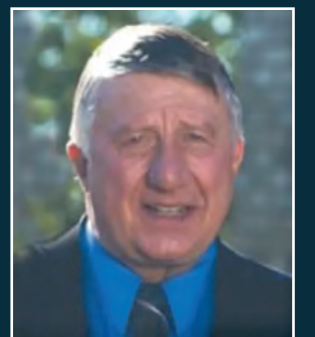
The Neenah Public Library launched a new brand during an event Saturday. Patrons can learn more about services the library offers by completing an Adventure Guide.

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General information/customer service: Jennifer Grunwald
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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Friday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday.

Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor

Chris Lusvardi, 920-508-0027
editor@oshkoshherald.com

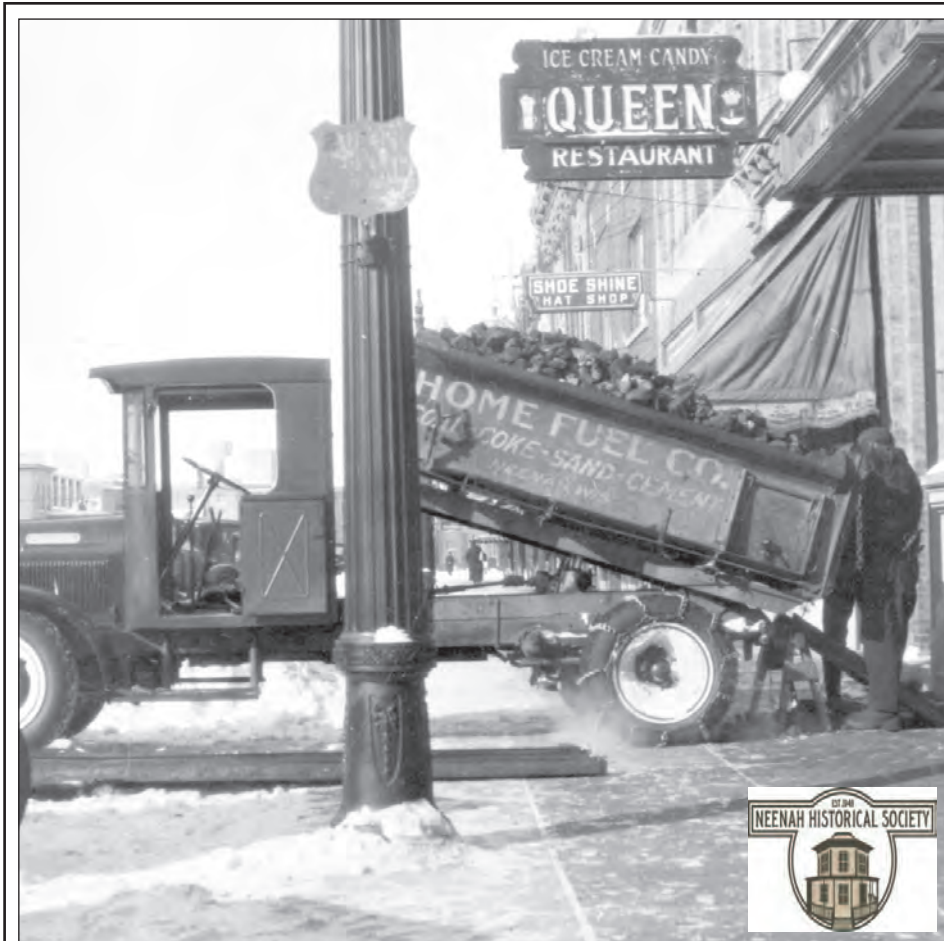
Corrections

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

About the newspaper

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Neenah Historical Society photo

Coal delivery

A Home Fuel Co. truck delivers coal to the Irving Zuelke Music Store at 109 W. Wisconsin Ave. circa 1928. Home Fuel was headquartered at 125 N. Commercial St. and specialized in furnace fuel. In the background you can see signage for the Queen Confectionery, a restaurant located at 111 W. Wisconsin Ave. from 1927-1932.

Neighborhood meeting set for proposed development

Neenah News

Residents and property owners near the former Harn's Barn site at 1311 South Commercial Street are invited to a neighborhood meeting to learn more about a proposed mixed-use development called


The Exchange.

The meeting, hosted by Eminent Development, will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Neenah Police Department Community Room at 2111 Marathon Avenue.

Julian Walters, president of Eminent Development, said the meeting will provide an overview of the project and allow neighbors to offer feedback. City staff and members of the development team will be on hand to review the proposed site plan and answer questions.

"Most importantly, we want to hear your thoughts and perspectives and ensure neighborhood input helps shape the project as it moves forward," Walters wrote in a letter to the Common Council.

Those unable to attend may contact Walters directly by emailing jwalters@eminentdc.com or calling 608-235-5837 to provide feedback or receive updates.



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Calendar of events

Friday, Jan. 30

Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation Daddy Daughter Winter Formal, 5:30 p.m., Bridgewood Resort, 1000 Cameron Way

Z Cabaret, 7 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center

NHS Rocket Players presents "The Snow" by Finegan Kruckemeyer, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Black Box Theater

Saturday, Jan. 31

Stuffed Animal Clinic, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Monster Piano Concert, 3 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Chapel

Z Cabaret, 7 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center

NHS Rocket Players presents "The Snow" by Finegan Kruckemeyer, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Black Box Theater

Sunday, Feb. 1

NHS Rocket Players presents "The Snow" by Finegan Kruckemeyer, 2 p.m., Neenah High School Black Box Theater

Monday, Feb. 2

District String Fest, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Competition Gym

Wednesday, Feb. 4

NHS Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Friday, Feb. 6

First Friday Concert: Cat Plan, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Feb. 7

Paint and Peck: Great Goblin, 2 p.m., Rooster Dreams Visual Arts, Downtown Neenah Marketplace, 124 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Fox Valley Women's Connection Luncheon and Program, noon, DoubleTree Hotel Neenah

Friday, Feb. 13

A Beary Special Night, 5:30 p.m., Fox Crossing Community Center, 1000 Valley Road

Saturday, Feb. 14

Future Neenah Warm Your Heart, 11 a.m., Downtown Neenah

"All You Need is Love" Beatles Play or Sing Along, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Feb. 21

A Night at the Old Valley Inn - Annual Fundraiser for the Neenah Historical Society, 6 p.m., DoubleTree by Hilton Neenah

Saturday, Feb. 28

Crystal Ball Gala for Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, 7 p.m., The Ballroom at The Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.

