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Town considers dry fire hydrant system

By Dave Gill
NEENAH NEWS

It may sound counterintuitive, but dry fire hydrants may soon become a tool in the Town of Neenah Fire Department's firefighting arsenal to combat flames with their biggest enemy: an abundance of water.

The Town of Neenah Board on Monday was introduced to a firefighting concept that involves fire hydrants not connected to water lines but rather bodies of water where water lines don't exist.

Ellen Skerke, the Town of Neenah administrator-clerk-treasurer, stressed that the community was "in the very preliminary first stages" of considering dry fire hydrant options.

Town of Neenah Fire Chief Dan Ose-

ro said that the so-called "dry hydrants" would be permanent structures that "give access to large bodies of water such as Lake Winnebago to be used as a tool for rural firefighting."

There are three locations along Lake Winnebago that have been identified as potential sites, Osero said.

"The town has an agreement with the City of Neenah to use its hydrants," Osero said, but having these dry hydrants installed would provide the town and its residents with readily available and more strategically positioned water sources.

As part of his presentation to the board Monday, Osero included photos of existing dry hydrants in the City of De Pere along the Fox River and also in the Town



Submitted photo

The Town of Neenah Fire Department is considering utilizing a dry fire hydrant similar to what is used in De Pere.

SEE **Dry hydrants** ON PAGE 6

INSIDE



FVA Wrestling
Rockets shine at conference meet
Pages 8-9

New exhibit
Gallery to feature work of local artist
Page 3



Photo by David Hall

Cold weather biking

Cyclists departed from Payne's Point on Saturday as Bike Across Bago got underway. Riders crossed Lake Winnebago during the annual event that draws participants from across the region for a full day of scenic riding and community spirit.

Police department starts trading card challenge as community outreach

By Dave Gill
NEENAH NEWS

As Major League Baseball springs into action this month in the Cactus League in Arizona and the Grapefruit League in Florida, the Neenah Police Department is preparing to "go yard" with its 2026 Trading Card Challenge.

Community policing coordinator Joe Benoit said this year's collection includes 30 cards, about 20 of which are officers and the remaining 10 or so representing various aspects of community policing.

"One of the 30 is a special event card," Benoit said, which gives residents an op-

portunity to attend events this year such as Community Fest during the Independence Day celebrations, Neenah's National Night Out in August, Campfire with Cops in September, Future Neenah Concerts and Touch-a-Truck events this summer to receive extra credit in the contest to get all 30 cards by Thanksgiving.

If collectors reach that milestone, a challenge prize will be awarded that is a commemorative coin honoring America's 250th birthday of the Declaration of Independence signed in 1776.

According to Benoit, scavenger hunts will be announced on the department's

Facebook page with clues on how to locate a cache of cards throughout the summer.

As part of his responsibilities as Neenah's community policing coordinator, Benoit had to put on his salesman hat to find sponsors in the community to fund this year's NPJ Trading Card Challenge.

"My goal was to find local business owners to sponsor \$500 apiece," Benoit said. But as a popular law firm television commercial tagline goes, it was "one call, that's all."

"Rosenow Customs is sponsoring the entire program," Benoit said.

Shane Rosenow, owner of Rosenow

Customs remodeling and roofing services that's been in business for more than 12 years, said his company has worked with the Neenah Police Department for years and that he didn't think twice about sponsoring the entire trading card challenge program.

"It just came naturally to us to help them out," Rosenow said. "We're so grateful and thankful for what the police department does."

Rosenow also said he fully supports how the department is reaching out to

SEE **Police cards** ON PAGE 6

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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

Spring water

Spring and mineral water were originally bottled more for their believed health properties than for hydration. Barnett's Drug Store, located at 101 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Neenah, sold Chippewa Spring Water. This photo is a reproduction of a William A. Wolff photograph taken on Aug. 11, 1928.

Dates announced for inside look at local government

Neenah News

The City of Neenah is inviting residents to step inside their local government for this year's Citizens Academy.

The classes will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the responsibilities, procedures and partnerships that drive city services from council meetings to emergency response, budgeting and infrastructure.

Participants will become familiar with the people, processes, and partnerships shaping daily life in Neenah.

Sessions will be held March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7 with the final session and graduation May 14. Classes run from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Participants are required to be age 18 or older, live or work in the City of Neenah and sign a liability waiver.

More information is available at ci.neenah.wi.us.

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Neenah News

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Calendar of events

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

Monday, Feb. 16

Broadway on Ice featuring Kimberly Akimbo, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Friday, Feb. 20

Michael O'Connell: The Current Collection Opening Reception, 5 p.m., The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art, 204 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Saturday, Feb. 21

"Translators" Film Viewing, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

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

Sunday, Feb. 22

Dan Larson Trio, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Wednesday, Feb. 25

An Evening with Tailspin author John Armbruster, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Library

Thursday, Feb. 26

Wisconsin World War II Prisoner of War Camps presented by Robert Block, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Feb. 28

Northeast Wisconsin Chinese Association Spring Bazaar for Chinese New Year, 3 p.m., Neenah High School

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Hang Up Gallery to display new oil paintings exhibit

Works inspired by artist's life, pastimes

By Eric Endres
NEENAH NEWS

Art enthusiasts looking for something new can find it in downtown Neenah in the coming weeks.

The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art will celebrate the opening of its weeks-long new exhibit from local artist Michael O'Connell with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 20 that will include free food and beverages.

"Michael O'Connell: The Current Collection" features oil paintings in the Impressionist style with a theme that O'Connell calls "Ramblin' in the New Mown Hay."

"There are several paintings recalling my work as a farm hand from the '50s through the end of the small-farms era," O'Connell

said. He added that the paintings are essentially "scenes from childhood as I remember it."

O'Connell's introduction to the world of art came in 1966 when he viewed a collection of paintings by one of the founders of Impressionism, Claude Monet, at the Paine Art Center in Oshkosh. He called the collection "spectacular."

Throughout the 1970s, O'Connell further developed his interest, skills and style in painting his own work. Later, in 1999, the managers of the Hang Up Gallery visited him at the Neenah Summer Art Show, and from there a lasting connection was born. O'Connell has been presenting his work there ever since, and it's his exclusive gallery.

"A lot of what originally inspired the gallery to show Michael's work is his story," The Hang Up Gallery's Amanda Graham said. "He pulls a lot of inspiration from the simple beauties of life."



Image by Michael O'Connell

Local artist Michael O'Connell's work will be on display at The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art starting Feb. 20.

O'Connell's own assessment appears to agree, as he described inspiration coming from his pastimes, birding, cycling, climbing the Rockies and playing Irish and old-time music. He also acknowledged inspiration from ideas and energy that arise from the soul, listening to them and hoping to go with the flow.

"Personally, I love every one of his

paintings," Graham said. "They are so full of life and color it's hard not to feel a sense of warmth, especially as someone who has the privilege of being surrounded by them."

O'Connell hopes viewers of his collection will experience a similar burst of energy that he feels when viewing the works of other artists.

"I hope that viewers can feel a charge of energy if one or two pieces resonate with them," he said. "If I have done it well, they should feel what I felt producing the work."

He added, "And I always hope that seeing the work will liven the viewer's day and alleviate those awful winter blues."

The exhibit runs Feb. 20 to April 1. Admission is free throughout the showing, though food and beverages are exclusive to opening night. The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art is located at 204 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Neenah.

