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WMG begins new chapter of journalism

By Karen Schneider
FOUNDER AND PUBLISHER

When I started the Oshkosh Herald, the goal was simple: make sure our community had a strong, independent local newspaper focused on the people and stories that matter here.

Local journalism is essential to healthy communities. It helps residents understand what is happening in their neighborhoods, their schools, their local governments and their businesses. It celebrates the successes of our community and shines light on the challenges we face. An informed community is a stronger and

healthier community.

Over the past several years, that commitment to local journalism has grown. What began with the Oshkosh Herald expanded to include the Neenah News and the Winneconne News. Together, these newspapers now reach over 55,000 households each week across Win-



Schneider

nebago County.

Earlier this year we announced the cre-

ation of Winnebago Media Group, bringing our family of community newspapers together under one organization. That step helped strengthen our ability to serve multiple communities while maintaining the local identity of each publication.

Today, we are sharing the next step in continuing our mission.

Our newspapers are transitioning to a nonprofit structure.

Personally, this wasn't an easy decision. Some days it felt as if I would be giving away my first born. This decision was

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Submitted photo

Epic finish

Neenah's Special Olympics team ended its game last week against the Oshkosh West High School's Connected basketball team in what is described as an epic finish. The game was during a pep rally with the Oshkosh West student body in attendance. With just seconds remaining in a tie game, Neenah's Xavier Brezezinski launched a half-court heave in hopes of breaking the deadlock — and he did. Oshkosh West students then rushed the court to celebrate the players.

School board approves capital maintenance projects

Staffing reductions are also examined

By Eric Endres
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) Board of Education has approved a list of capital projects as shown on the 2026-27 budget framework.

During its March meeting, the board was also presented with a proposal to reduce the district's full-time equivalent

(FTE) staffing by 15.5, which board members are expected to vote on during the March 17 meeting.

The approved maintenance projects are expected to cost a combined total of \$2,975,000 and include district-wide energy efficient building controls, a roof replacement at the middle school, an air handler replacement at the middle school's Conant building, window replacement at Spring Road Elementary School, asbestos abatement at Taft Elementary School, districtwide door replacements and more.

With the authorization, the district will now be able to obtain competitive bids, sign contracts and secure start dates for summer projects.

Earlier in the meeting, the board was presented a 2026-27 staffing plan that proposed a total reduction in staffing of 15.5 FTE. The presentation broke down the numbers based on elementary school, middle school, high school, support staff, district level certified staff and administration staff. The presentation also indicated that attrition, retirements and turnover

were considered.

The following staffing reductions reflect some of the biggest changes proposed in the presentation.

Pending board approval, the removal of:

- Educational Access Coordinator (one position)
- Program Support Coordinator (one position)
- Director of Human Resources (one position - 2026-27)

SEE **School board** ON PAGE 7

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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.

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Corrections

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

About the newspaper

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

Neenah News is owned by Winnebago Media Group, Inc., 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.

Winnebago Media Group wins statewide awards

Neenah News

The Neenah News was recognized with a third-place award for General Excellence in its division in the Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA) Foundation's 2025 Better Newspaper Contest.

The General Excellence award was one of seven for the paper and 13 overall announced March 6 at the WNA annual convention in Madison for the Winnebago Media Group, which includes the Oshkosh Herald and Winneconne News.

Former Neenah News staff writer Bethanie Gengler won first place awards for Health Coverage and Feature Story (non-profile). Gengler also earned third place for Business Coverage, Feature Story (profile) and Reporting on Local Education, along with honorable mention for General News Story.

Oshkosh Herald staff writer Jonathan Richie won first place for Investigative Reporting, second place for Reporting on Local Education and third place for Ongo-

ing/Extended Coverage. The Herald also was recognized with third place awards for All-Around Newspaper Photography and Best Special Section (Advertising).

Former Winneconne News staff writer Anya Kelley received honorable mention recognition as Rookie Reporter of the Year.

The newspapers of the year were The Lakeland Times, Minocqua (weekly) and the Wisconsin State Journal, Madison (daily).

WMG change

FROM PAGE 1

made with one goal in mind: ensuring the long-term sustainability of independent local journalism in our communities. After all, local news is not just a business. It is a public service.

Across the country, many local newspapers have disappeared or been absorbed by large national chains. This year there have been several news stories of newspapers closing their doors and leaving a community basically in the dark. When that happens, communities lose something important – a trusted source of local information that reflects their own voices and stories.

More than 2,500 newspapers in the United States have closed in the past two decades, and many communities now find themselves living in “news deserts,” places with little or no reliable local news coverage. When that happens, civic engagement declines, misinformation spreads more easily and communities lose an important connection to one another.

I believe our communities deserve better.

By transitioning to a nonprofit model, we are creating a structure that allows these newspapers to be sustained by the communities they serve. It opens the door for partnerships with readers, businesses, foundations and community supporters who believe that strong local journalism benefits everyone.

Currently Oshkosh and Neenah are advertising supported newspapers and with increases in newsprint and postage, this model is just not sustainable for us or the businesses that support us and enable us

to carry on our mission of providing local news and information. The new model will essentially help us close that gap and remain viable.

While the ownership structure is changing, the mission remains exactly the same.

The Oshkosh Herald, Neenah News and Winneconne News will continue to focus on the people, decisions and events that shape our communities. Our team will continue covering local government meetings, schools, businesses, nonprofits and the many stories that make our communities unique.

In short, the work will continue just as it always has — with a deep commitment to local reporting and community engagement.

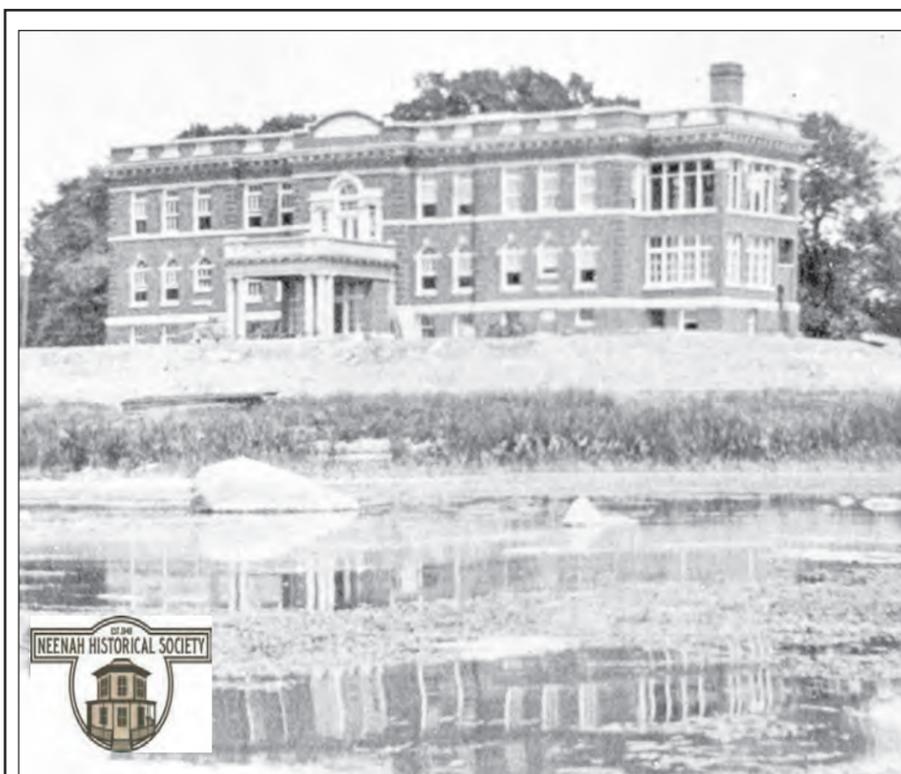
What changes is our ability to ensure that work continues for generations to come.