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Local appliance store to close

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Les's One Better, a longtime Neenah appliance shop known for refurbishing and reselling used household appliances, is preparing to close its doors after health issues sidelined owner Les Lohff for much of the past year.

The business has operated out of a South Commercial Street storefront for more than 25 years and announced the closure on social media last week, citing Lohff's declining health. Lohff is 87 and has been ill on and off since March, according to the announcement.

Lohff "is the backbone to the business (and) the reason most people stop in," the statement said.

During an interview in 2024, Lohff told Neenah News that he built Les's One Better on the idea that well-made, older appliances could outlast many modern machines and keep large items out of landfills. For decades, he refurbished washers, dryers, stoves, dishwashers, refrigerators and freezers, selling them at a fraction of the cost of new appliances and offering no-interest payment plans to customers who needed them. He also sold new bed-

room furniture and mattresses.

Les's One Better became a go-to option for residents seeking affordable appliances and honest advice. Lohff was known for personally inspecting inventory, handwriting price tags and standing behind his work, even when repairs cut into profits.

"I don't believe in selling junk," he said in 2024. "I want to sell people something that they can get their money's worth out of and use. That's what makes happy and satisfied customers."

The announcement last week noted that Lohff's guidance has saved customers "hundreds of thousands of dollars" over the years and added that the knowledge and experience he brought to the business cannot be replaced.

The closure is temporary for now, but the announcement said it will "more than likely be permanent." A one-day going-out-of-business sale may be held in the coming weeks, though details have not yet been finalized.

"We're sad to go, but it's for the best," the announcement said. "Les just turned 87. He's an amazing man, but it's time for him to rest and prepare for the next chapter."



Neenah News


Les Lohff stands among appliances at his Neenah store, Les's One Better, in 2024.



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Business news roundup

Neenah-based **TIDI Products**, a manufacturer of safety and infection control products that protect patients and health care professionals, announced the acquisition of Burlington Medical, a manufacturer of radiation protection apparel and accessories. The acquisition expands TIDI's product offerings to include high-performance radiation protection solutions and complements TIDI's existing suspended radiation protection system, Zero-Gravity.

Morton Long Term Care Pharmacy has acquired Uvanta Pharmacy of the Fox Valley, expanding its presence in Northeast Wisconsin to serve long-term care communities with personalized pharmacy services. Customers of Uvanta Pharmacy of the Fox Valley can expect a seamless transition, with uninterrupted service. Morton LTC Pharmacy is a long-term care pharmacy serving skilled nursing facilities, assisted living communities and other care settings.



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Plans for Schildt Park renovations approved by board

By Dave Gill
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Fox Crossing Village Board on Monday voted 6-1 to approve the concept plan for a \$2.1 million Schildt Park renovation project, which will include new pickleball courts, full-size basketball court, new playground equipment, pavilion improvements, and a repaved parking lot and walking trails.

In conjunction with the park improvements, the Fox Crossing Public Works Department separately will be constructing a DNR-required stormwater pond on the west side of the property to help manage water runoff and support local drainage needs.

Park plans also include a new neighborhood access point to the park for both vehicles and pedestrians at the Benjamin Court cul-de-sac area, providing a second entrance to complement the Cold Spring Road main entrance.

As they have done for the weeks leading up to Monday's vote, residents of that area voiced their concerns about the safety of their neighborhood with creating that secondary entrance.

"If they build it, they will come," said Benjamin Court resident Linda Dums during the board meeting. "And more people are going to come as the village grows.



A conceptual image shows the design for a planned renovation project at Schildt Park that the Fox Crossing Village Board approved Monday.

This seems to be putting convenience over the need for safety" for the families who live there.

"And this isn't just a Benjamin Court issue," Dums said.

Indeed, another nearby resident who lives about two blocks away from the new entrance also expressed concern.

"People are underestimating the amount of traffic that will result" from the new Benjamin Court entrance, Lisa Van Dyke told the board.

The lone no vote came from Van Dyke's husband and Board Trustee Mike Van Dyke.

"I'm struggling with this," Mike Van Dyke said during discussion before the vote.

Board Trustee Kate McQuillan expressed empathy toward those opposing the new secondary entrance, but that ultimately the greater good of the project for the nearly 20,000 village residents swayed her to vote yes.

"I personally believe that community parks improve the mental health" of those who use them," McQuillan said. "Parks have more attendance when there are more access points."

Fox Crossing Chief of Police Tim Callan told the board before the vote that the new entrance will actually improve safety at the park.

"Schildt is the second busiest park, and

having two points of access will increase the safety and improve response times for officers and first responders," Callan said.

Fire Chief Todd Sweeney agreed.

"It'll be much safer with the extra access point," he said.

"I want to assure our residents that their objections have been heard," said Village Board President Dale Youngquist. "But we feel that the benefit of the extra access far outweighs the concerns," adding, "I personally have been contacted by Benjamin Court residents who totally support the new access point."

Fox Crossing Director of Parks and Recreation Amanda Geiser said after the meeting that "the main entrance will continue to be Cold Spring Road."

As a result of the project's approval, Geiser said the process of bidding will begin in the next few weeks and that she expects the final bids to be approved by the end of March.

Although Schildt Park will have to be closed for the 2026 season, Geiser said all programs offered for area youth during the summer will continue at O'Hausser Park. More information on those programs will be mailed to village residents in the coming weeks, Geiser said.

The community gardens on the southeast side of the property also will not be affected by the project and will remain open, Geiser said.

On a separate vote, the board unanimously approved the nearly \$400,000 proposal from Gerber Leisure Products out of Mount Horeb to replace and install the new playground equipment. That amount is part of the overall \$2.1 million project.

Kids invited to perform Beauty and the Beast

Neenah News

Young actors and actresses are invited to be the guests of Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation Department on stage.

The KidStage class is a chance for kids to sing, dance, act and bring a beloved tale as old as time to life. Students in the acting program for ages 5-12 will be performing Beauty and the Beast.

The program is designed for aspiring actors and first-time performers alike to learn choreography, vocals and stage skills. The class focuses on weekly acting exercises that will build self-confidence,

reduce shyness and develop leadership and creativity skills.

All children will be cast in age appropriate roles and rehearse for a production to be presented in the KidStage Showcase June 6 and June 7. Everyone will be on stage. No one is left out.

Classes will be offered for 14 weeks from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays Feb. 24 through June 2. No class April 7.