Event raising awareness to organ donation scheduled for Saturday

Neenah News

An event Saturday at Shellatte's is intended to draw attention to the need for organ, eye and tissue donation.

Lindsay Clark, who is organizing the event, started a nonprofit called Live.Love. Donate. Inc. with her twin sister, Holly Dziejwiontkoski, while they were in college.

Their dad, Steve Muenchow, was a two-time kidney transplant recipient, receiving his first kidney from a deceased donor family in 1991 and his second kidney from their mom, Amy, as a living donor in 2007.

"They were a perfect match medically...and in marriage," Clark said. "They were married for 25 years, together for 30

years."

Muenchow lived with his second kidney for 16 years prior to needing to go on dialysis. However, he was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in 2014 due to a life-long suppressed immune system from the transplants.

"He endured chemo and radiation and fought hard to live," Clark said. "But the cancer spread rapidly and he died within a few months of diagnosis."

Clark said her dad was a huge advocate for the cause and was the motivation for starting the organization, which was originally a campus organization at Carthage College and an anniversary gift to their

parents.

"We are very passionate about funding from our events going directly to transplant families...because we were that family twice," Clark said. "We know our dad is looking down incredibly proud of the life-saving work we've been able to accomplish with the help of our tireless volunteers and donors."

The organization is partnering with Shelly Baeten at Shellatte's, 330 N. Commercial St., on National Donor Day, which is Saturday, to raise awareness for organ, eye and tissue donation and to register new organ donors. They will be tabling from 9 to 11 a.m. and any donated funds

on that day will go to local Fox Valley families awaiting organ transplants.

Clark said there will be a small match on the funds as well that are donated.

"We want to provide the families with funding for travel to appointments, meals, lodging, and whatever else they (and their families need)," Clark said. "Our table will have info and flyers about organ donation, including living donation. We have the capability to register new organ donors right there at the table as well. We'd love for people to stop out, grab a coffee and a treat, and say hello."

For more information, go to livelovedonate.com.

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County receives \$4.4M grant to fund Lead-Safe Homes Program

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County received a \$4.4 million federal grant to remove lead from homes.

The four-year U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant supports the county's Lead-Safe Homes Program, said Wanda Tracy, multimedia and public relations coordinator for Winnebago County Public Health.

"We hope to remove lead from more than 40 homes this year," she said.

Lead is toxic to everyone, but children under age 6 are at greatest risk and exposure can lead to behavioral issues, decreased academic performance and slowed physical growth, hearing and speech problems. Lead is mostly commonly found in lead-based paint, which was outlawed in

1978. Children are typically exposed to lead when they put things in their mouths that are contaminated with lead dust or eat paint chips.

"Two areas where we find a lot of lead paint are windowsills and porch floors — which are both areas where children typically play. We have very old home stock in Winnebago County, so a lot of homes have paint from before 1978," Tracy said. "Lead can be in more than paint. It can be wood paneling and other housing materials, for example. Sometimes, it's on old toys and we even found it once on cookware."

Under the Winnebago County Health Department's Lead-Safe Homes Program, homes are made safe by removing lead hazards to ensure that kids do not experience the long-term effects of lead exposure.

After contacting the health department,

a program representative comes into the home to identify the source of the lead exposure. A plan is then made to remove the lead from the home. While a contractor removes the lead from the home, the family is relocated at no cost to a hotel until the work is finished.

For homeowners, the program covers up to 100% of the costs to make the home free of lead. For landlords, the program covers 85 to 100% of the costs to remove lead from the property. There are no costs to renters, Tracy said.

To qualify for the program, the residence needs to have children or a pregnant woman living or visiting regularly who are on, or eligible for, Medicaid or BadgerCarePlus.

Most families discover their home has lead paint or another lead component when their child tests positive for having lead in their blood. Children are tested

at ages 1 and 2 by their primary medical providers for lead. If parents suspect their children might have been exposed to lead, the health department's nurse can also test for lead exposure.

Tracy said the grant will also provide the county with the resources to train more contractors to become certified in removing lead from homes. She said there is a limited number of contractors who work in that area and that "we could work on more homes if we had more contractors trained in this work."

The county also has a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for its Lead-Safe Home Programs, which allowed it to work on about 23 homes annually. Those funds will still be used in conjunction with the HUD grant.

For more information about the county's Lead-Safe Homes Program, visit wchd.pub/lead or call 920.232.3000.

Grant supports services for caregivers

Neenah News

Valley VNA Senior Care has been awarded a \$25,000 StartUP Respite Grant through the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) to launch an Enhanced Respite Program designed to address an unmet need for family caregivers in the community.

The Respite Care Association of Wisconsin supports programs that provide relief and resources for family caregivers across the state.

The Enhanced Respite Program is offered on the first and third Friday of each month from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The program provides personal care support for seniors, including assistance with meals, medication reminders and bathroom needs. Because the program spans a full day, participants will also receive lunch and snacks, with accommodations made for dietary needs.

Valley VNA Senior Care has offered shorter, two-hour respite programs in Neenah and Oshkosh for several years. Expanding respite services to a full-day format allows caregivers extended time to rest, attend appointments or manage personal responsibilities, helping reduce caregiver burnout.

Funding from RCAW has also allowed Valley VNA to create a new Respite Coordinator position to oversee the program, coordinate engaging activities, and ensure participants receive the exceptional, compassionate care Valley VNA is known for.

For more information about the Enhanced Respite Program, contact Valley VNA Senior Care at 920-727-5555.

Film viewing, discussion focuses on translators

Neenah News

The Winnebago Area Literacy Council (WALC) and UWO Chicano Latinx Studies will present a viewing and discussion of the short film Translators.

The 20-minute documentary follows three children who have to translate for their first-generation immigrant parents. The film highlights the need for language access and the toll it takes on the children who have to carry the burden of non-voluntary translator.

"These are kids who have to translate almost everything for their parents," Chu Paing said. "It's an added pressure on these children."

Paing, the executive director for the

Winnebago Area Literacy Council, is a first-generation immigrant from Myanmar (Burma) and holds a doctorate in cultural and linguistic anthropology.

She said this is an opportunity for the community to get an insight into something many may not know is a topic amongst the immigrant community in the area.

Following the film, four people will share their experiences translating for their immigrant parents.

The event will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Neenah Public Library. To learn more, visit winlit.org/events. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be provided.

Event provides info on heart disease in women

Neenah News

February is National Heart Month, and Heidi Stradal, interim Cath Lab manager at ThedaCare Appleton, will discuss heart disease in women at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Neenah Public Library.

Heart disease is the number one killer of women in America. Not breast cancer, not accidents, not Alzheimer's. It causes one out of three female deaths.

Women tend to take a "wait-and-see,

I'm too busy" approach to the symptoms of a heart attack; and these symptoms differ from those men complain of. Symptoms in women are much subtler and often mimic other, less serious conditions.

Learn how to recognize these symptoms and what contributes to them by attending this event.

This is a free event held at the Neenah Public Library. No registration is necessary.

Residents up amount of holiday string lights recycled

Neenah News

This season, the City of Neenah said residents recycled 927 pounds of holiday string lights — a 10.8% increase over last year.

The city said that kind of follow-through doesn't happen by accident; it reflects a community that pays attention and takes responsibility for the details.

