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City adjusts alcohol sales requirements

By Dave Gill
NEENAH NEWS

City of Neenah businesses that sell liquor and wine will no longer need to have a separate entrance and separate room for that purpose.

The Neenah Common Council voted 4-3 on March 4 to accept changes to an ordinance that required those restrictions. Two aldermen were absent.

The approved changes to the ordinance also restrict convenience stores to only Class A fermented malt beverage licenses,

according to City Clerk Char Nagel.

As an example, The Cheese Table at 125 W. Wisconsin Ave. will now be able to sell bottles of wine to pair with its cheeses even though it doesn't have a separate door or room for the sale of wine. However, for the time being wine will not be able to be consumed and paired with fine cheeses onsite as it has been since its opening. It is opting to sell wine by the bottle instead.

If in the future The Cheese Table wants to be able to serve wine onsite during its charcuterie classes as well as bottles of

wine to go, it would have to apply for a Reserve Class B license, which requires a one-time non-refundable \$10,000 deposit.

A Reserve Class B license is required because Neenah has reached its quota of licenses given its population.

"We want to extend our thanks to city hall and the common council for this change," cheesemonger Jonathan Jensen said. "The goal is to be a one-stop shop for

SEE **Alcohol sales** ON PAGE 6

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Soil health

Muddy Bottom Farmers helping county

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Staff cuts

School Board approves reductions

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Photo from Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department

Covered in snow

Blizzard Elsa covered area roadways, making travel nearly impossible and temporarily shutting down churches, schools and businesses. Many areas received more than a foot of snow – some places close to two feet – with windy conditions making the snowfall tough to clear. Crews from the Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department along with the village's street department were among those working to keep up with the heavy snowfall from Blizzard Elsa. Temperatures are expected to be in the 40's as spring begins today.

Neenah PE teacher in running for national award

By Eric Endres
NEENAH NEWS

"I want my students to know that movement can make life better."

This partly sums up Will Westphal's approach to teaching physical education to children at Neenah's Alliance Charter School and Taft Elementary School — an approach that has put him in the national spotlight.

Westphal's methods have earned him recognition as the Midwest Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year and placed him as a finalist for the National Elementary Physical Education Teacher of

the Year. The latter will be presented by the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) at a convention Saturday in Kansas City, Mo.

Westphal centers a lot of his teaching around the Meaningful Physical Education (MPE) framework. It's a philosophy that has existed for a while but, according to Westphal, has been the subject of a significant amount of research and write-ups over the last 10



Westphal

years.

This framework consists of six features: social interaction, challenge, fun, competence, personal relevance and delight/joy.

"If I can plan for social interaction, challenge, competence and the relevance well, then you have a chance at the kids getting the fun and the joy," Westphal said.

There's so much data about how people don't move around enough and about the benefits of exercise and physical movement, he said, but many people still don't do it. A fix for that, according to Westphal, is to turn toward the emotional aspect of movement rather than the logical side.

"If I can get you to have positive emotions towards movement, well, then you're probably going to make more time for that in your life," he said.

Westphal comes from a family of teachers and preachers, which served as some of his inspiration. Earlier in his career, he found enjoyment in helping others through coaching. After taking a class in human motor learning, which focused on how to help people move better, he conducted more research and realized that physical education was a place where he could be impactful

SEE **Teacher award** ON PAGE 7

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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.

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Residents' opinion sought for county planning survey

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County wants to know what residents think about its future.

The county is working with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission on a 20-year comprehensive plan, a long-term outline that guides how a community grows and develops.

To gather residents' opinions, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission put together a survey to help determine what issues are important to residents. The commission will then use it to help the county form an overall plan to guide where homes, businesses, roads and conservation areas are in Winnebago County.

The survey takes five to eight minutes to complete. The survey is located at survey-

monkey.com/r/YG8QT8S. The survey is open through March 31.

Winnebago County is required by the state to put together a plan every 10 years. The county began work on it last summer and two steering committee meetings were held in October and November.

Additional ad-hoc steering committee meetings will be held in April and May. The county's Planning and Zoning Committee will look at the plan in May or June and also hold a public hearing on the document.

The county board will hold a public hearing and adopt the final amended document over the summer. Once the board approves the plan, it goes to the Department of Administration in Madison for final approval.



Neenah Historical Society photo

The Old Post Office

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Calendar of events

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.