Classes meet at the Community Center, 1000 Valley Road. The registration fee is \$187 and the deadline to register is Feb. 17.

Training program offered for women

Neenah News

Fox Valley Technical College is offering a Starting Point program for women.

Spring 2026 registration is now open with an application deadline of Feb. 6. Spring classes start Feb. 11.

The program is career and family focused with free child care available during in-person classes. It is offered in-person

on the Oshkosh and Appleton campuses as well as virtually.

Participants will learn about Fox Valley Tech and how to be successful in school. Counseling and advising will be provided to each participant, along with parent coaching if appropriate.

Application information can be found at fvtc.edu/women.

Library offers introductory Bridge workshop

Neenah News

Card enthusiasts interested in starting to learn Bridge can take part in a workshop at the Neenah Public Library.

Wayne Peters will lead the six-week workshop tailored for beginners eager to learn Bridge, particularly aimed at those who already have experience with card

games. Participants are asked to commit to all six sessions.

Registration is limited to 12 participants.

The class will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday evenings between Feb. 10 and March 17. To register, visit neenahlibrary.org/calendar#/events.



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Food pantry

FROM PAGE 1

coordinator at the time, a role focused on helping people with rent or mortgage assistance, utilities, medical or prescription costs, bus passes and store vouchers for clothing, linens, household items and furniture. The organization also has a "heads in beds" mattress program, which provides refurbished mattresses for those in need.

Clohessy said that over time, more and more callers began asking for food or gift cards, but the thrift store didn't have the budget to meet that need on a large scale. Around the same time, a woman who ran a pantry at St. Mary & St. John parishes had a surplus of bags of food from a Piggly Wiggly food drive. Clohessy started distributing the bags from her office to help meet immediate needs.

"These bags were really helpful in starting our pantry and even after it opened," Clohessy said. "Unfortunately, Piggly Wiggly no longer has the program but Pick n' Save now does a very similar program and our Pick n' Save on Commercial Street donates them to us."

Word of the SVDP food pantry spread quickly and demand started to grow.

"So we opened the little tiny food pantry in the little bitty closet up in the front (of the thrift store)," Clohessy said, adding that the initial pantry was stocked with food that the employees purchased.

Eventually, SVDP staff decided to open a larger pantry in the store and partnered with Feeding America, a nonprofit that provides resources to food pantries nationwide, and delivered a more consistent supply of food. What had started with about 50 families quickly grew to support

more than 2,000, and the pantry again needed more space.

Under the leadership of former director Jeremy Pingel, Vinnie's Pantry opened in 2023 in a 27,000-square-foot space next door to the thrift store at 1421 S. Commercial St. The expansion cost just over \$1 million and was partially supported by a \$500,000 grant from Winnebago County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) pandemic relief funds.

Clohessy said federal-level changes affecting food assistance programs have made operating a food pantry increasingly challenging.

"Feeding America doesn't have nearly the amount of food that they used to," she said. "It's probably not even half."

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a federal program that supplies USDA-purchased food to local pantries, has also been affected. Clohessy said Vinnie's previously received about 8,000 pounds of TEFAP food each month but now receives roughly 1,200 pounds.

Recent reductions in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the federal program that helps low-income families buy food, has increased demand at the pantry. Clohessy said the number of people seeking assistance jumped by about 25%. Proceeds from the thrift store are now helping cover the gap, with funds used to purchase food for the pantry.

County Supervisor and Neenah resident Kate Hancock-Cooke said she was concerned about local organizations needing support due to reductions in SNAP and last October went to down-

town Neenah businesses and found five businesses to put up QR codes to donate directly to Vinnie's Pantry. Then she started volunteering.

"Now on Friday mornings I get to go and hang out and now I'm getting to know some of the families that are coming in and I'm getting to know some of the kids and it's a really rewarding feeling that our neighborhood steps up, that there's so many programs, that we're trying to help people, and that you can see the people who are being helped," Hancock-Cooke said.

To support the pantry and the thrift store, Clohessy encouraged residents to "shop, donate and volunteer." Volunteers are needed for cashiering, sorting donations, and working in the store's electrical department.

"Everybody is welcome in the pantry," Clohessy said. "If they need food, they are more than welcome to come here and ask for food. And every single time you shop in the store, you are helping to feed people in need in Neenah and Menasha."

Clohessy said community generosity tends to peak during the holidays, but donations drop off in the winter months. As supplies run low, the pantry is in need of financial donations, and staple food items such as canned goods, peanut butter, jelly and cereal. Meat is especially scarce right now, she said.

Looking ahead, SVDP is preparing for its annual "Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive," in partnership with the Family Radio Network. From Feb. 23 through March 15, residents can drop off new, unused hygiene and cleaning products at collection boxes located out front of the SVDP store or near the entrance or check-out areas at any Festival Foods and Walgreens locations.

Chamber event focuses on creating more happiness

Neenah News

Guests are invited to find out how to be happier by attending the Fox Cities Chamber's first Fox Talk of 2026 "How to Create More Happiness in Your Life" from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Feb. 11 at Community First Credit Union, 1575 Dresang Way in Neenah.

The talk will be presented by Kari Meixl, MBA, Director of Business & Industry Services at Fox Valley Technical College. Based on scientific research, Meixl will lead a discussion focused on the 4 G's of Happiness: Gratitude, Giving, Gifts and Growth.

She will provide practical strategies to create more happiness in every day life, even during times of struggle and sadness. Participants will leave this upbeat seminar with some tools they can start using immediately to find more good in each day.

Meixl is passionate about inspiring happiness and positivity everywhere she goes. She brings extensive experience in sales and marketing leadership across engineering, manufacturing and health care sectors. Her greatest strength lies in building meaningful relationships with colleagues, teams and customers to drive collaboration and success.

Since 2019, Meixl has served at Fox Valley Technical College, first as Instructor and Department Chair for Marketing, and now as Director of Business & Industry Services.

The event is free for Fox Cities Chamber members and \$25 for non-members.

To register, visit members.foxcc.net.



Clohessy

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City attorney acquitted of sexual assault charges

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah City Attorney David Rashid was acquitted Jan. 23 on all charges of sexual assault following a three-day trial and three hours of jury deliberations.

The verdict concludes a high-profile case that began in April 2024, when Rashid was charged with two counts of third-degree sexual assault and one count of fourth-degree sexual assault, all with domestic abuse enhancers. Court documents say the alleged incidents between Rashid and his then-wife occurred between 2017 and 2022. Online records show the couple finalized their divorce in late 2023.