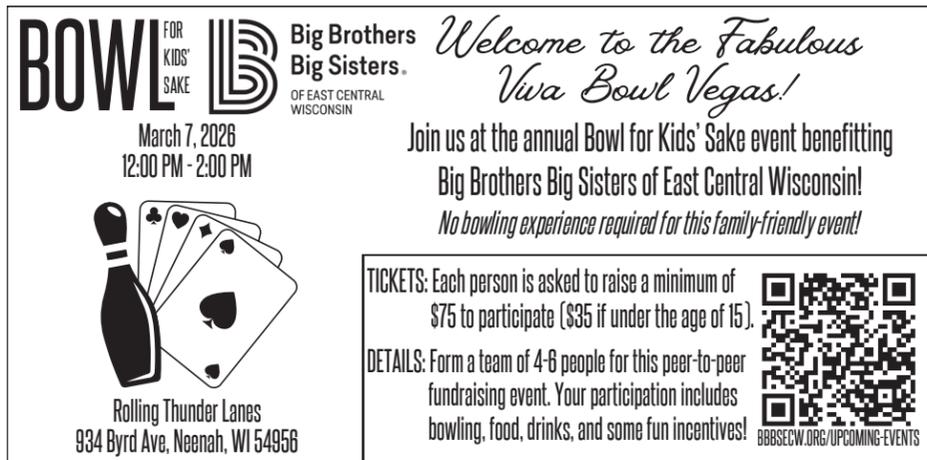
The city acknowledged Kelly Reyer, the Education and Outreach Specialist with Winnebago County Solid Waste, and Patty McGuire, a Recycle Right Master Class volunteer, for the behind-the-scenes work that keeps the program moving. It thanked everyone who took the time to bring their string lights to the collection bins.



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Feedback guides school district's plan for success

Over the past year, I've had the privilege of sitting down with students, staff, families and community members to listen to their experiences, hopes and concerns about our schools.



Through a series of superintendent listening sessions, including 12 dedicated staff listening sessions held last year, and the parent and staff survey conducted last spring, we received thoughtful, honest feedback that has guided us in updating the Neenah Joint School District's Plan for Success.

Our updated plan represents the collective voice of our community. It focuses on five key areas: Engagement, Collaboration, Well-Being, Responsibility and Student Success. These priorities are not new to Neenah, but our approach to them has evolved thanks to the valuable feedback you've shared.

In Engagement, we heard clearly that

relationships matter. Families want to feel connected to their schools, and staff want to feel valued and supported in their work. Our goal is to strengthen those relationships by ensuring everyone feels heard and that their input leads to meaningful action. By 2028, we aim to increase the number of students, staff and families who report a strong sense of belonging and connection within our schools.

In Collaboration, you asked for clearer, more consistent communication and more opportunities to share your input. We've committed to a district-wide

communication framework built around Why, What and How, as well as regular input sessions with staff, students and community members. We want every stakeholder to feel not just informed but involved.

In Well-Being, many families and staff shared concerns about student mental health and safety. In response, we are implementing a universal social-emotional and behavioral curriculum across all grade levels and working to ensure every student and staff member feels safe, supported and valued.

Through Responsibility, we are strengthening consistency and accountability — particularly around student behavior and discipline. This includes professional development to align expectations across schools and a district-wide Student and Family Handbook that clearly communicates behavioral expectations and responses.

Finally, Student Success continues to be our ultimate goal. We will maintain a high graduation rate, reduce chronic

absenteeism, close achievement gaps and ensure that every student, regardless of background or circumstance, has equitable access to the support needed to thrive academically and personally.

These goals are ambitious yet firmly rooted in action. We will track our progress through data from surveys, academic assessments and behavior reports, and we remain committed to sharing that progress openly with our community. The updated plan is available at neenah.k12.wi.us/about/strategic-plan-for-success.

Our updated Plan for Success, approved by the Board of Education on Oct. 7, 2025, is more than a document; it's a reflection of our shared values and aspirations. I'm especially grateful to the NJSD staff members who contributed their time, ideas and expertise during the 12 staff listening sessions, as well as to all who shared their voices throughout this process. Together, we are building a district where every voice matters, every student belongs and every success is shared.

School district releases summer school dates

Neenah News

Planning is underway for the Neenah Joint School District summer school sessions.

The course catalog will be posted online and emailed to families today. Registration opens at 7 a.m. Feb. 23 through Infinite Campus for elementary enrichment, middle school and high school programs.

Sign-up begins for Elementary Academy (remedial); placement is by teacher referral.

Elementary Academy is scheduled for 8 a.m. to noon June 8-June 26 (Monday through Friday). Elementary enrichment is set for 8 a.m. to noon June 8-June 25 and July 13-July 30 (Monday through

Thursday).

Term 1 for middle school 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 8-June 25 (Monday through Thursday), while Term 2 is 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 13-July 30 (Monday through Thursday).

Original credit high school credit sessions are from June 8-July 10 (Monday through Friday) and remedial classes go from June 8-June 25 (Monday-Thursday).

**We've moved!!!
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is now located at
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— RUSTED ROOST —

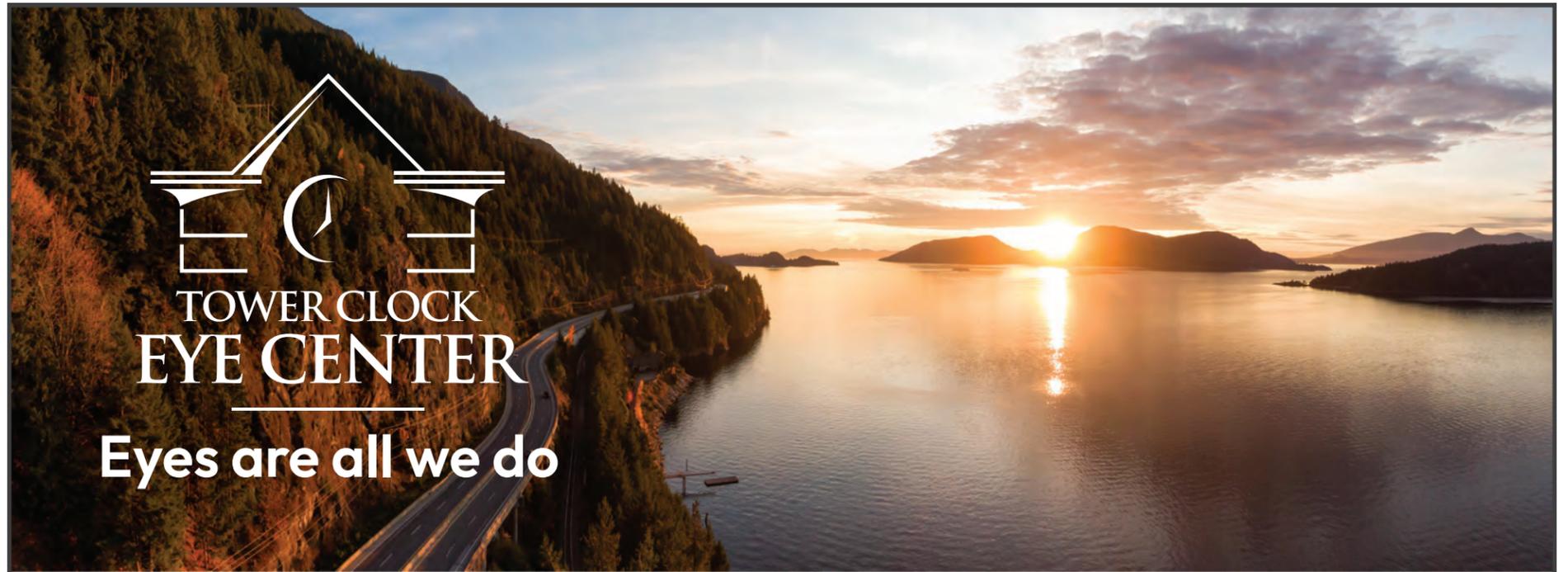
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Neenah native coaching U.S. women's hockey team

Neenah News

A Neenah native is in the Olympic spotlight as head coach for the U.S. Olympic Women's Hockey Team.