Wednesday, March 25

Mah Jongg Meet Up, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, March 26

Open Chess, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Ukulele Open Jam, 6 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Sunday, March 29

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

Monday, March 30

Spring Break Program – Anywhere Art, 10 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, March 31

Spring Break Program – Tinker Tuesday, 10 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Movie Talks: The Night of the Hunter, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

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Candidates discuss community issues during forum

Neenah News

Candidates in contested races for Neenah mayor, common council and school board answered questions last week during a League of Women Voters of Winnebago County forum ahead of the April 7 election.

During the March 12 event at Neenah City Hall, the candidates for mayor Brian Borchardt and Scott Becher talked about what experience they could bring to the job if elected.

Borchardt, who is currently the common council president, pointed to his three decades in public service. He also said his experience as a teacher has helped to show how to build relationships that matter.

Borchardt said he would work to support companies that bring good paying jobs to the community.

Becher, who was chief of staff from 1999-2009 for Appleton's state Rep. Steve Wiekert, said the mayor needs to be a cheerleader for the community. His focus would be on improving roads and city services.

Becher said Neenah is not as business friendly as it should be and more needs to be done to actively welcome businesses to the city.

The common council candidates in District One incumbent Cari Lendrum and challenger Brian Defferding were asked about similar issues to open the forum.

Defferding said projects such as redeveloping Arrowhead Park need to be stopped with a focus being on issues such as roads and public safety. Defferding said he is a big believer in the community and wants the city to focus on how it can better spend taxpayer money.

Lendrum said projects including remodeling Fire Station 31, adding a training center at the Neenah Police Station and shoreline restoration at Doty Park have helped to improve the community. She wants to keep the momentum that has been created going forward.

The four school board candidates Christian Blanton, Tom Hanby, Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski and Samuel Roth were asked about a variety of topics facing public education, including the impact on districts from school choice vouchers and the state budget.

In addition, they discussed whether artificial intelligence should be used as a teaching tool and whether police officers should be in schools.

Roth said AI should be reined in, but it's here and here to stay. AI should be done carefully to enhance student thinking but not be the thinker for students.

Blanton wouldn't want AI to be used unless it's for fact checking.

Heidke Kwiatkowski said the use of AI scares her, and students need to be taught how to responsibly gather data. She said the district needs to be aware that AI is there in order to better understand its impact.

Hanby doesn't believe artificial intelligence has a place in the school system. He said it's something the world is learning about but shouldn't be used as a teaching or learning model.

With a recent incident involving a perceived threat to Neenah Middle School, the candidates were asked whether police officers should be in schools on a regular basis.

Hanby said students would be better served by not having police in schools. As

a rule, he said officers should be involved if something at a school involves police matters but having them present doesn't typically provide a positive benefit.

Heidke Kwiatkowski said police have a hard job and her take away from the recent incident shows that people need to think about the effect of their own actions.

Blanton said she grew up in Chicago with security at schools, including metal detectors at the doors. Blanton added

Neenah is culturally drastically different, so she doesn't like having a police presence in schools.

Roth is not a fan of having police in schools. If a situation gets out of hand, then he said police should be called just like if something happens at home. He said police can respond quickly if needed.

For more information on what will be on the ballot and where to vote, go to myvote.wi.gov.



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

Voter registration

With the help of the League of Women Voters, the Neenah High School library hosted a voter registration event on March 11 for students and staff who are at least 18 years old and have a government-issued ID. Registration was available in the library all day and in the atrium during lunches.

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School board OKs staff cuts as result of enrollment, deficit

By Eric Endres
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District Board of Education at its meeting Tuesday approved staffing reductions amounting to 15.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions throughout the district.

The cuts were proposed in a 2026-27 staffing plan originally presented March 3 to save the district \$1,322,960. The adjustments affect staff at all levels — elementary school, middle school, high school, support staff, district level certified staff and administration staff. The original presentation noted that attrition, retirements and turnover were also used in coming up with the final numbers.

Several attendees at the meeting Tuesday made comments during the open

forum to voice their concerns, including how elementary school staff reductions could affect the class sizes and, in turn, the students' learning experiences.

When it came time to discuss the proposal and refresh attendees' memories of the presentation given at the March 3 meeting, the district's \$1.7 million deficit was noted as a reason for the need for these reductions. Superintendent Steve Harrison said the decisions were "challenging" and reiterated that the reductions are budget related and not related to anyone's performance.