The allegations first surfaced in August 2023 through an anonymous email sent to city officials, which was later traced to Rashid's predecessor, former Neenah city attorney Adam Westbrook. The email accused Rashid of "domestic abuse and violence" toward his former wife and asked that he be placed on a paid leave while the city investigates the claims.

Neenah Police referred the investigation to the Appleton Police Department

and Rashid was criminally charged in April 2024. The same day he was charged the city placed him on paid administrative leave. He was reinstated four months later following a separate city personnel investigation conducted by Neenah police investigator Craig Hoffer that found no violations of workplace policies.



Rashid

er following a separate city personnel investigation conducted by Neenah police investigator Craig Hoffer that found no violations of workplace policies.

In a copy of the Neenah personnel investigation report obtained by Neenah

News, Hoffer wrote that the case was a "he-said, she-said" situation with no physical or circumstantial evidence to support or disprove the allegations. He wrote that it was "extremely unlikely that David Rashid would be convicted of the charges that have been filed against him."

In the state's opening statement, Prosecutor Cass Cousins said Rashid's marriage was initially happy but the pair were fundamentally incompatible. He said that included sexual incompatibility and ultimately led to allegations of non-consensu-

al conduct within the marriage.

Cousins said Rashid's now ex-wife "never in a million years wanted to disclose what she had experienced in her marriage. It was private and it was embarrassing and it was humiliating. She wanted support and she wanted to get on with her life, but because this person made this choice and took that power away from her by sending this email, now she has an investigator reaching out."

Rashid's defense attorney, Rebecca Castonia, countered with an opening statement framing Rashid as a dedicated husband who sought to preserve his marriage despite difficulties.

Castonia argued the criminal investigation led by Appleton Police Victim Services Officer Lori Duven was flawed and lacked impartiality.

"Sergeant Duven had zero objectivity in approaching her job during these duties, because Sergeant Duven is a victim advocate trained to believe all claims of abuse, which meant this investigation under her direction did not have a chance," Castonia said.

Rashid's former wife testified on the

first day of trial, stating that she had begun working at a local organization that provides sexual assault services. She said she attended a trauma-informed conference where a video was shown about consent and she showed the video to Rashid. Sometime after, she stated that during a sexual encounter she told Rashid she did not consent and he allegedly responded by stating she gave consent on their wedding date.

When questioned about why she couldn't remember the exact date of the encounter, Rashid's ex-wife testified it was because "there were hundreds of times," but it was the first time that she told Rashid that she didn't consent. During two other alleged incidents, Rashid's former wife testified that she pretended to be asleep.

Rashid opted not to testify. After the three-day trial concluded Jan. 23, jurors returned a not guilty verdict on all counts.

Rashid has served as Neenah's city attorney since 2022 and previously worked as a Winnebago County assistant district attorney.

School board terminates middle school teacher facing drug charges

Neenah News

The Neenah Joint School District Board of Education voted Friday to terminate the contract of a Neenah Middle School teacher after the teacher was placed on administrative leave in connection with drug-related charges.

The board's decision came during an open session after members met in closed session to deliberate on the employment

of Benjamin Schmidt, 46, of Neenah. Communications Director Jim Strick said the decision to terminate Schmidt was based on findings and conclusions presented by the administration during the closed session.

Schmidt was charged Dec. 30 with misdemeanor counts of possession of a controlled substance and possession of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), according to

court records.

The district previously confirmed Schmidt had been placed on administrative leave after it was made aware of the allegations. In a statement issued earlier this month, the district said it was committed to ensuring a safe environment and would take appropriate steps following the conclusion of its investigation.

According to a criminal complaint, Neenah police went to Schmidt's residence around 9 a.m. Dec. 15 after his wife reported finding drugs in the home. Police said the substances included kratom, which is a Schedule I controlled drug in Wisconsin.

Officers searched Schmidt's residence, classroom, vehicle and personal property,

according to the complaint. Police reported locating a vape pen in Schmidt's vehicle containing a substance believed to be THC wax, as well as an empty bag of kratom capsules in his desk drawer. Additional substances were allegedly found in a travel coffee tumbler taken from his classroom.

During an interview with police, Schmidt denied possessing illegal substances at school and said the vape pen contained Delta-8. He told police the substance in his travel mug was protein powder, but admitted to having kratom powder in his home.

Schmidt made an initial appearance in court Tuesday. He is due back in court March 16 for a plea and sentencing hearing.

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Public library calendar

Feb. 2
 Stitching Group 1 p.m.
 Adult Afternoon Program: Plastics in the Great Lakes 2 p.m.

Feb. 3
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-5) 9:15 a.m.
 Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA (all ages) 10 a.m.
 Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 10 a.m.
 Tween Create Lab: Forest Faces 3:30 p.m.
 Powered by Yarn 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 4
 Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.
 Musical Movers Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 5
 Wee Read Storytime *with ASL interpretation (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

Feb. 6
 Fitness Friday: Boot Camp 9:15 a.m.
 Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.
 First Friday Concert: Cat Plan 2 p.m.

Feb. 7
 Book Talk with Nola Sweet: The Petworth Project 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 9
 Monday Matinee: Wicked: For Good 1 p.m.
 Short Story Night 7 p.m.

Feb. 10
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-5) 9:15 a.m.
 Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA (all ages) 10 a.m.
 Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 10 a.m.
 Tech Talk Tuesday: Digital Housekeeping & Device Maintenance 1:30 p.m.
 Legal Assistance Clinic 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 11
 Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.

Musical Movers Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
 Adult DIY Design Workshop 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 12
 Wee Read Storytime *with ASL interpretation (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

Feb. 14
 Family Program: DIY Stone Lovebirds 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 16
 Memory Cafe: The Great Edible Experiment 1:30 p.m.
 Women's Health Empowerment Series: A Deep Dive into Heart Disease in Women 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 17
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-5) 9:15 a.m.
 Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA (all ages) 10 a.m.
 Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL in-

terpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 10 a.m.
 Tween Create Lab: Ribbon Chandelier (ages 9+) 3:30 p.m.
 Cookbook Book Club 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 18
 Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.
 Musical Movers Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 19
 Wee Read Storytime *with ASL interpretation (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

Feb. 20
 Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength 9:15 a.m.
 Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 21
 Volunteers! - Ages 11-19 10:30 a.m.
 Documentary Screening: Translators 10:30 a.m.