John Wroblewski is serving in the position for USA Hockey. It's his first time in the role.

Wroblewski has been the head coach of the U.S. Women's National Team since August 2022. In that role, he led the team to its first Women's World Championship since 2019. The team won the IIHF Women's World Championship in April 2023 and in 2025.



Wroblewski

Wroblewski has also been part of USA Hockey's National Team Development (NTDP) program on the men's side and been a professional hockey coach in the

Sunday concert series features The Dan Larson Trio

Neenah News

The Dan Larson Trio will lead an afternoon of swinging jazz starting at 2 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Neenah Public Library.

Led by Wisconsin musician and educator Dan Larson, the trio delivers a lively mix of classic jazz standards and early rock favorites. Larson — longtime conductor of the Wausau Symphony and a fixture of Wisconsin's jazz scene — joins forces

minor leagues.

Before he became a coach, Wroblewski was a player for the inaugural USA Hockey NTDP in 1997.

He also skated four years with the University of Notre Dame and played four years as a professional with ECHL's Fresno Falcons.

In the past, the U.S. team has won two gold medals — in 2018 and 1998. The U.S. won a silver medal in 2022 after losing to Canada in the gold medal game, and also won silver in 2014, 2010 and 2002.

This year's U.S. women's team opened the Olympic competition on Feb. 5 against Czechia and has won its first four games in the preliminary round, including matchups against Finland, Switzerland and Canada.

The team is scheduled to play in the quarterfinals today against Italy.

The 2026 Olympic Winter Games are being held in Milan, Italy.

Candlelit hike coming to Winnebago County Park

Neenah News

A candlelit hike will take place at Winnebago County Community Park.

The free event will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 28 at the pavilion in the park. After the hike, attendees can warm up by the

bonfire with hot chocolate and s'mores. Registration is required at secure.recl.com/WI/winnebago-county-wi/catalog.

Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Participants are encouraged to bring a flashlight or headlamp for the hike.

Together, the trio brings decades of experience and an easy, engaging style that's perfect for jazz lovers of all ages. The concert will take place in the Shattuck Community Room. All interested individuals are welcome to attend this free event.

Workshop offers farm management information

Neenah News

A workshop will focus on fine-tuning nitrogen management through on-farm research.

The program is offered in partnership with Muddy Bottom Farmers Producer-Led Workshop Group. Attendees will explore results from local nitrogen research, hear from farmers and agronomists on their approaches to nitrogen management and connect with others in the region.

The workshop will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 2 at Winchester Town



Submitted photo

The Neenah Police Department has launched its Trading Card Challenge as a way to provide information about community policing efforts.

Police cards

FROM PAGE 1

youth in a down-to-earth, grassroots way. "We need some more positivity in this world," he said.

As an added bonus, Rosenow said, one of the 30 trading cards is Rosenow Customs' "monster bus" that his company uses for special events.

Here are some guidelines for the 2026 NPD Trading Card Challenge:

Workshop offers farm management information

Neenah News

A workshop will focus on fine-tuning nitrogen management through on-farm research.

The program is offered in partnership with Muddy Bottom Farmers Producer-Led Workshop Group. Attendees will explore results from local nitrogen research, hear from farmers and agronomists on their approaches to nitrogen management and connect with others in the region.

The workshop will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 2 at Winchester Town

Cards will be available through Thanksgiving at NPD events and from participating officers.

Scavenger hunts will be announced on NPD's Facebook page with clues on how to locate a cache of cards. There will be many hunts prior to Thanksgiving to acquire various amounts of cards.

Participants may have their cards checked and receive their NPD Commemorative Coin at specific events and locations to be announced between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve.

Hall, 8522 Parkway Lane in Larsen. A free lunch will be provided. Register by Feb. 26 to ensure lunch.

Topics covered include nitrogen optimization program, farmer fields to statewide recs, farmer and agronomist panel lessons learned on nitrogen management, nitrogen management considerations for profitability and water quality goals, and sharing local producer-led efforts to fine tune nitrogen management.

For more information, go to go.wisc.edu/2926wa.

Dry hydrants

FROM PAGE 1

of Two Rivers. The Town of Clayton also has a working dry hydrant that taps into a retention pond in the town.

Osero said his main purpose of his presentation to the board was "to get the

board to consider that this is worth investigating further" and that 2026 would be dedicated to planning and cost analysis. There is also a Department of Natural Resources application process that would have to take place.

According to Osero, the first working dry hydrant would be in place later this fall or in spring 2027 at the earliest.

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NEENAH

- Thursday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, February 12 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Neenah 123 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah, WI 54956

Scan here to RSVP at EvergreenFoxCrossing.com or call 920-450-2524

Evergreen Fox Crossing Possibilities await.



Submitted photo

The Neenah High School Fishing Team is finding success as it is in the middle of its tournament season.

Fishing team building on success

Neenah News

The Neenah High School Fishing Team is looking to build on what has been a successful season with tournaments across the state from Ashland to Racine organized by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association (WIFA).

Neenah finished in first place in the WIFA regional qualifier event on Saturday in Minocqua with 264.5 total inches of fish caught and released.

Four students took biggest fish honors, including Noah Kinley (walleye), Brandon Melewski (crappie), Owen Wyp-

iszynski (crappie) and Becket Moore (northern pike), who also registered the largest fish of the tournament.

The team took to the ice at 6:30 a.m. and came from 20 inches behind in the final two hours to win the tournament by 12.5 inches defeating the Ashland Oredockers.

The team is preparing for the 2026 WIFA state tournament Feb. 22 in Wausau that will bring nearly 180 schools and over 1,000 students from across the state. Neenah is a two-time state champion in 2018 and 2024 led by Coach Chris Jones.

Sturgeon spearing season to begin

Neenah News

The sturgeon spearing season is set to begin this weekend and last 16 days or until any sex-specific harvest caps for that fishery have been reached.

The 2026 sturgeon spearing season will open at 7 a.m. Saturday and close on March 1 unless one of the harvest caps is reached earlier.

Spearmen can fish from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day the fishery is open and are required to register their fish at a DNR-operated registration station by 2 p.m. on the same day the fish is harvested. Length, weight, sex and tagging information are collected from each registered fish, which is used to determine season length.

This year's caps are 280 juvenile females, 659 adult females and 981 males in Lake Winnebago along with 70 juvenile females, 73 adult females and 245 males

in the Upriver Lakes. The Winnebago System totals are 350 juvenile females, 732 adult females and 1,226 males.