The document containing the recommendations, which can be found in the March 17 agenda, listed the following as key adjustments:

Elementary reduction of sections re-

sulting in a net decrease of 5.0 FTE.

Director of human resources for the 2026-27 school year only.

District-level changes include the discontinuation of the educational access coordinator position and the program support coordinator position.

Administrative changes include the reduction of the director of student growth and support programs role for the 2027-2028 school year.

The previous presentation noted removing eight special education assistants via administrative action, a proposal that generated more discussion about the concerns regarding potentially affected students. Director of Special Education Valerie Hurm explained that methods of

being more efficient with the special education staff are being examined so that students don't lose individualized support.

Declining enrollment and decreases in funding from the state were said to be driving factors for the deficit and the need to reduce staff.

According to a Feb. 23 story by Wisconsin Public Radio, Wisconsin's K-12 public schools have gone 17 years without cost-of-living adjustments, and a promised increase for students with disabilities wound up being less than expected.

Board President Brian Epley encouraged attendees to contact the state Legislature to voice their concerns as well.

"These continual cuts are hurting public schools," he said.

GO Transit route expands to Neenah

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to seek funding for a new bus route to take Neenah bus riders to Oshkosh as part of an expansion of the GO Connect program.

The new routes, which begin running in April, include a \$3 ride from Oshkosh to an area in northern Oshkosh, which includes the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, jail and Sunnyview Expo Center, and a \$5 one-way ride from the Neenah Transit Center to Oshkosh GO Transit Center or vice-versa.

The rides will be provided by a third-party vendor, City Cab.

The service will operate from 6:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Riders need to call City Cab at 920-235-7001 by 4:30 p.m. the day before the desired travel to reserve their ride.

Winnebago County is applying for a \$15,000 grant from the AARP Community Challenge Grant Program, which provides funding opportunities to support community mobility, transportation access and livable community initiatives. The grant will offset the cost difference between what the client pays and the actual cost of the ride.

The pilot program will run through March 2027 when GO Transit will decide whether to continue it.

Hangar fees increased: After a lot of back and forth among board members and a decision by County Board Chair Tom Eagan to hold the vote, the board voted 24-7 with two abstainers to accept a plan to increase hangar fees and the fuel flowage rate at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.

Between the hangar fee and fuel flowage rate increases, the airport will raise an additional \$102,899 annually, with \$62,899 coming from the hangars and \$40,000 coming from fuel.

Supervisor death: Walt Ulbricht, supervisor for District 3 which covers Menasha, died Sunday. The board, led by County Executive Gordon Hintz, paid tribute to Ulbricht, who was a tireless supporter of the Barlow Planetarium at the former UW Fox Cities campus in Menasha.

The visitation for Ulbricht, 74, will be held from 11 to 11:45 a.m. on Saturday at Westgor Funeral Home, 1140 Appleton Road, Menasha. Words of remembrance will begin at 11:45 a.m.

Ulbricht was running against Tanya Keach in the April 7 election.

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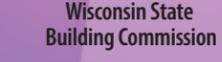
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Group supports farmers with focus on sustainability

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County farmers are taking a more active role in keeping their soil healthy and improving water quality.

Called the Muddy Bottom Farmers, the Winnebago County producer-led watershed group provides farmers with education and practical advice on ways to protect and improve soil health and water quality through farmer-led conservation. The group was created in 2023 and has about 32 members, although non-members can attend their events.

Through practices such as no-till farming, planting cover crops, using field borders, planting prairie grass and adding pollinators, farmers are taking steps to improve soil health and the water quality near their farms and in the county, said Isaac Whiting, watershed specialist with Winnebago County's Land & Water Conservation Department, which works with Muddy Bottom.

"It's about showing farmers that using these sustainable practices are just as viable or more viable than what they're doing right now," he said. "There are all different sizes and types of farms involved."

Jim Luedtke, president of Muddy Bottom Farmers, grows corn and soybeans and raises between 30 and 40 beef cattle at his farm north of Larsen. He helped organize Muddy Bottom Farmers after hearing about the success that other producer-led watershed groups had in other parts of the state in improving their soil health. Luedtke worked with Cedar Creek Farmers in Washington County to help get the organization up and running.

"They helped us get up to speed," Lu-



Submitted photo

Muddy Bottom Farmers holds field days such as one in June to provide farmers with education and practical advice on ways to protect and improve soil health and water quality.

edtke said. "We've been able to learn a lot from other organizations and what they've done and move us up that learning curve."