These newspapers have always belonged to the community in spirit. Today we are simply making that official.

I am deeply grateful to our readers, advertisers, contributors and supporters who have helped make this possible. Your belief in the importance of local journalism has allowed these newspapers to grow and thrive.

As we begin this new chapter, we invite the community to learn more about this effort and how you can help sustain independent local journalism. If you would like to support the mission of Winnebago Media Group, visit winnebagomediagroup.com to learn more about our nonprofit initiative and the many ways you can help ensure strong local news for our communities.

Together, we can make sure that the stories of Oshkosh, Neenah and Winneconne continue to be told for generations to come.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Theda Clark Hospital

This Theda Clark Hospital photograph is taken from across the river, but the water is low. Theda Clark Hospital is named in honor of Theda Clark Peters, who died in childbirth and left a sum of money for a community project.

Calendar of events

Friday, March 13

Neenah Middle School presents The SpongeBob Musical, 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Jubricosa presents Dare to Dream Jr., 7 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road

Saturday, March 14

Repair Cafe, 11:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Neenah Middle School presents The SpongeBob Musical, 1 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Jubricosa presents Dare to Dream Jr., 2 and 7 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road

Fox Valley Chorus Sweetie Pie Social, 2:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church

Comedy Night featuring Ben Warren, Dana Ehrmann and Trevor Clumpner, 7:30 p.m., The Ballroom at The Reserve

Sunday, March 15

Neenah Middle School presents The SpongeBob Musical, 1 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Wednesday, March 18

Heated Rivalry Trivia, 6:30 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing, Neenah

Thursday, March 19

The History of Sturgeon Spearing on Lake Winnebago presented by Michael O'Boyle, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, March 21

March Latin Social Dance, 7 p.m., Shattuck Middle School

Sunday, March 22

Photos with the Easter Bunny, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Neenah Community Band Spring Concert, 3 p.m., Neenah High School PAC

Monday, March 23

Outdoors with Rob Zimmer: Spring Migrations, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, March 24

Fox Valley Chorus Guest Night, 6:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Church St.



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Chorus hosts spring guest night in March

Neenah News

The Fox Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines International is inviting women of all ages to its spring Guest Night from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. March 24.

This event takes place at the group's rehearsal location: 200 S. Church St., Neenah. Guests are asked to use the Fellowship Hall entrance on Doty Avenue.

The chorus welcomes women to experience the joy of singing four-part a cappella harmony. Prior musical experience or ability to read music is not necessary. Any woman of average singing ability, with or without vocal training, will find a part that fits her voice range.

Though most members are from the Fox Valley and surrounding area, some travel or carpool a distance to join this chorus at its weekly Tuesday evening rehearsals. Members share performance opportunities, enjoyable social activities and an enlarged circle of friends.

The Fox Valley Chorus is one of nearly 500 choruses in Sweet Adelines International, which is one of the world's largest singing organizations for women. It encompasses nearly 23,000 members throughout the United States and 14 other Countries.

For more information, call 920-740-6551 or email foxvalleychorus@gmail.com.

Additional information is available at the group's website foxvalleychorus.org.

Volunteers to repair broken items during free event Saturday

Neenah News

Repair Cafe Fox Cities will host a Repair Cafe from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday in the Shattuck Room of the Neenah Public Library.

A Repair Cafe is an opportunity to bring in broken items for a volunteer fixer to attempt to repair for free. Volunteer fixers at this event will specialize in computers, phones, small appliances, electronics, sewing and mending, jewelry, watches and more.

A repair cafe is an opportunity to throw away less or to keep treasured heirlooms in working order.

While not all items can be repaired, the volunteer fixers will do their best. Attendees are asked to keep in mind that parts or batteries cannot be provided.



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

The Neenah High School robotics team earned top finishes at the state championships in Green Bay, including Neenah's first state title.

Robotics team wins state championship

Neenah News

The Neenah High School robotics team had their first-ever state championship team and three of the four teams in the state finals at the state championships last weekend in Green Bay.

The team of Jack DeMenter and Jack Henry won Neenah's first state title and also earned the Excellence Award and Ro-

bot Skills Champion Award. In the finals, they finished ahead of the Neenah team of Nolan Morrow, Elliot Seidling, Noah Sabatke, Graham Engelhart and Jason Harris and the Neenah team of Caleb Barczak, Nolan Manteufel, Joey Button, Joel Ostermeier and Vinny Wilson. All three of the Neenah state finalist teams qualified for the world competition.

Neenah had two other teams reach the semifinals. The team of Oliver and Sam Bontorno achieved a 9-1 overall record and won the Innovate Award, while the team of Brogan Hirschl, Ezra Saint and Matthew Soderberg went 9-1.

The team of Drew Sabatke, Emerson Pendorf, Ben Schoepke and Carter Langlais went 7-3.

Neenah Public Library opens newly dedicated community room

Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library has opened its newly dedicated community room, made possible through a donation from Roger and Nancy Orlady.

This contribution will create new opportunities for local organizations, clubs and residents to gather, learn and connect right in the heart of the community, said Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm, director of the Neenah Public Library.

The new Orlady Community Room is equipped with a hearing loop, screen and flexible seating to accommodate a wide variety of events, from workshops and

meetings to lectures and library programs. The space was designed to be inclusive and accessible, reflecting the Orlady's commitment to fostering community engagement in Neenah.

"We are deeply grateful to Nancy Orlady for her vision and generosity," said

Hardina-Wilhelm. "This new community room will serve as a vibrant hub for collaboration and lifelong learning."