Neenah library

FROM PAGE 1

creating community and celebrating literacy," she continued. "People would ask us to do things that we were already doing. We have a lot of programs and services but they don't know that we have them."
 "Our mission is to make the library a destination where every Neenah resident and our neighbors can discover answers, connections and belonging," Hardina-Wilhelm said. "We want our patrons to be curious and also feel empowered when they walk through our doors. To do this,

we created the Start Your 2026 Adventure Guide to encourage participants to uncover what the library has to offer, discover something new, support the library and check out our various collections."
 "Launching our adventure guide is just the beginning," she added. "We strive to bridge the gap, be a place where it is the norm to ask questions, find answers and be the destination of discovery."
 In addition to a survey of over 1,000 people last spring, Blue Door conducted listening sessions and focus groups to "review trends in the library and determine what makes Neenah Neenah."
 "We ultimately focused on our beautiful

building and what it means to our community," Hardina-Wilhelm said. "Yet, it's our staff and patrons who truly bring it to life. Neenah Public Library sparks curiosity, fosters connection and strengthens our community through knowledge and story, inviting everyone to discover something new. This new identity captures that spirit."
 Among the results are "more areas to play in our youth department," she said. "We created the Sensory Room and the Play Literacy Area."
 The Sensory Room is an area for anyone and particularly families to go when the rest of the library gets to be busy, a place where patrons can enjoy the library, Har-

dina-Wilhelm said.
 The Play Literacy Area features fidget tools and is "a space where parents, caregivers and children can engage in the Five Practices of Early Literacy: talk, play, sing, write and read."
 While promoting various opportunities for adult patrons such as the availability of meeting rooms, Hardina-Wilhelm noted that the library's live music programs don't need as much promoting.
 "In addition to social media and the newspapers, there is a definite word-of-mouth element that helps," she said. "Being added to the Neenah News Calendar of Events has had a positive effect."

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Dr. Kenneth Schaufelberger

Treatment plant

FROM PAGE 1

or building wetlands, and earn credits for those reductions. The wastewater plant could then buy those credits to make up for the phosphorus it releases. Each credit equals one pound of phosphorus. To meet its limits, the plant would need to buy about 8,900 credits every year.

Mach said there is limited credit availability and competition from other buyers, including the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

“Despite the best efforts of all parties involved, there will not be enough credits available to offset the future wastewater plant phosphorus discharge,” Mach wrote in a memo. “Compliance with the future limits will be impossible without a plant upgrade.”

Engineering consultants evaluated multiple compliance options, including filtration systems and UV disinfection. While UV disinfection would replace chemical disinfection with light-based treatment for effluent or discharged water, chemical disinfection would still be used inside the plant and for combating filamentous bacteria.

Mach said adding UV disinfection would cost an estimated \$11.5 million, plus an additional \$69,000 per year to operate. Because the costs are so high, the plant would likely see little to no financial savings from the upgrade, meaning the investment may never pay for itself. He noted that UV disinfection is not required, and state regulators have indicated there are no plans to restrict the continued use of sodium hypochlorite, commonly known as bleach, for disinfection.

Under the current proposal, the plant would be upgraded with cloth disc filters, a



Neenah News

Wastewater passes through a treatment stage at the regional plant in Menasha, where planning is underway to add cloth disc filters to reduce phosphorus before the treated water is released into the Fox River.

tertiary or final-stage treatment technology designed to remove phosphorus before discharge. The estimated cost to fully upgrade the plant with both filtration and UV disinfection is about \$35 million. Removing the UV component would reduce the projected cost to approximately \$24 million.

The City of Neenah would be responsible for about 54% of the total project cost, followed by Menasha at 22%, Fox Crossing at 16%, Harrison at 8% and the Town of Neenah at 1%, according to project documents.

The sewerage commission is considering two ways to fund the project: Revenue Bonds, where the commission borrows directly, keeping debt off the municipalities' books and allowing consistent payments but at higher interest, and DNR Clean Water Funds, which is less costly and could include some debt forgiveness for Menasha but require each municipality to borrow its share, follow federal rules, and may affect Neenah's debt limits.

Mach said residents could see potential sewer rate increases. He said staff will be aggressively searching for additional fund-

ing options, such as Municipal Grants and Congressionally Directed Spending.

“We'd really rather see if we're able to get some more funding from either the state or the federal government to help us with this because this is a big chunk of change,” he said.

The Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission is engaging with the municipalities to “make sure all the communities together can put forward the effort to find alternative funding sources because everybody has a vested interest in doing that,” he added.

Planning for a potential expansion of the regional wastewater plant, which is located along Garfield Avenue in Menasha, began in 2019 due to anticipated industrial discharges, particularly from Sonoco/U.S. Paper Mills. After years of delays and negotiations, Sonoco committed in 2024 to pretreat its discharge, allowing the Commission to focus on phosphorus removal without expanding plant capacity.

Council action last week did not include authorizing construction or funding, but signaled support for continued design work.

County moves forward with PFAS litigation

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County is joining a lawsuit over potential contaminated soil at Wittman Regional Airport.

Two weeks after hearing a presentation by a Texas law firm, the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors Jan. 20 unanimously voted to join Brown and Eau Claire counties that have already decided to pursue litigation.

The lawsuit centers around aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) to control and extinguish aviation fuel. Companies like 3M, Dupont, BASF and Tyco Fire products have used AFFF in their products since the 1960s.

If this flame retardant foam was used at the airport there is a chance it has got into the groundwater. It then may have caused contamination problems for years.

AFFF contains forever chemicals known as PFAS.

The Judiciary and Public Safety committee met before the meeting last week to go over the resolution to join the PFAS litigation with outside counsel.

Supervisor James Ponzer questioned having to pay 25% of the potential funds from the lawsuit to the Dallas-based law firm Baron & Budd.

Chris Edwards of Baron & Budd explained to the committee that the law firm does not take any attorney fees if there is not a successful outcome. The fee would be paid if there is a settlement reached in the case or if the case is won by trial verdict.

Edwards also explained that the lawsuit does not create any obligation to remediate the potentially contaminated soil.

The county board heard the presentation at a special meeting on Jan. 6 and last week the board voted without any further discussion to enter the litigation. During the Jan. 6 presentation Jason Julius from Baron & Budd told the board PFAS are one of the most pressing environmental issues for public entities “given the impact these chemicals can have on drinking water, soil, storm water and waste water.”

A successful outcome would mean that Winnebago County gets to keep 75% of the funds to clean up the contaminated soil.