The sturgeon spearing harvest is usually dictated in part by water clarity and ice conditions on the Upriver Lakes and Lake Winnebago. The DNR said this year's assessments indicate excellent water clarity throughout Lake Winnebago, which is on track with other highly successful years. The DNR does not check water clarity in the Upriver Lakes, although clarity is usually not a major factor in predicting harvest on these waterbodies because they are shallow.

The Winnebago system is home to one of North America's largest lake sturgeon populations and hosts a unique winter spear fishery. Further, the system is one of only two locations where lake sturgeon can be harvested with a spear (Black Lake, Michigan, is the other).

Winnebago ice report

By Jim Nobbe

PAYNE'S POINT HOOK & SPEAR FISHING CLUB

As of Monday, we are seeing 18-21" of ice on the majority of the lake.

We had to put a truck bridge back on the crack 0.4 miles out from our landing on the main road. We also have a bridge at 3.1 miles out on the treeline.



We have a plowed road across to Calumet County Park Landing where the Brickyard Fishing Club has their tree line on the east shore. At 0.5 miles out on our treeline, we have a road plowed to the south where we have a bridge on the east-

west crack that runs east off of Blackbird Island.

From there we plowed south to south of Asylum Bay where Otter Street Fishing Club has a bridge on the main crack out from Driftwood Avenue on the north side of Oshkosh.

Also at 0.5 miles out we have a road plowed to the north where we have a bridge just east of Haystack Reef on the large east-west crack that is north of our treeline. From there we have a plowed road that parallels the crack across the lake to Faro Springs Road on the east shore.

Don't forget to support your local fishing clubs and remember the ice is never 100% safe.

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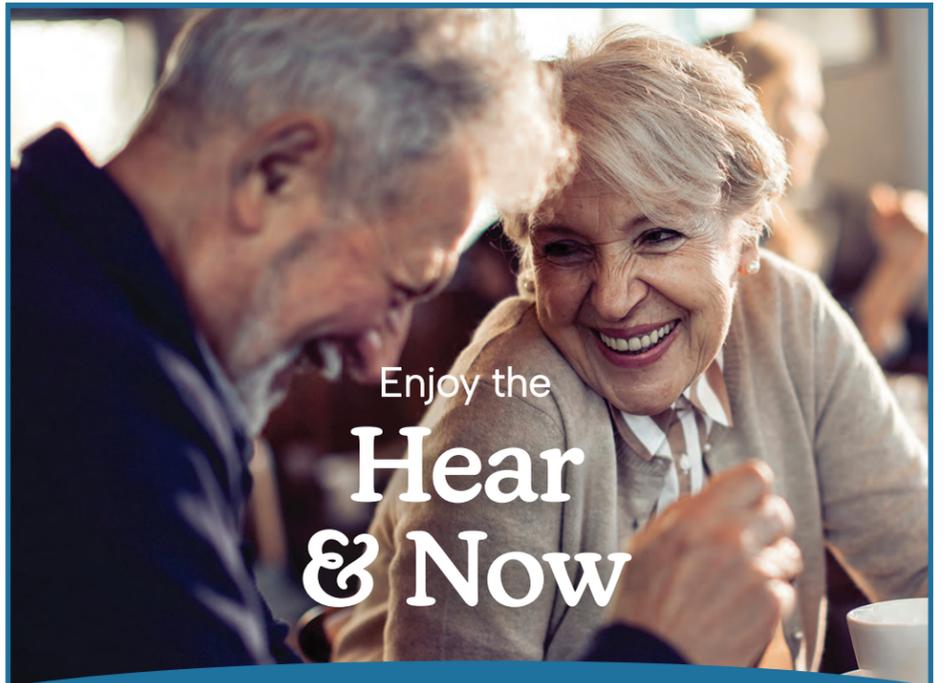


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Seven Rockets collect titles at FVA wrestling meet

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah senior Joelle Reay could only watch last year's Fox Valley Association wrestling meet because she was sidelined with an injury.

She was simply not going to be denied the chance to stand on top of the awards podium given the chance to get on the mats this time around.

"I just wanted it so bad. My senior year, it was really important to me to go out and lock it in," Reay said. "It gave me the chance to prove something."

Reay claimed the 114-pound title and was one of seven conference champions for the Rockets, who dominated the field en route to winning the programs second straight FVA title. Neenah is the only program to win a girls FVA crown.

The seven champions and 11 finalists overall helped the Rockets rack up 222 points on the day to easily outdistance runner-up Kimberly, which had 174 points. The Oshkosh North/West co-op was third with 106 points.

"We are starting to peak at the right



Neenah News

Amari Richard works to finish off a pin in the 132-pound title at the Fox Valley Association wrestling meet at Appleton North on Saturday.

time which is good for us and good to see," Neenah girls head coach Madison Ruckdashel said. "Our newer wrestlers are getting to stuff that we have practiced and I'm seeing them get so much better and so it's good to cap that off as a team now and be wrestling our best."

The Rockets earned titles in the lightest

three weight classes and five of the first six.

Maya Ives started the Neenah run at 100 pounds, pinning Madalyn Yang in 1:35 for the title.

Greenlee Ennis followed by winning the 107-pound title with a pair of pins, including a win over Kaylee Beck of Oshkosh in 3:40 in the final.

Then it was Reay's turn to take the mat at 114 pounds. After pinning each of her first two opponents in less than a minute, the senior stuck Oshkosh's Marissa Bustillos in 3:31 to earn her conference title.

"You always feed off of, not only the (girls wrestling) before you, but your teammates and the crowd," Reay said. "I feel like everyone is behind each other and building

on that energy is always nice."

Ruckdashel said the coaches also feed off of the support of the wrestlers when the team is on a roll.

"It's like one big family," Ruckdashel said. "The girls really feed off of each other's energy and are really rooting for each other and cheering for each other."

Kylee Kurszewski and Amari Richard then posted back-to-back titles at 126 pounds and 132 pounds respectively.

Kurszewski posted a pair of first-period pins en route to her title, wrestling just over two minutes combined on the day. She stopped Cambria Biesterveld in 1:30 in the final match.

Richard came in under two minutes for her two pins, stopping Oshkosh's Sarah Mrazek in 48 seconds in the semifinals and Annaleah Jacobson of Appleton West in 52 seconds in the championship bout.

"It's a little bit of pride (in winning a conference title) and shows how hard we have been working throughout the season," Richard said. "Everyone comes to this tournament and it's super cool to prove that we're the best in the area."

Janet Sorto had one of the more interesting title matches as she beat teammate Kylie Alexandroni for the 145-pound championship, 18-11.

Both wrestlers had pinned their first two opponents to reach the title match.

"It was pretty tough (wrestling a teammate) and I didn't want to be disrespectful," Sorto said. "It was sad that we had to



Neenah News

Maya Ives strains to close out the 100-pound title match with a pin on Saturday.

SEE **FVA girls** ON PAGE 12

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Koch, Sheppard spearhead Neenah boys

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

After Declan Koch finished off a 5-2 win over Kaukauna's Kolin DeGroot in the 165-pound boys final of the Fox Valley Association meet at Appleton North last Saturday, he unassumingly held up four fingers before his post-match handshake.

It wasn't a big demonstrative gesture or one that a lot of onlookers may have noticed. But it certainly did have meaning.