Those who wish to use the second-floor Orlady Community Room can reserve it online at neenahlibrary.org/services/meeting-rooms or by calling 920-886-6315.

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RICHARD STRAUSS:
Four Last Songs

RICHARD STRAUSS:
Der Rosenkavalier, Suite

Theda Care clothing initiative focuses on patient comfort, dignity

ThedaCare

When patients are rushed to the hospital for trauma or an emergency, their clothing may be damaged as a result of procedures related to their medical care. And if no family or friends are available to help provide replacement clothing, patients may sometimes leave the hospital with simple, serviceable attire.

Team members at ThedaCare recognized this and used the opportunity to help enhance this aspect of patient care.

“Some of our patients didn’t have acceptable clothing to wear after discharge,” said Amy Mitchell, Care Management Social Work Lead at ThedaCare. “We saw an opportunity to help address that.”

Mitchell led the creation of ThedaCARES Clothing Closet. The initiative “aims to ensure that all patients have access to essential clothing items, promoting dignity and comfort as they leave our hospitals,” she said.

“This initiative helps us better ensure that people in our care do not need to worry about something as fundamental as having clean, appropriate clothing when they tran-

sition from one of our hospitals,” Mitchell said. “The Clothing Closet supports our commitment to holistic patient care. It helps address our patients’ social and emotional needs, supplementing the care provided to treat their medical issues.”

The ThedaCare Family of Foundations supported the launch of ThedaCARES Clothing Closet with a \$25,000 grant. The funding helped with start-up costs for necessities such as brand new clothing including several sizes of undergarments, shirts, pants, sweatshirts, jackets, socks, sneakers and boots, storage bins, and resealable plastic bags used to create clothing packages.

Access to the closet is generally initiated by team members.

“Our teams have been engaged and responsive in this,” Mitchell said. “They’re assessing each patient situation and offering potential assistance. For example, they may notice that a person has come to the emergency department for medical help in winter, clearly underdressed for the weather. When team members observe such a scenario, the hope is ... to see if we can assist them with appropriate clothing.”

Tools for caregivers offered at library

Neenah News

A Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursdays for six weeks, beginning on April 2 at the Neenah Public Library, 240 E. Wisconsin Ave.

The free workshop is designed to help caregivers meet their own needs while caring for a loved one.

This evidence-based workshop can help

caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, set goals and problem solve, make tough decisions, and communicate effectively with family, doctors and paid caregivers.

For registration and questions about the workshop, call or email Alisa Richetti at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Winnebago County at 920-236-1227 or arichetti@winnebagoountywi.gov.

Free Easter EGG-venture

SATURDAY, MARCH 21
10:30 AM

New Hope Ministries
1850 American Drive, Neenah

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Submitted photo

Families are invited to participate in upcoming seasonal activities in downtown Neenah, including a Spring Scavenger Hunt.

Spring is in the air in downtown Neenah

Seasonal events invite community to celebrate

By Becky LaDue
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Future Neenah is ready to welcome spring with family-friendly fun and exciting opportunities to support local businesses in Neenah’s vibrant downtown district.

From March 20 through April 3, families are invited to take part in a festive Spring Scavenger Hunt throughout downtown Neenah. Participants can search for Easter-decorated “Ns” hidden inside local businesses for a chance to win a cake from Dairy Queen.

This free activity offers the perfect way for families to enjoy spring break together while discovering all that downtown has to offer. Along the way, visitors are encouraged to stop in for coffee, enjoy a meal and explore the unique shops and welcoming businesses that make Downtown Neenah

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March 17

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a special destination. Adding to the seasonal excitement, downtown Neenah’s popular pedestrian alley — located next to the Future Neenah office at 135 W. Wisconsin Ave. — will soon unveil its spring transformation. The alley, which is refreshed quarterly, has become a beloved destination and photo backdrop for visitors.

The new spring installation will be revealed at the end of March and promises to capture the beauty and spirit of the season. Community members can follow Future Neenah on Facebook for updates and installation details.

The celebration continues on April 11 with Love Local Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m. The first 125 attendees will receive a free tote bag filled with coupons to downtown businesses, treats, surprises and possibly even a gift certificate — all designed to encourage visitors to shop and support local.

Shoppers can also take advantage of a special bonus opportunity: anyone who spends \$50 or more at downtown businesses can receive a \$10 Downtown Neenah gift certificate. Participants simply need to save their receipts and bring them to the Future Neenah office between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to claim their reward.

With festive activities, fresh seasonal décor and rewarding ways to shop local, event organizers say downtown Neenah is the place to be this spring.

For more information on these events and other upcoming activities, visit FutureNeenah.org or follow Future Neenah on Facebook.

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Rezoning approved for housing development

By Dave Gill
NEENAH NEWS

The Exchange housing development at the former Harn's Barn property on South Commercial Street in Neenah is another step closer to becoming reality.

The Neenah Common Council voted unanimously on March 4 to approve rezoning the property and the adjacent lots from single-family and general commercial to a Planned Development District.

Several Neenah residents during the public hearing before the vote expressed support for more affordable housing in the city.

There are a lot of people who are put into a state of hopelessness when it comes to finding affordable places to live, said Susan Garcia Franz from the Fox Cities Housing Coalition.

"Rents have gone up and up," Gracia Franz said. "Give people opportunities to get established and to live in our community and stay in our community."

If The Exchange becomes a reality, Garcia Franz told the board that the development "will be a shining star for Neenah."

The current proposal calls for the construction of a four-story, 32-unit apartment building with retail space facing

Commercial Street as well as a four-unit townhouse structure and a 14-unit stacked flats facility. Access to the property is planned to be from both Commercial Street and Peckham Street.

Key to the financing plan for the development is the approval of Low Income Housing Tax Credits from Wisconsin Housing Economic Development Association (WHEDA), which serve as a dollar-for-dollar reduction in federal income taxes for housing developers whose tenants have incomes at or below 60 percent of county's median income.

The decision on the tax credits is expected to be announced in May. Final construction is scheduled for summer 2028.

Eminent Development Corporation out of Madison and its president, Julian Walters, is leading the effort to establish

this new housing development.

"Thank you for approving the rezoning and prepping the site for redevelopment," Walters said after the vote. "The Neenah community has been very responsive, and we promise to give it our best effort" to make this a reality.

Walters previously stated once the project is completed, ACC Management Group Inc. out of Oshkosh will serve as the property management firm.

The proposed upcoming timeline for The Exchange mixed use development is:

- March 2026 – Final application
- March 2026 – Property rezoning
- May 2026 – Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) award announcements
- Spring 2027 – Financial closing
- Spring 2027 – Site plan
- Summer 2028 – Construction completed

Officer shoots dog at Fox Crossing park

Neenah News

An incident Saturday at Fritsch Park led to a Fox Crossing police officer shooting a dog during an altercation.