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Rockets rout Terrors to post third straight win

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah's offense was definitely clicking in a 103-50 win over Appleton West in a Fox Valley Association boys basketball game on Tuesday night.

But as much as the season-high scoring output was an offensive achievement, it was on the other end of the court that was at the heart of what the Rockets did.

"Offense comes from defense," senior James Weiland said. "That physical defense makes us play with pace and get up the court. Get into guys, be physical and good things happen."

"Teams get frustrated with us, but that's our goal. We want to be known as the hardest team to play against in the FVA."

The Rockets racked up 22 steals in the game – Kolton Fleege and Cal Juckem each had four to lead the team – as Neenah forced the Terrors into more than 30 turnovers in the game.

That turned into plenty of transition baskets – including a hefty amount of fast-break layups – as the Rockets shot an impressive 60 percent from the floor for the game.

"We played well, especially in the second half," Neenah head coach Lee Rabas said. "You want to play the right way and that's why everybody feels good about it. Hopefully it gives you some momentum moving forward and some confidence."

The Rockets' previous season-high point total was 89, which came in the first meeting against Appleton West. It was also the first time Neenah hit triple digits since the 2021-22 season when the Rockets collected a 100-68 victory over the Terrors.

A total of 15 players scored in the game for Neenah, with Weiland – who had scored just eight points so far this season entering the game – leading the team with 14 points.

"That's the biggest thing you can do when you are coming off the bench. Just play hard when you get in," Weiland said. "(The balance scoring) just shows what



Neenah's James Weiland goes up for a layup between a pair of Appleton West defenders in the first half on Tuesday night.

this team is. We play 12 guys and it's just a luxury to have. We have guys coming in every three or four minutes. It goes to our pace. It suits our team and how we play."

Roan Koeper and Fleege each finished with 12 points, while Chase Nitz added 11 points off the bench. Jackson Rindt and Jacob Jungwirth each had nine points, while Jungwirth also led the team with nine rebounds.

"It's good (to have that many players score)," Rabas said. "It's good for some of them to see the ball go through the hoop and gain a little game confidence."

Neenah never trailed in the game and opened the contest with a 12-2 run over

the first three minutes to grab the lead. Rindt hit a pair of 3-pointers and Koeper had a couple of lay-ins in the opening surge, which Fleege capped with a driving layup.

But the Terrors didn't just disappear. Appleton West kept the deficit in single digits for much of the first half and trailed

24-17 midway through the first half.

The Rockets then switched to a 1-3-1 zone and rattled off a 22-5 run in a little over four minutes to seize control of the contest.

"We got into the 1-3-1 and the aggression we have in that, really helped us get steals and get into some easy layups," Fleege said. "Getting the steals gets the adrenaline pumping and helps us keep doing what we need to do."

Nitz's 3-pointer sent the Rockets into halftime with a 51-26 lead and Neenah showed no signs of letting down coming out of the locker room, scoring the first seven points of the second half.

That led to a 19-3 run over the first four minutes of the second half that all but put the game away and allowed Rabas to play everyone who dressed for the game.

Nyok Ryak's post move with 45 seconds to go got Neenah to 100 points while Henry Farrell – who scored all eight of his points in the final six minutes – added a 3-pointer about 15 seconds later for the final margin.

In addition to the balanced scoring, Rabas also lauded the offensive contributions of senior point guard Nick Schultz, who totaled 12 assists – 10 in the first half – and three steals, as a key to the lopsided win.

"He did play a great floor game," Rabas said. "Just being unselfish and sharing the basketball. He showed really good leadership tonight."

Fleege said Schultz was also vital in making sure the Rockets were ready to play a team they had already beaten by 63

SEE **Neenah wins** ON PAGE 11



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Wagner is key contributor in three sports for Zephyrs

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Mason Wagner acknowledged that in his free time, he likes to be with friends and family and he may even settle in and play some video games.

Not that the St. Mary Catholic senior has much of an opportunity to actually do any of those things.

Wagner is a three-sport athlete, playing football, basketball and baseball for the Zephyrs, which means much of his time outside of school is already spoken for.

And that's just the way he likes it.

"It's fun to play a sport every single day of every week," Wagner said before a Zephyr basketball practice earlier this week. "I have been doing all three (sports) since kindergarten – just sticking with it my whole life. I don't want to just sit around doing nothing."

To play three sports all four years in high school is an impressive accomplishment. But to excel in three sports is a testament to all the work that Wagner has put in.

In football, Wagner was a unanimous all-conference defensive back who finished the season with six interceptions and 31 tackles. He also played offense where he totaled 16 catches for 191 yards in helping the Zephyrs return to the WIAA playoffs this season.

Wagner has also earned all-conference recognition in baseball the past two seasons, being named to the all-Big East second team catcher as a sophomore, while earning honorable mention honors this season.

Currently, Wagner suits up for the Zephyr basketball team where he is averaging about eight points and five rebounds per game. He missed a stretch of games earlier this season with an injury but is back healthy and just hitting his stride.

"I've seen improvements throughout the years just getting better and better



and I think that's a result of playing three sports," Wagner said. "Doing all of these sports keeps you active, keeps your body in shape."

One of the reasons that Wagner has been able to excel in all three sports is partly because he never goes too long without being around them.

Wagner said that whatever sports season he is in, that sport will take precedence, however, there are open gyms to get shots up in the fall and spring or opportunities to get some hitting practice in during the fall and winter.

"Whatever sport is in season is the priority of what you want to do but you just take it day by day and do what you can," Wagner said. "Going to open gyms, going to practices whenever you can will really keep you in the loop of the sport."

With all of the time he dedicates to athletics, Wagner is aware of his responsibilities as a student, too.

The honor roll student learned early on how to tend to his schoolwork to avoid it becoming an issue.

"Being a student is definitely a priority – school comes first - so I just get my work done. Don't procrastinate it," Wagner said. "If I let all of the homework pile up with all of the sports I have going on, it's just going to be a disaster."

And when the combination of school and sports gets to be too much?

"Everyone needs that day off once in a while," Wagner said. "There are always



St. Mary Catholic senior Mason Wagner is a three-sport standout and leader participating in football, basketball and baseball for the Zephyrs.

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 12

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS WRESTLING

Rockets finish strong to beat Kimberly

Neenah rattled off wins in the final five weight classes to rally for a 41-32 win over Kimberly in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

The Rockets trailed 32-25 entering the 165-pound bout when Landen Sheppard racked up a 17-0 technical fall win over Blake Wall and Declan Koch followed with a pin of Brady Fonder at 175 pounds to push Neenah in front.