Muddy Bottom Farmers hosts two or three field days each year to highlight different practices, such as planting cover crops, and pop-up events they share on Facebook where they encourage oth-

er farmers to come to someone's field to watch a practice along with presentations and workshops.

There are 49 producer-led watershed groups across Wisconsin covering 1.7 million acres. Earlier this year, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), an-

nounced \$1 million in grants to the producer-led groups, including \$11,000 to Muddy Bottom Farmers, to support their practices. This is the third year in a row the Winnebago County organization has received state funding.

The funding is used to help support the field days or to encourage farmers for trying a new practice such as using the no till method on a portion of their field to demonstrate the outcomes are the same or even better than on the parts of the tilled fields.

"We're really trying to change habits and if a little money can help mitigate someone's risk in trying something, then that's something we'll try to encourage," Luedtke said.

Many Winnebago County farmers are curious about the different measures that Muddy Bottom Farmers have discussed, Luedtke said.

"A lot of it is financial reasons. If you adopt no till practices, that can save you time and money out in the field," he said. "There's also concern about chemical usage and some of these practices can help lower that while improving your overall soil health, which is also attractive to farmers."

Whiting said Muddy Bottom Farmers provides an ideal setting to share information with farmers about different practices and study results. The organization also occasionally teams up with nearby watershed groups for different workshops, such as an event earlier this month on a nitrogen optimization pilot program.

"You're bringing farmers together interested in a common topic and everyone can learn together at the same time," he said.

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Alcohol sales

FROM PAGE 1

charcuterie and wine pairings.”

Nagel emphasized that the change will also allow other businesses such as pharmacies, discount stores and specialty stores to sell liquor and wine in their original packaging for offsite consumption as well.

Alderman Cari Lendrum, who voted against the ordinance amendment at the

meeting, was concerned with the unintended consequences for the amendment that was eventually approved.

“This opens for other businesses to offer the sale of intoxicating liquor in open areas,” she said.

Walgreens could sell hard liquor, and that’s not an image Lendrum thought was appropriate for the city.

During the March 4 meeting, Lendrum stated that a good way to use those kinds of funds could be to donate it to downtown lighting projects.

As far as selling wine by the glass during charcuterie classes, Jensen said, “That is something we’d like to do in the future, but we’ll wait and see how that pans out.”

Now that The Cheese Table has the go-ahead to sell bottles of wine, Jensen said it will take some time to get that set up. He said he expects that to happen in late spring or early summer.

Local college graduates

A total of 2,151 students, including students from Neenah, received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Dec. 14.

Eric Blank, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Science, biology

Kyra Brown, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Science, psychology

Ava Dunsirn, College of Agricultural & Life Science, Bachelor of Science, nutritional sciences

Kelly Gieryn, School of Human Ecology, Bachelor of Science-consumer behavior and marketplace studies

Peyton Hanson, School of Human Ecology, Bachelor of Science-consumer behavior and marketplace studies

Adam Koellermeier, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, Bachelor of Science, biology

Adam Komblevicz, College of Engineering, Bachelor of Science-electrical engineering

Miles Kubicki, College of Engineering, Bachelor of Science-civil engineering, graduated with highest distinction

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FROM PAGE 1

and feel fulfilled.

Even so, it's not without its challenges — namely, consistently overcoming the perceptions of physical education. But he acknowledged that some negative perceptions come from people's experiences, and there's an opportunity to turn something negative into a positive.

Another challenge is "truly meeting every kid where they're at," Westphal said. He went on to give a hypothetical where he could have every child throwing the same ball for the same distance, which from the outside might look organized. But, Westphal added, for some of those kids the ball is too heavy, and for others the distance is too far.

"And now, because of those things, some kids are going to perceive themselves as

less-than, some of them are going to perceive themselves as bored," he said. "If you're not an aware enough teacher, I would be perceiving they don't know how to do it, when really it's, they aren't given the right tools to do it."

That's where the MPE framework Westphal aligns with can make a difference with his students, and it even relates to something he'd like to see more of in physical education or education in general, which is a deeper understanding of how students feel about the learning and whether they're connecting with it.

"People want the hard data, and the hard data is often fitness testing," Westphal said. "And the research on that is that, if you're going to do that, there's probably better ways to do it than how it's typically done so that it can be something more long term, more fulfilling, more student connected."

He later added, "The connection with

learning, I think, is something that could be emphasized in a greater way."