The department reported that at 11:30 a.m. officers were dispatched to Fritsch Park for a dog at large. The dog had been involved in a documented history of incidents for being aggressive.

According to police, an officer was going to catch the dog with a pole and leash. However, the officer allegedly saw the dog at large attacking another dog while that dog's owner attempted to separate the two dogs.

"In an effort to immediately stop the attack and protect the safety of those involved, the officer discharged their service firearm, striking the dog," Fox Crossing Police said in a press release. "The owners arrived minutes later and provided transportation to a medical facility for treatment."

Fox Crossing Police did not provide additional information regarding the investigation.

The department's weekly crime blotter gives a little bit more detail, which is that the dog at large allegedly attacked a man, woman and their two dogs at the park before the officer intervened. The blotter states one of the victim dogs sustained a bite injury.

It remains unclear if the officer's name will be released to the public. Some departments do not release the name of an officer when they discharge their firearm citing the victim's right law, Marsy's Law.

"The Fox Crossing Police Department would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of properly securing pets and ensuring they are under control at all times, particularly in public spaces, to help prevent unfortunate situations like this from occurring," the statement from police said.

Neenah early in-person voting starts March 24

Neenah News

Early voting for the spring election starts March 24.

In the City of Neenah, early voting takes place at City Hall, Clerk's Office, 211 Walnut St. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Simplicity Credit Union plans renovation project

Neenah News

Simplicity Credit Union has selected Keller, Inc. as its design-build partner for a 2,937 sq. ft. interior and exterior renovation at its Neenah location at 219 W. Cecil St.

The project will be completed in three phases, allowing the credit union to remain open and fully operational throughout construction.

The renovation of the Simplicity Credit Union Neenah facility will introduce new

technology to enhance the member experience and align the facility with Simplicity's updated branding standards.

Due to the site's limited space, Keller said careful coordination will be essential. Keller's team plans to work closely with the team at Simplicity Credit Union, subcontractors and project partners to maintain efficient communication and ensure a smooth construction process from start to finish.



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Neenah area candidates running for county board seats

Neenah News

Voters will go to the polls April 7 to select their Winnebago County Board supervisors for the next two years. The Neenah News' coverage area includes Districts 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 27, 28, 29 and 30.

Candidates are running unopposed in five districts. In District 7, incumbent Kate Hancock-Cooke is running again while in District 8 incumbent supervisor Jim Wise is also running unopposed. In District 9, incumbent Donald Nussbaum decided not to run again, and Devin Moonin is running for the seat unchallenged. In District 28, incumbent Robert Gustafson is seeking re-election and is running unopposed. He was appointed to the board in October after his son, Nate Gustafson, resigned his seat and moved out of the district. After 24 years, incumbent Chuck Farrey decided not to run for re-election in District 30. Matthew Woods is running for the seat unopposed.

Here is a look at the contested races. The Neenah News sent surveys to all candidates in those races.

District 5

Name: Rich Bodenhausen

Age: 51

Occupation: Manufacturing supervisor

Education background: Associate's degree in management development from Fox Valley Technical College

Previous experience in elected office: This is my first public election run. In the past I have held both Second Vice Commander and Adjutant positions for the American Legion in Neenah.

Why are you running for a seat on the county board? Last year, the county board released a proposed budget to justify a county sales tax. This made me question the financial responsibility that the board is taking with our tax money. Having sat in on several board meetings I see many of the seats making arguments like "The proposal has already passed through committee twice ... it deserves to pass." I do not believe these types of arguments serve our citizens well nor do they protect the money we have entrusted to them.

What do you see as the most important issue facing Winnebago County? I can't narrow this down to just one. Bringing responsibility to our budget is critical while balancing the estimated \$350 million in municipal building repairs and replacements that are needed. Working to bringing an end to the Highway 41 Drug and Human Trafficking Corridor is critical to the safety and prosperity of our county.

Name: Shiloh Ramos

Age: 53

Occupation: Family doctor who worked at the Appleton VA Clinic caring for veterans in primary care for over 21 years prior to federal retirement, including 12 years as the associate chief of staff for

the Northeastern Wisconsin VA Clinics. Medical instructor for medical students at the Medical College of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Education background: Medical degree from UW-Madison; bachelor's in bacteriology from the UW-Madison

Previous experience in elected office: Winnebago County Board Supervisor for District 5 for 16 years from 2006 to 2022; Winnebago County Board Chairman for four years from 2018 to 2022; alderperson for the City of Neenah for six years from 2010 to 2016, including two years as the Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee; and alderperson for the City of Appleton for two years from 2003 to 2005, including serving as the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee

Why are you running for the county board? I have always believed it is important to do what you can to serve your community. Up until four years ago, I served in local government for 18 years, 16 of which included service on the County Board. I decided to not seek re-election as my sons were entering adulthood and both my wife and I were considering work transitions. I have certainly missed working with county staff and residents. Now that my sons are better established with their career paths and have relocated and I have transitioned to a part-time position, I feel that it is a great time to hopefully get back involved.

What do you see as the most important issue facing Winnebago County? The most important issues facing the county are affordability issues for the residents, budget challenges and taxes, and ensuring open and efficient government. Costs of housing, utilities and daily essentials continue to rise, and we need to do whatever we can to assist residents with these areas. Likewise, the county budget continues to be tight, and we need to prioritize essential services and quality of life improvements along with sound fiscal practice. To this end, I oppose a county sales tax. Additionally, it is critical that county government remain open, transparent and accessible to the public.

District 6

Name: Brandon Ramus

Age: 30

Occupation: Field inspector

Education background: Associate's degree in business and management.

Previous experience in elected office: None

Why are you running for a seat on the county board? I'm running for Winnebago County Board Supervisor in District 6 to bring common sense back to county government. I'll focus on lowering taxes through smarter, more efficient spending and promoting small business growth to create jobs and strengthen our local economy in Neenah. As a husband, father of three and recent resident, I'm committed to practical, resident-first decisions.

What do you see as the most important issue facing Winnebago County?

The most important issue facing Winnebago County today is the persistent structural budget deficit and related fiscal pressures. The 2026 budget addressed a roughly \$7-8 million shortfall (reduced from prior years) while dealing with over \$67 million in deferred infrastructure maintenance, rising costs from labor, tariffs and services, and potential federal funding cuts looming in 2027. This drives ongoing debates over property taxes, rejected sales tax proposals, and the need for efficient spending to avoid burdening residents further. It interconnects with housing shortages, labor issues and economic growth challenges. As a candidate emphasizing common sense, I'd prioritize cutting waste, responsible budgeting and expanding the tax base through small business support to ease these long-term strains.