Koch became just the second wrestler in Neenah history to rack up four FVA titles in their career joining Tim McCarthy, who wrestled with the Rockets in the early 2000s.

"That was really special," Neenah head coach Kyle Kleuskens said. "I think the biggest thing this week was on the kids having individual aspirations and goals. We started this week going over the great history of this conference and the success of our former Neenah wrestlers. I really wanted them to be driven by having an individual goal."

It was just another honor for the decorated Koch, one he hopes is a stepping stone to bigger things yet to come.

"It wasn't a huge goal of mine but it is definitely good to get the fourth one," Koch said. "I didn't feel any pressure (going for a fourth title). I just went out there and wrestled."

Koch was one of two champions on the day for the Rockets, who finished third behind Kaukauna and Hortonville in the final team standings.

Landen Sheppard also earned a first-place finish for the Rockets, topping the 157-pound bracket.

"It's good to win (a conference championship) but don't get too high or don't get too low. Keep your head in the right spot is key," Sheppard said. "It is one of the stepping stones but the best things are ahead and it keeps getting better. We'll keep working toward those goals."

After receiving a bye in the quarterfinals, Sheppard breezed to a 15-0 technical fall win over Hortonville's Kyle Agnew in the semifinals.

In the title match, he scored a takedown late in the first period to take the lead against Kaukauna's Ryan Schmidt and then held on for a 3-2 win. Schmidt scored both of his points on escapes.

Koch also had a full six-minute match in his final after get a bye and a quick pin to reach the title bout. He scored an escape and a takedown in the second period and then picked up a stalling point in the third period for his total.

"He was being real defensive," Koch said. "I felt really good and he was wearing down at the end. I'm using my pace to my advantage and if I have to go extra minutes, I'll go extra minutes but I know I can do that."

Sheppard also said he would take a boost knowing he can compete hard for six minutes against a quality opponent.

"It's a good feeling to know you can go the six minutes hard," Sheppard said. "Keep wrestling smart and hard for the six minutes gives you confidence."

Neenah had a total of six wrestlers in championship matches on Saturday with four walking away with runner-up finishes.

Broden Butzke (113), Jaxon Ennis (132), Joaquin Quinonez (150) and Kaden Roth (190) each finished second in their respective brackets.

Roth finished with three pins on the day, all in the first period, en route to his finish, while Butzke also picked up a pin for his only win at the tournament.

Garrett Nedens (126) and Declan Ep-



Neenah News

Neenah's Landen Sheppard (top) works for control of Kaukauna's Kyle Schmidt in the 157-pound title match at the Fox Valley Association meet on Saturday.

ley (144) each added third places.

"We didn't focus a whole lot on the team score today," Kleuskens said. "We have a lot of wrestling left and I feel very confident in our team and what is to come for us. Now it's the postseason. We have to bring our best product to the mat any time we compete."

The Rockets will head to Green Bay Preble for its WIAA Division 1 individual sectional tournament on Saturday in new-look wrestling postseason.

Boys teams will no longer compete in a regional tournament but instead will head

straight to sectionals where the top two wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the state meet.

Six teams will also qualify out of the sectional meet and compete in a team sectional a week from Saturday for a chance to advance to the team state tournament. Neenah will host one of the team sectional meets.

"This week was really a set-up for (Saturday). It was kind of like a regional," Kleuskens said. "We put ourselves in a position to have success. We have to have a really good week next week."



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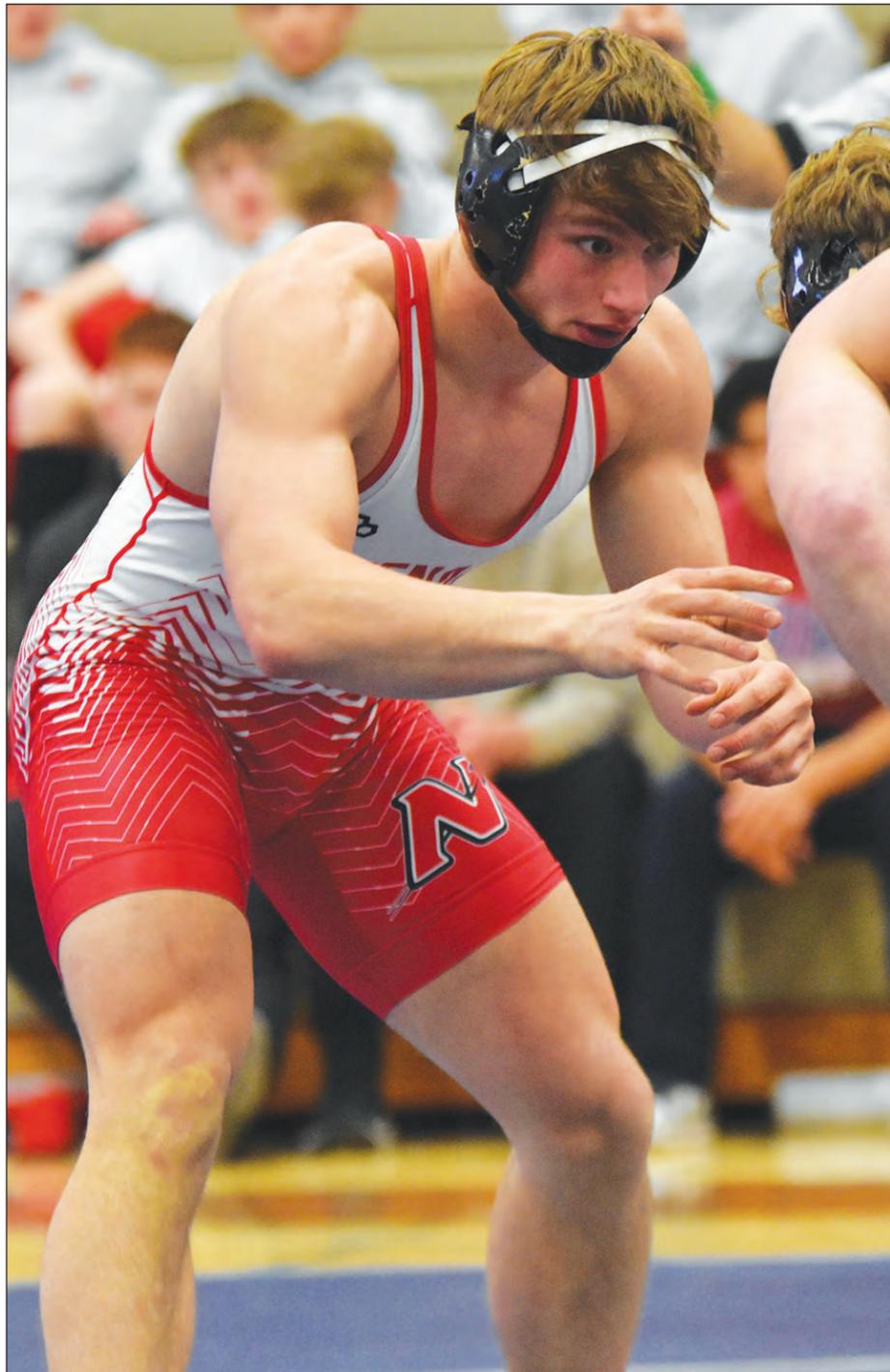




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Roth continues to improve, impress as Rocket wrestler



Neenah News

Senior Kaden Roth has reached sectionals the past two seasons and is hoping to earn his first trip to the WIAA state tournament later this month.