While the philosophy he's put into practice is integral to what kicked off his recent recognition and put him up for a national award this month, that was only one part of a long process that began with meeting one of the authors of the most recent MPE texts after Westphal presented on the topic a couple of years ago, which garnered him more attention for his teaching.

After that, at a state level first, it was a matter of getting recommendation letters and answering certain prompts. Then, there was becoming Teacher of the Year at the district level, and it continued with a rigorous process of evaluation that included recording a lesson and taking part in a virtual interview with a committee, among other steps, before finally receiving recognition at the national level as a finalist.

To Westphal, the recognition is mean-

ingful and validation that he's doing things the right way, and it's a reminder of how fortunate he's been to spend time around the right people, as well as having students who were on board with his teaching.

"Does it change who I am as a teacher? Not one bit," he said. "You still go back to it; you're still doing the best you can for kids and their futures."

As for what's on the horizon beyond Saturday's event, Westphal is currently a contributing author for an upcoming book about the MPE framework, with a release date that's yet to be determined.

Otherwise, he will continue to carry on with his teaching. He recounted a recent experience where a song the children loved started playing during class, prompting them to sing along at the top of their lungs. "To be around that level of just... uninhibited emotion and joy, that's something you come back to every day."



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New wall display showcases hospital's long history

Neenah News

A snapshot of ThedaCare's history is on display for all to see. It's located at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah where a recent ceremony was held to unveil the hospital's new history wall, celebrating the people and milestones that have shaped its legacy.

The wall features historic photographs, documents and memorabilia capturing pivotal moments in the evolution of ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah, from its 1909 founding by Theda Clark Peters' estate, to its recent \$100 million investment project to modernize its campus.

The history wall project, a series of elegant acrylic panels, was completed with support from donors and the ThedaCare Foundation-Neenah.

Clark Peters was a philanthropist. She was the daughter of Carrie Hubbard and Kimberly-Clark co-founder, Charles B. Clark.

She cared about the health and well-being of the community. When she saw people she cared about dying, in part, because of the lack of a local hospital, it galvanized her.

When Clark Peters became pregnant in 1903, she left private instructions to her brother, C.B. Clark Jr. The instructions stated that if she were to die in childbirth, a portion of her estate should be used to build a hospital and school of nursing to ensure others could receive the health care they needed.

Clark Peters died at age 32 from complications following the birth of her daughter, also named Theda.

True to her instructions, a hospital and school of nursing were built so others wouldn't suffer from a lack of local medical care.

In 1909, Theda Clark Memorial Hospital opened its doors with 25 patient beds, an operating room and a delivery room. The hospital fulfilled Theda Clark Peters' legacy of creating a better

life for the people of northeast and central Wisconsin and marked the beginning of ThedaCare's journey to provide compassionate health care services to the region.

"Theda Clark Peter's story resonates with people even today. She's proof that the selfless act of one person can inspire others to act for the good of all," said Barbara Beuscher, CFRE, Senior Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer, ThedaCare Family of Foundations. "Her legacy reminds us that we have the power to make a difference, to inspire others around us and to build something that lasts far beyond our own lifetime."

The ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah History Wall can be found in the hallway in front of the Women's Center.

Each history wall panel highlights a key moment in ThedaCare's history, blending archival images, compelling narratives and striking visual elements. The display is 45.5 feet wide and 8.6 feet tall.

The idea for the history wall followed the Inspired Past; Healthier Future Modernization project at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah, Die-drick said. That project, completed in 2024, continues to help ThedaCare transform health care for all those living in the region and allows the organization to strengthen its commitment to keeping care local in the Fox Cities.

"This history wall is more than a collection of dates and milestones," Die-drick said. "It's a nod to ThedaCare's history of working to provide the people in our communities the local access to high-quality health care services that they need and deserve."

The history wall is expected to grow, Beuscher said. New additions are likely to be added as ThedaCare achieves new milestones and advancements in the medical community occur.