Name: Lucas Reinke

Age: 40

Occupation: Purchasing/inventory control

Education background: Some college

Previous experience in elected office: Two years on the county board, first elected to current seat in 2024.

Why are you running for a seat on the county board? I'm passionate about government, and local government still works. Beyond that, I've enjoyed my first two years on the board and learned a lot from the experience, but there is still much more I want to do like expanding access county services and updating our facilities.

What do you see as the most important issue facing Winnebago County? For our constituents, I think it is the rising cost of living. For the county itself, we have a lot of aging infrastructure that needs to be phased out or replaced, and we need to find a way to do that without asking our taxpayers to pay a massive bill to do it.

District 10

Name: Timothy (Tim) Jacobson

Age: 47

Occupation: General assembler at Oshkosh Defense

Education background: Currently pursuing my bachelor's degree in business administration from UW-Milwaukee.

Previous experience in elected office: Been elected to three terms as union chief steward with the UAW by my peers.

Why are you running for a seat on the county board? I'm running for a seat on the county board to be a voice for the residents of District 10. We were left behind for the last two or three terms and I want to change that. I want keep Winnebago County as an affordable, friendly, safe place, to live, work, play and raise a family.

What do you see as the most important issue facing Winnebago County? The biggest issues facing the county are housing costs and need for more housing, keeping our natural resources safe and clean and enjoyable for everyone, a balanced budget and no new county sales tax.

Name: Chris Rosenow

Age: 66

Occupation: Medically retired industrial electrician and instrumentation technician.

Education background: Associate's degree, Wisconsin licensed electrical journeyman.

Previous experience in elected office: I have always had an interest in

politics, but this is my first time running for a political office.

Why are you running for a seat on the county board? I was asked by several people to run for this position, and I agreed. My main reasons are fiscal responsibility and to oppose the implementation of a county sales tax.

What do you see as the most important issue facing Winnebago County? Fiscal responsibility, wise use of our hard-earned tax dollars.

District 27

Name: Carl Schulze

Age: 45

Occupation: Disability advocate

Education background: Associate's degree

Previous experience in elected office: None

Why are you running for a seat on the county board? Over the past few years, I have become very educated and involved with state government to advance disability issues in Wisconsin. That experience motivated me to become more involved in local government. I view the county board as a great place to work with the ADRC, board of health, Citizen Review Work Group and several other committees to improve services for community members

What do you see as the most important issue facing Winnebago County? Winnebago County's top issue is the affordable housing crisis, fueling homelessness, labor shortages and high living costs. Several measures have recently been put in place like the HELP program expansion and the \$4.5M revolving loan fund for developer gap financing, targeting 10,000 new units over 10 years, but more needs to be done. Two suggestions would be quickly administering the revolving loan fund via nonprofit partners, lowering early development costs and accelerating projects. Secondly, streamline the zoning/permitting with cities and developers to cut barriers and enable denser, mixed-use housing.

Incumbent Morris Cox did not return his survey.

District 29

Name: George Bureau

Age: 67

Occupation: Consultant for high-performing organizations

Education background: MBA from York College of Pennsylvania, bachelor's degree from Penn State University

Previous experience in elected office: Incumbent in District 29. Appointed in 2023; re-elected to two-year term in 2024. Served on Personnel and Finance Committee since 2025.

Why are you running for a seat on the county board? To ensure the rights of District 29 In Winnebago County overall are fairly represented and to ensure that county government does not overtax its citizens while providing needed services.

What do you see as the most important issue facing Winnebago County? The biggest challenge facing Winnebago County is to provide needed services while rebuilding aging county infrastructure while keeping taxes in check. County supervisors, like myself, with a deep understanding of finances and how to balance multiple priorities is very important.

Challenger Benjamin Frank did not return his survey.



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Funding sought to design larger county highway building

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County is seeking nearly \$2.6 million in Spirit Funds to design an expanded highway department and move the county facilities department to the same complex.

Mike Elder, director of the county's facilities and property management, recently made a presentation to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors about plans to update the county's highway facility and move its facilities department to the site on County Road Y.

The first step is getting a design of newly combined facility, which would cost an estimated \$2,568,384. County Executive Gordon Hintz said after the county appropriated funds from the Spirit Fund for the county's new Revolving Loan Fund that the board decided to make one-off decisions going forward about the use of

Highway reconstruction project starts Monday

Neenah News

Winnebago County is nearing completion of Stage 1 of the County Highway P Reconstruction project in Fox Crossing.

Stage 2, which consists of reconstruction of County Highway P from Midway Road to approximately 400 feet east of Palisades Lane, is anticipated to begin Monday.

One lane of northbound/eastbound traffic is anticipated to remain open in the work zone.

The road is expected to be wider and will have accommodations for bicycle traffic and sidewalks for pedestrians. Stage 2 is anticipated to be completed in July.

funds.

The expanded highway facility with the addition of the facilities department would better suit the needs of the county, Elder said. The total cost of the project is an estimated \$32,104,800, with \$17,065,000 for expanding the highway department and \$15,039,800 for moving the facilities department. The facilities department is currently located in downtown Oshkosh.

In 2024 and 2025, Elder said a facility condition assessment and space needs assessment were conducted on the building and determined the highway facility was in good condition overall but that more space was needed.

"The highway building is a good building to put an investment in and it will serve the county well for the next 50 years," he said. "The space needs there are pressing. The maintenance bays, for example, are too small for today's larger vehicles."

Besides not having enough room for its vehicles, Elder said the highway building needs a larger conference room, the truck wash is poorly located and the salt shed is

not large enough.

"We have to park some of our vehicles at the covered arena at the fairgrounds," Elder said. "Without having enough room, there are consequences including safety risks, equipment risks and operational delays."

Relocating the facilities department to a larger highway department complex will also create efficiencies since it will be closer to several county facilities, including county offices in Neenah.

Supervisor Ralph Harrison said it was time the county increased the size of its

highway building to better house its vehicles.

"You need to go there and look at it," said Harrison, who is on the Highway Committee. "Vehicles change and what (Elder) is saying on how they are parked in there tightly is true."

The ARPA Strategy & Outcomes Commission approved using Spirit Funds for the design project on Tuesday, so the county board is expected to vote on setting aside the funds at its next meeting on March 17.

School board

FROM PAGE 1

• Director of Student Growth and Support Programs (one position - 2027-28)

Handled via administrative action, the removal of:

• Supervisor of Operations (one position)

• Special Education Assistants (eight positions)

The proposal referenced declining en-

rollment (reducing state aid), rising costs (salaries, benefits, insurance and utilities) and state budget constraints as the primary drivers for these staffing adjustments. The presentation said these reductions will result in a total savings of \$1,322,960.