Kaden Roth added another pin at 190 pounds, while Brayden Millbrodt earned a 6-4 decision at 215 pounds and Willy Brucks capped the night for Neenah with a pin in the heavyweight match.

Garrett Nedens (126) also won by pin for the Rockets, while Cashtin Tiedt (132) won by technical fall and Broden Butzke (113) had a major decision victory for Neenah.

Neenah takes second at Whitnall duals

Landen Sheppard and Declan Koch each went 4-0 as the Rockets finished 3-1 to take second at the Whitnall duals on Saturday.

The Rockets went 2-0 in pool competition, beating Kenosha Bradford (65-14) and Waukesha North (75-6). Neenah added a win over Kenosha Indian Trail (58-20) in the Gold Pool play but the Rockets lost to Evansville, 46-24, in the final dual meet of the day.

Both Sheppard and Koch racked up three pins in their four wins, while Sheppard had a major decision win against Evansville and Koch won by forfeit in that dual meet.

Six wrestlers – Carson Finch, Broden Butzke, Garrett Nedens, Jaxon Ennis and Kaden Roth – all finished 3-1 on the day with Ennis and Roth each notching three pins for their three wins. Braydon Millbrodt and Alex Zuehlsdorf each finished 2-1 on the day.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Rockets finish 3-0 at FVA quad

Neenah posted a perfect 3-0 mark at a quadrangular meet hosted by Kimberly last week.

The Rockets racked up wins over Oshkosh (54-15), Kimberly (48-16) and Appleton West (65-6).

Janet Sorto highlighted the Neenah performance by finishing 3-0 on the day with all three wins coming by pins. Kylee Kurszewski, Amari Richard, Ava Armatti and Jenson Kurszewski each went 3-0 on the day with two pins and a forfeit win, while Maya Ives also picked up three wins, including a technical fall.

Greenlee Ennis, Joelle Reay, Lluvia Carrillo and Xiomara Liriano-Rueda each had two wins for Neenah.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Top-ranked Zephyrs knock off rival Lancers

Three players finished in double figures and St. Mary Catholic pulled away in the second half to top Manitowoc Lutheran 55-46 in a Big East contest in Manitowoc on Tuesday night.

The Zephyrs, who are the No. 1 ranked team in Division 4, improved to 16-1 on the season after sweeping the season series from the Lancers.

Autumn Crowe finished with 20 points

to lead St. Mary Catholic, which outscored Manitowoc Lutheran 30-23 in the second half after leading by two at halftime.

Luci Nackers finished with 15 points and Gabby Guerrero chipped in 10 in the win.

Last week, St. Mary Catholic rolled to a 65-39 win over Pacelli, the No. 2 ranked team in Division 5.

Crowe led the way with an all-around performance, finishing with 28 points, 10 rebounds and six steals in the win.

Nackers finished with 13 points, while Bitsy McCauley chipped in eight.

Rockets notch FVA win by thumping Terrors

Neenah bounced back after back-to-back losses to pummel Appleton West, 92-22, in a Fox Valley Association game on Tuesday night.

Five players finished in double figures for the Rockets with Sydney Michalkiewicz leading the way with a season-high 21 points. The sophomore was 5-of-7 from 3-point range in the game.

Rowan Klesmit added 19 points, with Alissa Ebel totaling 12 points, while also leading the team with eight rebounds and four assists. Carli Balthus and Farrah Danforth each had 10 points and Ellie Buss finished with nine.

The Rockets led 46-12 at halftime and then limited the Terrors to just 10 points in the second half.

Neenah suffered a 54-43 FVA loss to Hortonville last Friday, with Buss pacing the team with 13 points and Klesmit adding 12. Danforth finished with nine points and seven rebounds.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Strong first half sparks Rockets' victory

Neenah held Hortonville to just 14 first-half points and went on to collect a 69-40 victory over the Polar Bears last Friday.

Kolton Fleege finished with 13 points to lead the Rockets, who had 12 different players score in the game.

Matthias Charles finished with 11 points and Nick Schultz added nine.

The Rockets led 40-14 at intermission.

SWIMMING

Neenah powers past Fondy in dual meet

The Rockets finished first in all but two events and swept the top three places in a pair of individual races in rolling to a 113-56 win over Fond du Lac on Tuesday.

Neenah dominated the last two individual events of the meet, grabbing the top three places in both the 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard breaststroke.

Jack Kippa, who was a part of four wins in the meet, led the sweep in the backstroke event by taking the win with Isaac Zarda finishing second and Joseph Van Handel taking third. In the 100-yard breaststroke, it was Ryker Zarda recording the win followed by Crawford Pfeifle and Ben Munson.

Kippa also posted a win in the 200-yard individual medley with the Rockets' Gideon Benner taking second. Benner picked up a win in the 100-yard freestyle with Burke Wendell posting a pair of first-place finishes in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly.

Phenix Yahr picked up the other individual first place for Neenah in diving.

Josh Powell added a second place in the 500-yard freestyle.

Kippa, Powell, Ryker Zarda and Benner teamed up to win the 200-yard medley relay for Neenah, while Kippa, Munson, Powell and Wendell combined to win the 400-yard freestyle relay.

BOYS HOCKEY

Rockets blanked by Panthers

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha racked up 28 shots against second-ranked Stevens Point on Tuesday night, but were unable to get on the scoreboard in an 8-0 loss on the road.

It was the second loss in the last three games for the Rockets.

Matthew Nelson finished with 19 saves for Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha.



Neenah News

Neenah's Nick Schultz drives to the basket against Appleton West on Tuesday night.

Neenah wins

FROM PAGE 9

points this season. Appleton West has just one FVA win this season.

"Some guys might have been thinking it's a free game and they don't have to come out and try," said Fleege, who reached double figures for the second straight game and fourth time this season. "We had senior leadership that made sure

we were ready. Nick Schultz got us ready to play."

With their third straight win, the Rockets seemed to have emerged from a bit of a slump where they lost five of six games.

Neenah will try to keep things rolling when they host Oshkosh North on Friday.

"We have to build on this momentum," Weiland said. "We have a tough schedule coming up here so it's important that we grind these next few games and show who we are."

Obituaries

James Henebry

It is with a sad yet joyous heart that we announce the passing of our dear friend and brother. He truly was "One of One" and "Did it his way." So, the next time you think of Jimmy or Tee It Up, let it bring a smile to your face and a warm sensation to your heart.