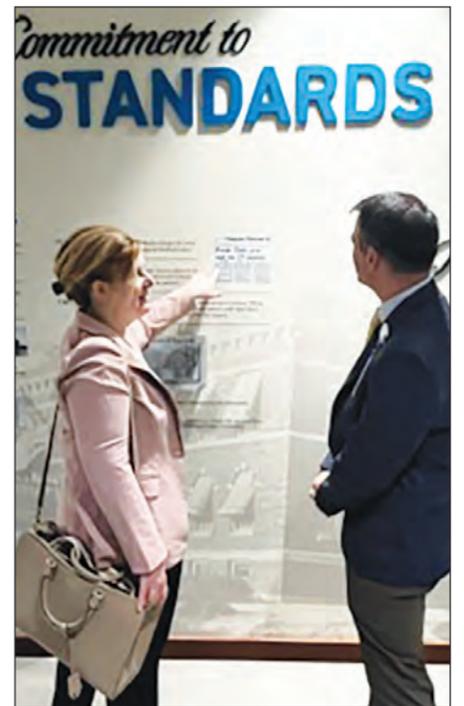
"We are proud to share this collection



Submitted photos

Above: A new history wall display at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah was unveiled during a recent ceremony that drew about 30 attendees.

At right: ThedaCare recently unveiled a history wall at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. The wall display celebrates the people and milestones that have shaped its more than 115-year history.



of historical highlights with our patients and their families, our team members, visitors and people in the surrounding community," Beuscher said. "Each milestone commemorated in the history wall is a living tribute to Theda Clark Peters' vision and generosity and serves as daily inspiration as we work to provide compassionate, accessible health care services to the people in and around northeast and central Wisconsin."

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Photo by David Hall

Community craftsmanship

Local volunteers donated their time and expert skills to breathe new life into broken household items Saturday during the Repair Cafe Fox Cities at the Neenah Public Library. Organizers said the goal is not only to fix items but also foster a culture of repair and sustainability across the area. The next Repair Cafe is set for 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 13 at the library.

Library offers mindful living course

Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library, in collaboration with Deb Skyrms, will offer a free five-week course on "Mindful Living."

Class participants will explore the many benefits of living mindfully – resulting in a less stressful life. Participants will learn how to meditate, manage emotions and challenge negative thoughts.

Throughout the class, the book "Slowing Down to the Speed of Life" by Richard Carlson and Joseph Bailey, rev. ed. 2009, will be used in discussions. Attendees will need to purchase a copy of the book prior

to the class. The book is available through online retailers.

The class will be taught by Skyrms, a licensed professional counselor. Skyrms was a mental health therapist for The-daCare and most recently an adjunct faculty member at Fox Valley Technical College teaching the class, "Living Mindfully."

The five-week class will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Mondays: April 13, April 20, April 27, May 4 and May 11 at the Neenah Public Library. The class is free. Registration is required. Register online at neenahlibrary.org or call 920-886-6300. Class size is limited.

Heid Music store donates to support local schools

Neenah News

More than \$33,000 in music instruments, equipment and educational resources will be awarded to school music programs this month as part of Big 10+, an annual initiative hosted by Heid Music in celebration of Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM).

Observed each March, Music In Our Schools Month is a national advocacy effort led for more than 40 years by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) to raise awareness about the importance of music education for every child and to reinforce that schools are where all students should have access to high-quality music programs.

Running March 1-31, Big 10+ invites students, educators, parents and community members to submit original, music-inspired photos that highlight the impact of their school music programs. Participants are encouraged to rally their communities to vote daily, with cumulative votes determining which programs receive first selection from the prize pool.

The Big 10+ prize pool includes a wide range of instruments, classroom equipment, accessories, printed materials and educational experiences, ensuring multiple schools benefit from the initiative.

As a company rooted in music educa-

tion since 1948, Heid Music believes music is an essential part of a well-rounded education, supporting academic achievement, attendance, social-emotional growth, creativity, and confidence. Music In Our Schools Month provides an important opportunity to spotlight the work of music educators and to remind families and community leaders that protecting and strengthening school music programs requires ongoing advocacy, especially in a state where arts funding remains critically low.

Participants are encouraged to share submissions on social media using #MusicInOurSchools and #Big10Plus, and to tag @HeidMusic to help amplify awareness and participation. Anyone may enter by submitting one photo per day, and voting is open daily through 11:59 p.m. CST March 31.

Full contest rules, prize details, photo submissions and voting information are available at HeidMusic.com/Big10Plus.



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Winter sports all-conference teams

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rockets' Klesmit named FVA Player of the Year

Neenah senior Rowan Klesmit capped her stellar career by being named the Player of the Year in the Fox Valley Association's all-conference team.

Klesmit was a unanimous first-team selection on the eight-player first team, earning top honors for the second straight season.