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Kaden Roth's first varsity wrestling match was one that he still remembers.

Neenah was opening up the season in a triangular meet at Hortonville and the Rockets drew Appleton West. Roth was slotted into the 165-pound match where he faced Terrors' senior Chris Meyer.

Neenah won the dual meet 78-6.

"I was the only guy who lost," said Roth, who was pinned in the last match of the dual. "It was intimidating at first. I was at 165 my freshman year and that's a lot of juniors and a lot of seniors and I was a freshman. But I was up for a challenge."

Roth has certainly rebounded from that debut.

The Neenah senior is a two-time sectional qualifier who recently surpassed the 100-career win milestone. He is 37-7 this season after posting 39 wins a year ago.

His goal this year, as the Rockets will head to the WIAA Division 1 sectional in Green Bay on Saturday, is to emerge from the sectional field this time around and get the chance to wrestle at the state tournament in Madison.

"I think about it all of the time," said Roth, who wrestles at 190 pounds. "From what I've heard, there is no experience like wrestling in the Kohl Center. It's a special place and I would love the opportunity to wrestle there."

Roth isn't a lifelong wrestler having not started with the sport until sixth grade. He played basketball before that but admittedly had some shortcomings on the court.

"I was a horrible shot," Roth said with a laugh. "I could play good defense."

Basketball's loss was certainly wrestling's gain as Roth found immediate enjoyment on the mat.

He wasn't opposed to the grueling nature of wrestling which helped him adjust to the sport.

"The lifting and conditioning wasn't a

Senior Standout



grind for me. It was what I loved to do and that gave me a good base to supplement my wrestling," Roth said. "I just had to improve my wrestling and not the physicality of it."

"I didn't take to it naturally and just fly from there but it wasn't crazy, frustrating for me and that made it easy for me to have fun with it."

Roth also had a smooth transition from the middle school mats to joining the Rockets' wrestling room.

Roth said he wrestled about half his matches his freshman year on the varsity level where he struggled to find victories. But the other half were at the junior varsity level, where he was able to dominate opponents and won a junior varsity state title that season.

"That really helped me. This was where it really started to come together," Roth said. "I would have those varsity matches where I got beat up and could take from that and learn and then I had the JV matches to beat up on guys."

Roth also found support within the Neenah wrestling room his freshman season.

He credits Nick Novak and Eric Schaufelberger as being two of the veterans on the squad that helped him survive the tumults of his freshman season.

"Wrestling with the older guys really helped me. They gave me an idea of what I have to look forward to and they were great role models in that way," Roth said. "I knew I had more to come and it was nice to have those guys to look up to and

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 11

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Prep sports roundup

SWIMMING

Neenah takes second at FVA meet

The Rockets racked up a wealth of top-five finishes and took second at the Fox Valley Association meet held last Saturday in Fond du Lac.

Neenah totaled 449 points in the meet to finish behind only Appleton North/East, which had 504 points. Oshkosh West was third with 383 points.

The Rockets had a pair of runner-up finishes on the day with Gideon Benner taking second in the 100-yard freestyle and Burke Wendell finishing second in the 100-yard breaststroke. Wendell added a third place in the 200-yard individual medley, while Benner was fourth in the 200-yard freestyle.

Neenah's best event was the 100-yard backstroke where the Rockets had three finishers in the top six. Ryker Zarda placed third in the race followed by Jack Kippa in fourth and Gage Jensen in sixth.

Two other individual top-five finishes for the Rockets were Phenix Yahr, who was fourth in diving, and Zarda, who placed fifth in the 50-yard freestyle.

Neenah added a pair of third-place finishes in the relays. Kippa, Wendell, Zarda and Gage Jensen teamed up to take third in the 200-yard medley relay, while the foursome of Benner, Jensen, Ben Munson and Josh Powell was third in the 400-yard

freestyle relay.

The Rockets were also fourth in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rockets tripped up by Patriots

Rowan Klesmit matched her season-high but Neenah fell to Appleton East last Friday night, 71-68, in a matchup of two of the top teams in the Fox Valley Association.

Klesmit, who is averaging nearly 21 points per game, hit four 3-pointers and finished with 34 points in the game. She also hit that total against Oshkosh North in December.

Ellie Buss added 18 points and knocked down three 3-pointers, while Sydney Michalkiewicz chipped in nine points for the Rockets.

The Rockets led 32-28 at halftime but surrendered 43 points in the second half.

St. Mary Catholic edged in overtime

The Zephyrs suffered just their second loss of the season, falling 78-73 in overtime against Laconia on Monday in a showdown between two teams who played at the state tournament last year.

St. Mary Catholic had a two-point half-time lead before the score was tied at 67 after regulation.

Brecken Britzke hit five 3-pointers and finished with 23 points to lead the Zephyrs, who had four players in double figures in the game. Gabby Guerrero added 18 points and Amelia Virlee chipped in 12 points. Piper Neubauer added 11 points and 11 rebounds in the game.

St. Mary Catholic's top two scorers on the season, Autumn Crowe and Luci Nacker, did not play in the game.

The Zephyrs picked up a 51-39 win over Mishicot last Thursday behind 18 points from Nackers and 13 from Guerrero. Virlee also reached double figures with 10 points.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Zephyrs erupt in rout of Mishicot

Four players finished in double figures as St. Mary Catholic topped the century mark for the second time this season in a 102-60 win over Mishicot last week.

The Zephyrs hit 14 3-pointers in the game and 10 of the 11 players who took the court in the game scored.

Luke Fairweather led the balanced attack with 19 points followed by Gavin Beck's total of 18 points, including a team-best four 3-pointers. Mason Uhlenbrauck and Dylan Brenn also reached double figures with 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Caleb Vogel added nine points off the bench with Tarver Trinkner and Max Vosters each scoring eight.

The Zephyrs also picked up a 74-55 win over Hilbert on Tuesday as five players scored in double figures in the win.

Uhlenbrauck hit four 3-pointers and finished with 16 points to lead the way for St. Mary Catholic. Trinkner and Vosters each scored 13 points, while Fairweather added 12 and Brenn chipped in 11.

It was the sixth straight win for St. Mary Catholic.

Neenah stretches winning streak to six

The Rockets pulled away in the second half to roll past Appleton East 78-56 last Friday to notch their sixth straight win.

Neenah held a four-point lead at intermission before outscoring the Patriots, 49-31, to collect the win.

Nick Schultz finished with 18 points and eight assists in the win, while Kolton Fleege and Jackson Rindt scored 14 and 12 points, respectively. Xavier Bezars chipped in 10 points off the bench for the

Rockets.

Neenah knocked down 12 3-pointers in the game, with Rindt leading the team with four.

BOYS HOCKEY

Rockets capture Badgerland tourney title

Mark Sutton registered a hat trick and also picked up an assist in Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha's 7-2 win over the Fox Cities Stars in the championship game of the Badgerland Conference on Saturday.

Sutton, Cartyr Simonson and Vinny Scholl each scored in the first period for the Rockets, while Zach Verhagen's goal in the second period gave the Rockets a 4-1 lead.

Sutton added two goals in the final period with Liam Kelley collecting the third goal of the period for Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha.

Simonson finished with three assists in the game to go along with his goal, while Scholl had two assists.