A celebration of Jimmy's life will be planned for late spring or summer.

Peace and Love. May God bless you always.



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

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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 10

those days where you just want to sit there and relax because it is really a lot.”

Although Wagner is no stranger to participating in three sports, there is a different feel to things this school year.

Before the start of this past football season, Wagner always had players to look up to on the Zephyrs’ rosters. This year, though, all of the younger players are turning to him.

“It means a lot to be a senior, especially in three sports,” Wagner said. “You have to be a senior leader for every sport. Taking underclassmen under your wing and just teaching them what you have learned the last four years.”

Wagner hedged about whether he has a favorite among his three sports – “It’s really just whatever season I’m in. That’s the one I focus on the most,” he said – but there is one sport he hopes to play at the collegiate level.

“I would play baseball in college if I have the chance,” Wagner said. “If I could play that more, like another four years of it, that’s what I have been doing all my life and would be pretty cool.”

As a catcher who will call pitches for his teammates on the mound during games, Wagner likes to know he has an influence on how the game plays out.

He also knows it comes with some pressure and responsibility.

“It’s not how I play that will determine how we will do, but if I have a bad day, it won’t be good for the team. I always have

to be on my A game,” said Wagner, who is hoping for the chance to take the mound this spring, too. “I just enjoy that I’m in every single play. It’s not like you are sitting in the outfield waiting for the ball.”

Before he gets to return to the diamond, though, Wagner hopes his final season on the hardwood is a memorable one.

The Zephyrs are currently 10-5 overall and tied for third in the Big East North and looking to make some waves when the WIAA tournament games. Wagner was a freshman when the program reached the state tournament at the Kohl Center and he would love to get the Zephyrs there again.

“We watched them play in the state tournament and that atmosphere is awesome to see,” Wagner said. “I think this year this team, if we continue to play to-

gether and come into our games with the energy we need, we can make a deep run and we have a chance.”

Whether he continues to play at a collegiate level or not, Wagner said that he believes he will always be involved in sports in some manner. He could see himself coaching youth teams for his children after he starts a family and returning to watch St. Mary Catholic teams play in the future.

And, in addition to all the memories he’s made as a Zephyr, there is also a lesson that he will take with him and pass on when he can.

“Just giving it your all will take you a long way,” Wagner said. “It doesn’t matter the talent that you have, if you put in the work you can make anything happen.”

Kid Scoop


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CAULIFLOWER

Use the code!



= BROCCOLI = CALIFORNIA
 = FLOWER = PIZZA
 = PURPLE = CABBAGE
 = NEBRASKA = GREEN

Did you know...

- The word “cauliflower” means _____ and _____.
- White is the most common form, but at many farmers markets you can get cauliflower that is orange, _____ and _____.
- Cauliflower is a member of the _____ family.
- Many people use cauliflower to make _____ crusts.
- About 90% of the cauliflower grown in the United States comes from _____.

Replace the missing words.

LEAVES HIGH YELLOW TIE ENERGY

Cauliflower can be boiled, fried, roasted, grilled, steamed, pickled or eaten raw. It can even be made into a pizza crust! It packs an _____ punch and is low in calories. It’s high in fiber and _____ in vitamin C and other minerals (one cup of cauliflower has more than an orange) and so it’s called a **superfood**. That means cauliflower helps keep your body healthy and strong!



Large cauliflower _____ grow as the cauliflower grows. When tall enough, a farmer will cover the white growing cauliflower with the leaves and _____ them in place. Why? This keeps the “flower” part white as it grows. If not covered, the florets turn _____. Cauliflower is usually harvested when it’s six to eight inches in diameter.

Can you help me bring this box of cauliflower to my farmers market stand?



Roasted Cauliflower

Work with an adult to make this delicious and healthy cauliflower recipe that can crunch a little like popcorn.

- Preheat the oven to 425°F.
- Cut the cauliflower into florets all about the same size.
- Sprinkle with salt and 2 tsp of olive oil. Toss these together to coat the florets.
- Spread onto a baking sheet and roast for 10 minutes.
- Turn each floret over and roast for 5 minutes. Take out of oven and allow to cool. Sprinkle cheese or lemon on top for extra flavor.

Have YOU tried cauliflower?

- YES! Yum!
- Not yet.

Letter Search

Look through the newspaper to find a word that starts with each letter below:

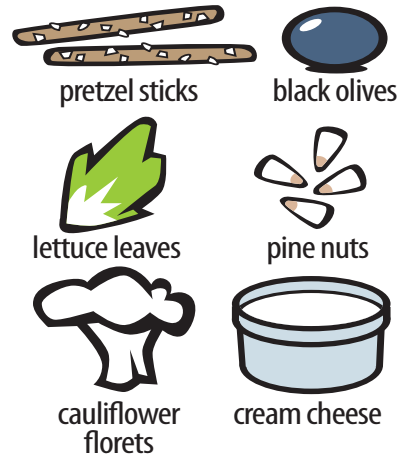
- C _____
- A _____
- U _____
- L _____
- I _____
- F _____
- L _____
- O _____
- W _____
- E _____
- R _____

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly.

Kid Scoop Together Field of Sheep

Work with a family member to make this tasty treat.

INGREDIENTS:



- Cover a plate with lettuce leaves.
- Break off cauliflower florets to make the sheep’s bodies.
- Use pretzel sticks for legs and “glue” with cream cheese or peanut butter.
- To make the head, slice a small section off the back of an olive and “glue” it onto the cauliflower using cream cheese.
- Cut tiny slices of olive to make ears.
- Use pine nuts for eyes. Attach with cream cheese. Set out your flock for all to enjoy!



Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written instructions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Farmers harvest cauliflower before this happens to it and it might surprise you. Hold this page up to a mirror to discover this surprise.

IF NOT HARVESTED,
A CAULIFLOWER WILL SPROUT
HUNDREDS OF TINY YELLOW
FLOWERS. THE FLORETS WE EAT
ARE FLOWER BUDS THAT
HAVEN'T OPENED YET.

Standards Link: Math: Recognize and continue patterns.

Double Double Word Search

- COMMON CUP FARMERS FIBER FLORETS FOOD GREEN GROWS HELPS LEAVES LOW ORANGE RAW SUPER TALL TURN

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

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

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

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Write On! Vegetable Poem

Write a poem or paragraph about your favorite vegetable. Be sure to describe using all five senses.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.