The staffing presentation, including charts with breakdowns of the numbers at all levels, is available for the public to access as a link in the agenda for the March 3 meeting on the NJSD Board of Education website.

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Zephyrs earn return to state in overtime thriller

By Joe Matzek
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Brecken Britzke seized the moment in her short time on the court last Saturday.

With the game tied late in overtime, Britzke flashed to the basket, took a pass from Gabby Guerrero and scored the go-ahead basket to push St. Mary Catholic back to the state tournament with a 58-56 victory over Kewaunee at Brillion in a WIAA Division 4 sectional final.

Britzke didn't play in the game until the final two minutes of regulation after Bit-sy McCauley fouled out, and she didn't re-enter until the possession in which she saw an opening near the basket and attacked.

"I just saw that no one was really down at the blocks and I was like, why not?" Britzke said.

Guerrero had the ball on top and saw Britzke's defender step towards her, allowing her to pass to her fellow sophomore.

"We were swinging and reversing the ball, and their defense was really out of place," Guerrero said. "Her defender came up to me, and I saw (Britzke) cut through. She has a really good basketball IQ to see

that kind of stuff."

After Autumn Crowe kept the Zephyrs in the game in the second half, scoring 17 of their 22 points, two reserves put in SMC's two baskets in overtime.

Amelia Virlee put back a Crowe miss to tie the game with just under two minutes left in overtime. Following a Kewaunee turnover, Virlee missed a shot in the paint, but Crowe dove to tip the loose ball to a teammate, leading to Britzke's basket with 13 seconds left.

The Storm turned the ball over and Crowe hit two free throws to clinch the victory before Kewaunee scored at the buzzer.

"We all knew that it was a long game, so anything can happen," Crowe said. "We just had to stay strong."

The win was improbable because the Zephyrs never led in the second half, falling behind 39-32 before Crowe took control of the offense. The junior made two free throws, scored inside and hit a three-pointer to tie the game.

Crowe scored the Zephyrs' first 13 points of the second half and finished with a game-high 24 points and eight rebounds.

"Autumn is a fantastic scorer and she's a fantastic leader," Guerrero said. "I think we saw her heating up and we thought, 'OK, let's get the ball to Autumn. She's on a roll right now.' I think her defender wasn't keeping up with her, and that was our way of funneling it to her."

Another reason the Zephyrs bucked the odds to win was that they kept facing obstacles, some of their doing and some that the Storm forced.

SMC faced foul trouble throughout the game, missed several shots near the rim, and couldn't generate fast-break opportunities because Kewaunee handled its press with confident passes across the timeline, though coach Jeff Chew pointed out that the Zephyrs got back into their half-court defense to prevent layups against them.

"Kewaunee did a great job breaking our press," Chew said. "They were maybe the best at breaking our press all season. We just had to keep playing full court because that's what we're used to playing."

But the Zephyrs made the plays they needed at crunch time. They scored the last six points of the second half on a basket by Luci Nackers and two free throws apiece by Guerrero and Crowe. They even had a chance to win after Crowe caused a turnover in the backcourt, but Guerrero missed a contested layup in the closing seconds.

The Zephyrs made just 20-of-55 shots from the floor for 36 percent and managed to force a halftime tie at 30-30 on the strength of their offensive rebounding, grabbing 20 boards overall to the Storm's 10.

Kewaunee finished 21-of-41 on field goals for 51 percent. The Storm was suc-



Photo by Joe Matzek

The St. Mary Catholic girls basketball team celebrates with the sectional championship plaque the team earned by beating Kewaunee last Saturday in Brillion.

cessful at spreading the court and keeping the lane open for players cutting off screens. SMC's half-court defense gradually improved in the second half, limiting some of the Storm's layups.

"I tried to get through the screens a little better (or) I tried to get over the top of the screens," Guerrero said. "Our help on the ball helped me recover. They did get a lot of (layups) but I think we adjusted and worked as a team a little more to stop those."

The Storm faltered at the free-throw line, making just 8-of-17, including crucial front ends of bonus opportunities late in the second half. SMC made 14-of-20 from the line, including 10-of-12 after halftime.

"One of our (mottos) is 'I believe, you believe' and we believed in ourselves," Guerrero said. "We knew that no matter how far we got down, we could come back. We really believed that we could take this game back and trust each other."

Guerrero scored 10 points and had three steals. McCauley scored nine points. Lucy Norville led SMC with nine rebounds and Nackers had four assists.

"Our whole team has been outstanding," Chew said. "I'm very impressed with the whole team. They practice hard, they put in their effort, they just stepped in and played."

SMC returned to state after claiming the Division 4 silver ball in 2025, falling 53-50 to Cuba City in the championship game.

The Zephyrs drew the second seed in the state tournament and faced third-seeded Albany/Monticello in the semifinals Thursday evening. The winner plays either top-seeded Neillsville or fourth-seeded Lomira in the title game late Saturday morning.

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No surprise new lineup has St. Mary Catholic back at Resch

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

St. Mary Catholic girls basketball coach Jeff Chew was looking at a very different group when the Zephyrs began practice in November.

Gone were four of the five starters from the team that was Division 4 state runner-ups a year ago, including three that spent the last four years playing at the varsity level.

Yet, the new-look roster didn't change the thoughts pounding through Chew's mind.

"My expectations don't really change every year. My expectations every year are to win conference and qualify for the state tournament," Chew said after a practice at Lawrence University's Alexander Gym earlier this week. "When we graduate some people, you just have to have someone else because the expectations are always high."

Those outside the Zephyrs' locker room may not have shared Chew's optimism but those inside that space were certainly jumping on board.

"Basically, we all saw potential," junior Autumn Crowe said. "Your dream is to make it to state every year, but you don't know if it will happen. With this group we have a whole new team basically and people didn't expect it of us, but we showed them we could do it which is pretty cool."

Despite the new-look squad, St. Mary Catholic earned its second straight WIAA State Tournament appearance where it faced Albany/Monticello in a Division 4 state semifinal game at the Resch Center on Thursday night. The title game will be played at around 1 p.m. on Saturday.



Neenah News

Junior Autumn Crowe is the lone returning starter from last year's state tournament team and has played a key role in this year's return to the Resch Center.

A year ago, the Zephyrs reached the Division 4 championship game where they came up short, 53-50, against Cuba City.

Crowe and junior Lucy Nackers were the only members of the current team that played in the state championship contest and both have taken on bigger roles this season with the team.