Matthew Nelson made 19 saves in the win.

The Rockets reached the title game with a 5-0 win over Waupun on Friday as Nelson earned the shutout with 13 saves.

Simonson had a pair of goals in the win, while Brady Rozmarynowski, Gus Weinholzer and Keegan Krueger also scored in the game. Scholl, Krueger and Drew Drach each had two assists in the game.

Reichenbacher leads Stars to final

St. Mary Catholic's Elliott Reichenbacher made 20 saves in a 3-2 win over St. Mary's Springs on Friday to boost the Fox Cities Stars into the final of the Badgerland Conference Tournament.

He also made 24 saves in the championship game as Fox Cities lost 7-2 to Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Drach, Marsh notch assists in win

Emmaree Drach and Ellery Marsh each registered assists for the Fox Cities Stars in a 4-1 win over the Warbirds co-op team last Friday in Oshkosh.

Marsh assisted on the Stars' third goal of the second period as Fox Cities took a 3-0 lead. Drach then had a helper on the first goal of the third period for the Stars.

Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 10

feed off of."

Having support in the practice room is a staple of the Neenah program and Roth appreciates the Rockets' tradition.

"It's an honor to wrestle for Neenah. The Neenah tradition is very important to me," Roth said. "Under Coach K (Kyle Kleuskens) there is no other team I would rather wrestle for."

Part of Neenah's tradition can be seen on one of the walls inside the practice room where previously state placewinners are recognized.

That's the legacy Roth is striving to leave.

"Once you place at state you get your picture on the wall and it's there forever," Roth said. "You look at those pictures every time you walk in and it's so motivating seeing that every day."

Roth knows it won't be an easy road to traverse but it is certainly within his reach.

"The conditioning is there. Building the conditioning during the season is huge," Roth said. "Right now, it's focusing in on the small details and seeing what you can hone in."

Whenever this season ends for Roth, it won't be the end of his competitive wrestling experience.

He has committed to attend UW-La Crosse next fall and join the Eagles' highly successful program. Roth knows it will be another step up in the level of competition but he believes that he has yet to reach his full potential on the mat.

"I know I still have things that I can improve and I haven't lived out my full wrestling potential yet," Roth said. "It's exciting to go to a program with similar values as Neenah to live that out and seek that full potential."

Roth, who is also an avid golfer and hopes to pursue CrossFit competitions in the future, is definitely looking forward to what lies ahead - both in the coming weeks and the next four years.

Mainly because, it means more wrestling.

"It's the greatest sport out there really. Just the competitive nature of it and how hard it is," Roth said. "There is no other sport that gives you this type of challenge physically, how it's six minutes giving it everything you got. It takes so many hours of preparation and hard work and it teaches you how to just grind for yourself. There is no other sport that's harder."

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Neenah News

Neenah's Kylee Kurszewski wraps up Kimberly's Cambria Biesterfeld in the girls 126-pound title match at the Fox Valley Association meet on Saturday.

FVA girls

FROM PAGE 8

wrestle in the finals but I also thought it was pretty fun that we got to face each other in the finals."

With teams being allowed to enter multiple wrestlers in a weight class to help fill out the brackets, there were a handful of matches that pitted two Neenah wrestlers against each other.

The Sorto-Alezandroni bout was the only all-Neenah match in a final.

"We just told them to go out there and wrestle like you were wrestling a match in the wrestling room," Ruckdashel said. "I don't know that we expected that matchup to happen. Kylie, a first-year wrestler, put on a performance here to get to the finals and to have two girls in the finals, we were just trying to celebrate wrestling on a good team."

The final Neenah champion came in the 235-pound division where the Rockets' Xiomara Liriano-Rueda won a wild match over Oshkosh's Madelyn Diehls with a pin with about 30 seconds left in the match.

Liriano-Rueda was nearly pinned in each

of the first two periods and trailed 16-7 going into the third period. But after Diehls chose to start in a neutral position in the third period, Liriano-Rueda – who had Diehls on her back twice in the second period – was able to notch the takedown and, this time, was able to finish off the win.

"She's got a lot of heart and a lot of drive and I think that showed in her performance today," Ruckdashel said. "Xiomara lost to both of those girls in her bracket earlier this year so I think it has shown just how much she has grown over the course of the season."

In addition to Alexandroni, Ava Armatti (138) Jenson Kurszewski (152) and Lluvia Carrillo (165) each finished second, while Rayleigh Peterson (126) placed third.

The strong showing up and down the Rockets' lineup should give the team a boost heading into WIAA regional competition tonight in Hortonville.

"A lot of these teams are in our regional and sectional so it just builds our confidence knowing that we are at the top of the podium," Richard said.

Added Reay: "It gives me a big confidence boost. Now that it's the postseason, I'm ready and I want it and just ready to go."

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The Winter Olympics are Here!

Replace the missing words.

LITTLE REPRESENT HELD PLACE FUN CREATION

People around the world will be watching athletes compete in the 2026 Winter Olympic Games! The Milano Cortina Winter Olympics are taking place in locations in northern Italy from February 6 through February 22.

Meet the Mascots

A design competition among students across Italy led to the creation of **Tina** and **Milo**, the official mascots of the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games in Milan and Cortina.

Tina is a white-coated stoat (a relative of the weasel). She will represent the Olympic Games. And **Milo** is a brown-coated stoat. He will represent the Paralympic Games, which will begin in March.

The **Flo** is a team of six snowdrop flower characters that will bring extra energy to the events.



For more fun and information, visit olympics.com



The Opening Ceremonies will take place in Milan, Italy. Can you circle it on this map?

Winter Olympic History

The first Winter Olympic Games were held in 1924. Circle every other letter to reveal where they took place.

A C T H R A Y M L O B N J I N
 X V F W R D A Q N L C H E
 C H



Pencillympics!

How fast can you "ski" your pencil through this mountain maze?

Symbol Search

Look for five symbols in today's newspaper. Show them to a friend to see if they can tell what the symbol represents.

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

What is a Mascot?

A mascot is an animal or symbol that represents your event or team. Your school probably has a mascot.

Hundreds of mascot ideas created by students were presented to the Olympic Committee. Drawings came from children across Italy. Animals, superheroes, and even mountain flowers were among the creative entries.

Imagine the Olympic Games are coming to where you live. What kind of mascot would you design? Draw your idea here:

Kid Scoop Together Pictograms

The Winter Olympics features pictograms (simple pictures) of each event. These are used on banners, signs and TV broadcasts. Do the math to label each of the pictograms below.

- 11 = SKI JUMPING
- 30 = LUGE
- 16 = CURLING
- 29 = SPEED SKATING
- 18 = BOBSLEIGH
- 17 = SNOWBOARD
- 22 = FIGURE SKATING
- 13 = ALPINE SKIING
- 12 = HOCKEY
- 15 = CROSS COUNTRY SKIING



7 + 7 + 3 =



9 + 8 + 5 =



7 + 4 + 4 =



4 + 5 + 3 =



7 + 3 + 1 =



6 + 6 + 6 =



11 + 11 + 7 =



6 + 3 + 4 =



6 + 5 + 5 =



10 + 10 + 10 =

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences to 30.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many snowflakes can you find?

Standards Link: Math: Recognize and continue patterns.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

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Write On! Sports Story

Write a sports story about something that happened in a game you played or watched.

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