Crowe's output has skyrocketed this season and has been a dominant force on the court. She is averaging 22 points and nearly nine rebounds per game this season, while also leading the team in as-

Editor's note

Due to deadlines for the Neenah News, we were unable to provide coverage of St. Mary Catholic's state semifinal in this edition. We will have full coverage of the Zephyrs' state tournament appearance in next week's edition.

sists, steals and blocks.

But Crowe's contributions are more than just what is tallied on the stat sheet.

"Autumn is a fantastic player and vital to our program. She is also a fantastic leader and a friend to all of us," sophomore Gabby Guerrero said. "She is definitely the glue to this team."

Crowe has adapted to the new role and expectations and has been the driving force in the Zephyrs returning to state.

"Stepping into the role of being more of a leader this year is obviously a different position for me, but it's gone pretty good," Crowe said. "Playing with the seniors that graduated last year would help."

Crowe's impact also stretches beyond just what she shows in games.

"She leads in practice with the effort she shows," Chew said. "To put forth the effort in practice is a good example for other players on the team to follow, understanding that if she is going to play that hard in practice then we better practice the same way."

Nackers has also blossomed in a new role this season.

She averaged only three points per game last year coming off the bench a year ago, but is putting up more than 12 points per contest this season.

"The role definitely did change," Nackers said. "Last year I was more of a passer and defender and this year I'm trying to score. It took some time to get comfortable with it and get a new team to gel with it."

With the litany of new players in new roles – even as talented as the team was – it normally takes some time to get used to things and develop the chemistry needed

SEE **Back to state** ON PAGE 11

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Patience pays off in regional tournament win for Zephyrs

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Sometimes, the best defense is patience. Algoma spent the first half of last week's WIAA Division 4 regional semifinal burning up the nets inside McClone gymnasium and it seemed that there was little St. Mary Catholic could do to cool off the Wolves.

It's not the Zephyrs were lackadaisical on the defensive end, Algoma was just in one of those stretches.

"It was frustrating. It felt like we were a step slow in the first half, but they shot great. Give them credit," St. Mary Catholic head coach Paul Bradshaw said. "I honestly felt like they weren't going to keep shooting like that. The game has a way of evening out."

After making nine 3-pointers in the first 14 minutes of the game, the Wolves knocked down just two shots from behind the arc the rest of the way and the Zephyrs were able to turn things around to pull out a comfortable 75-60 win.

"We were playing good defense, getting a hand up, and every shot they took, they just made," sophomore Dylan Brenn said. "It was tough but in the second half we shut them down."

The second half turnaround by the Zephyrs was aided by a little surge at the end of the first half.

The Wolves led 40-34 with just more than two minutes left before intermission but wouldn't score the rest of the half. That opened the door for the Zephyrs who got two free throws from Mason

Uhlenbrauck, a basket from Luke Fairweather and then a 3-pointer from Brenn with three seconds left in the half to earn St. Mary Catholic a 41-40 lead.

"(Getting the lead) was big. That was a big momentum change for us," said Uhlenbrauck, who led the Zephyrs with 19 points. "Coming into the second half with a good mindset really helped us. The thought was that they can't do that two halves in a row so we had to keep up our energy."

Bradshaw also believed that taking the lead into halftime allowed the team to flourish after intermission.

"Being down as much as we were early, for us to climb back and then actually take the lead at halftime, emotionally it was great. Having that emotional boost was great because they played with confidence (to start the second half)," Bradshaw said. "We knew we wanted to get a stop (to open the second half) and then start attacking."

After trailing for all but three seconds of the first half, the Zephyrs didn't trail at all in the second.

St. Mary Catholic opened the half with a 10-2 run – behind five points apiece from Breen and Tarver Trinkner – and then later hit the Wolves with an 11-2 outburst that earned the Zephyrs a 62-48 lead with just under nine minutes remaining.

Brenn added a basket in the run en route to finishing with 17 points but it was on the defensive side where the sopho-



St. Mary Catholic's Mason Uhlenbrauck goes up for a basket against a pair of Algoma defenders in a WIAA Division 4 regional semifinal last week.

SEE **Boys hoops** ON PAGE 11

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rockets rack up regional crown

Neenah knocked off top-seeded D.C. Everest, 66-52, last Saturday night to claim a WIAA Division 1 regional title.

The Rockets held the Evergreens to just 23 points in the second half after taking a three-point lead at intermission.

Kolton Fleege and Xavier Bezares each scored 19 points to lead the way for the Rockets. Bezares was 5-for-8 from 3-point range in the game, while Fleege led the team with nine rebounds.

Jackson Rindt also reached double figures for the Rockets with 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

Neenah advanced to the regional final with a 72-65 win on the road at Hudson the night before.

Six players reached double figures in the win, while Neenah finished 25-of-31 from the free-throw line to help secure the victory.

Bezares led the Rockets with 14 points, including four 3-pointers, while Jacob Jungwirth, Trey White and Cal Juckem each finished with 11 points. Jackson Rindt and Matthias Charles each scored 10 points.

White led the way at the free-throw line for Neenah finishing 9-of-11, while Juckem hit all six of his free-throw attempts in the game,

Zephyrs tripped by top-seeded Storm

St. Mary Catholic saw its season end with a 71-60 loss to top-seeded Kewaunee in a WIAA Division 4 regional final last Saturday.

Luke Fairweather led three players in

double figures for the Zephyrs with 18 points. Mason Uhlenbrauck added 17 points, while Dylan Brenn finished with 16 points and eight rebounds.

Kewaunee finished 23-of-28 from the free-throw line in the game, while the Zephyrs were just 3-of-6.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

St. Mary Catholic defense stymies Stratford

The Zephyrs held Stratford to a season-low scoring output as they picked up a 52-21 win in a WIAA Division 4 sectional semifinal last week at Omro.

The Tigers shot 20 percent from the field (9-of-45) and were just 2-of-12 on 3-point attempts, while committing 17 turnovers in the game. Stratford scored just nine points in the second half.

Zephyrs' standout Autumn Crowe out-

scored Stratford by herself, finishing with 22 points, including three 3-pointers. She also held the team with eight rebounds.

Lucy Norville added seven points, while Bitsy McCauley and Luci Nackers each scored six.

Neenah ousted in sectional semifinal

The Rockets weren't able to keep pace with powerhouse Pewaukee in a WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal at Fond du Lac last week, falling 77-57 to end their season.

Rowan Klesmit had a big game in her final appearance for the Rockets. The senior knocked down four 3-pointers and finished with 29 points.

Sydney Michalkiewicz also reached double figures with 11 points, while Farrah Danforth chipped in nine points and nine rebounds.

Neenah alum nets GLIAC honor

Neenah News

Former Neenah High School standout Cal Klesmit was honored by the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Klesmit, a redshirt sophomore at Northern Michigan, was named to the all-GLIAC first team following an impressive season.

Klesmit averaged 12.3 points per game for the Wildcats and led the conference in 3-point shooting percentage, hitting a whopping 45.5 percent of his attempts from behind the arc in league play.

Klesmit also currently leads the team in assists (103) and ranks second in steals (28) on the season.

The Wildcats are currently 27-6 and will open NCAA Division II Tournament play on Saturday against Rockhurst in North Canton, Ohio.



Back to state

FROM PAGE 9

to have success.

This Zephyr group breezed right past that hurdle.

"Our team chemistry was really fast," said Guerrero, who is averaging 10.2 points per game in her first varsity season. "We had played with each other last year because JV practices with varsity so we were familiar with each other's playing styles so the chemistry came pretty easy. After a few practices really, we were hitting the flow of the way things should go."

Those who did see varsity time regularly last season – which includes juniors Bitsy McCauley and Lucy Norville – appreciate how quickly the new varsity faces blended with the veterans.

"It's great to see (the young players) come in and contribute," Nackers said. "It's great to have teammates we know we can rely on."

The team may have blended easily and come together well, but it still needed to perform on the court.

That was something, though, that really wasn't a question.

"I knew what we were capable of," Guerrero said. "I knew if we really put ourselves to the test, we could do it. I had faith all along but it's been really cool to see and be a part of."



Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic's Luke Fairweather drives to the basket in the first half of last week's WIAA Division 4 regional semifinal.

Boys hoops

FROM PAGE 10

more believes the team was able to create the cushion.

"Every time they came down, it was like let's end it here. We wanted to keep going and drive them into that tomb and I feel like that worked," said Brenn, who also led

the team with seven rebounds. "It's great my teammates and coaches trust me and with them trusting me and having confidence in my shot I feel like I can step up."

Fairweather, who finished with 11 points and nine assists, joined Uhlenbrauck and Brenn in double figures, while Max Vosters finished with eight points to give the Zephyrs another balanced stat sheet.

"The versatility our team has with everybody being a threat does make it tough on the other team," Uhlenbrauck said. "I do my best on offense but then facilitating for the rest of my team is a big key."

Obituaries

James Gregory Chock

James Gregory Chock, age 74, passed away peacefully at his home with family by his side on Tuesday March 10, 2026. Jim was born on April 24, 1951 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, son of the late Aloys and Catherine (Hogan) Chock. He graduated from Holdingford High School and then proudly went to serve in the United States Navy retiring after 20 years of service. He then was in sales for the next 20 years until retirement. Jim married Lois Ziegenhagen and they were married for 40 years until she passed away in 2019.

Jim is lovingly survived by his three daughters: Jennifer Chock, Jaime (Corey) Gordon, Katharine (Chase) Laffea; six grandchildren: David, William, Leilani, James, and Malia Laffea, and Bowen Gordon. He is further survived by two sisters:

Janice (Ray) Jaeger and Rose (Chester) Blaszczek; many in-laws from Lois' family and many nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to his wife Jim was preceded in death by his mother-in-law and father-in-law Robert (Rosemary) Ziegenhagen, a sister-in-law Jean Raatz and a former sister-in-law Bonnie Case.

The Funeral Mass will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday March 17, 2026 at St. Gabriel Catholic Church 900 Geiger St., Neenah with Fr. Brian Wideman officiating. Visitation will be held on Monday at the Kessler Fahrenkrug Funeral Home 304 S. Commercial St., Neenah from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with a vigil service at 6:30 p.m. Visitation will also be held at the church on Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. until the time of Mass. Jim will be laid to rest next to his beloved wife Lois in Peace Lutheran Cemetery in Oshkosh. A memorial is being established.



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Kid Scoop

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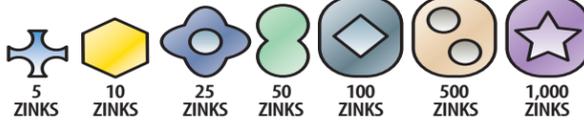
A VISIT TO PLANET MOOLAH

On the Planet Moolah, the money doesn't look like ours. But the inhabitants have their own money and they use it the same way we do to pay for stuff.



Zeekor and Stasko are traveling to the Supply Station to do some shopping. They'll need your help to figure out what things they can afford to buy. They'll also need your help counting out the money to pay.

Here is what money looks like on Planet Moolah. They don't have paper money. Instead, Moolahians use metal coins in different shapes. Below each coin, its value is shown.



PET PROJECT

Stasko gets paid 130 zinks each day for feeding her neighbor's pet, Fralpar. While she is carefully feeding Fralpar, can you circle some Planet Moolah coins that add up to 130 zinks? Have a family member check your math.

There's got to be easier ways to make money!



FANCY FOOTWORK

Zeekor and Stasko need new boots. Add up all the money they have saved and circle the two pairs of boots that cost exactly that much.

How many zinks will it cost to refuel Stasko and Zeekor's ship for the journey home? Add up the coins along the correct path. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

○ 120 ○ 105 ○ 145
○ 135 ○ 115 ○ 160

SNACK ATTACK

Zeekor is ready for a tasty snack. But he needs your help sorting his money before he decides which of these out-of-this-world Supply Station snacks to buy!

Draw a line from each snack in the vending machine to the circle that contains that exact amount of Planet Moolah coins needed to buy it.

Extra! Extra! Wants and Needs

Look through the newspaper to find examples of things people NEED to survive. Then find examples of things you WANT but don't need. Cut them out and glue them onto a poster showing Needs and Wants.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students understand basic economic concepts.

Kid Scoop Together: Shopping List

Zeekor made a list of things his mom asked him to buy. She gave him 1,000 zinks. Add up the cost of the items on the list. Then write a new list to spend as close to 1,000 zinks as possible without going over that amount.

- Communicator 450 zinks
- Helmet 220 zinks
- Socks 10 zinks per pair
- Power Cell 100 zinks
- Vision Shader 185 zinks

4 VISION SHADERS _____
8 POWER CELLS _____
1 COMMUNICATOR _____
10 SOCKS _____
2 HELMETS _____
TOTAL: _____

— VISION SHADERS _____
— POWER CELLS _____
— COMMUNICATOR _____
— SOCKS _____
— HELMETS _____
TOTAL: _____

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Stasko would love to buy a new Supernova Ultra ship. It costs 12,000 zinks. After giving the dealership 2,000 zinks, she has to pay it off in monthly payments.

- How much would she have to pay per month to completely pay for the ship in 50 months?
- Or, if Stasko gave the dealership 5,000 zinks for the first month's payment, and made payments of 500 zinks per month, how many months would it take to pay for the ship?

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

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