She averaged a team-leading 21.5 points per game for the Rockets this sea-

son, while shooting 38 percent from the 3-point line and 87 percent from the free-throw line. She also led the team in assists (73), steals (62) and was second on the team in rebounds (125).

The last Rocket to earn Player of the Year honors was Allie Ziebell following the 2023-24 season.

Klesmit was one of two Rockets to earn first-team honors as fellow senior Ellie Buss also landed a spot on the top squad.

Buss, who was a second-team honoree last season, averaged 12.4 points per game for Neenah while leading the team with 77 3-pointers made this season. She also

averaged 3.6 rebounds and 2.0 assists per game.

Neenah also had three players earn honorable mention honors in junior Celia Gentile, sophomore Sydney Michalkiewicz and freshman Kennedy Ebben.

Crowe garners Player of the Year honors

St. Mary Catholic junior Autumn Crowe was named Player of the Year in the Big East North.

Crowe, who led the Zephyrs to an undefeated conference season and a return to the WIAA Division 4 state tournament, was one of four unanimous first-team selections on the five-player squad.

She averaged 21.8 points per game, while shooting 56 percent from the field and nearly 40 percent from 3-point range. She also led the team in rebounds (8.7), steals (5.3) and assists (2.8) per game.

Crowe was one of three St. Mary Catholic players to be recognized by the conference.

Junior Luci Nackers garnered second-team honors, while sophomore Gabby Guerrero was named on the honorable mention list.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Three Rockets garner all-FVA recognition

A trio of Neenah players earned spots on the all-Fox Valley Association squads.

Junior Kolton Fleege highlighted the trio by earning a pair of honors. Fleege was

one of seven players named to the all-conference second team, while also earning a spot on the league's all-defensive team.

Also recognized for the Rockets were juniors Jacob Jungwirth and Jackson Rindt, who were each on the honorable mention list.

Kaukauna standout Andrew Jensen was named Player of the Year in the conference.

Uhlenbrauck leads trio of honorees for Zephyrs

Senior Mason Uhlenbrauck earned first-team honors in the Big East North Division to lead a trio of St. Mary Catholic players who were recognized.

Uhlenbrauck, an honorable mention selection last season, led the Zephyrs in scoring this season at 16.3 points per game, while shooting 47 percent from the field and 87 percent from the free-throw line. He also averaged 4.2 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game.

St. Mary Catholic also had a pair of honorable mention selections in junior Luke Fairweather and sophomore Dylan Brenn.

Reedsville's Ben Prochnow was named the Player of the Year in the conference.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Kurszewski garners top FVA honors

Neenah's Kylee Kurszewski was named the Wrestler of Year in the Fox Valley As-

SEE **All Conference** ON PAGE 12



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Photo from Neenah Joint School District

Anniversary celebration

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration of the girls state basketball tournament last weekend in Green Bay, the WIAA recognized the teams that participated in the first state tournament, including the 1976 Neenah High School squad. Those in attendance were Teri (Zarnoth) Shannon, Lyn Steffens, Carla Miller, Lynn (Martola) Ross, Linda Ahles and Coach Jean Kessler. The Rockets finished runner-up in 1976 to Madison West and qualified for the first six WIAA state tournaments. Neenah won the state championship in 1978.

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Zephyrs can't get offense cranked up in state loss

Neenah News

A rough night offensively was too much for the St. Mary Catholic girls basketball team to overcome last week at the WIAA Girls Basketball State Tournament.

The Zephyrs shot just 29 percent from the floor and were held to a season-low point total in a 45-31 loss to Albany/Monticello in a WIAA Division 4 state semifinal held at the Resch Center last Thursday night.

The cold shooting limited the Zephyrs' opportunities to exert their stifling defensive pressure on the Space Stallions. St. Mary Catholic tallied only six steals in the game and forced just 10 turnovers, which led to the Zephyrs accumulating a mere two fast break points in the game.

The Space Stallions shot 44 percent from the field in the game, including hitting 6-of-13 from the 3-point line. Albany/Monticello also finished with an advantage at the free-throw line hitting 11-of-18 attempts, while the Zephyrs were just 2-of-4.

The Zephyrs had been held to less than 47 points just once this season entering the state tournament, with their season low output coming in a 42-32 win over Howards Grove in December.

Junior Autumn Crowe was the only player to finish in double figures for St. Mary Catholic totaling 16 points in the game. She also paced the team with six rebounds.

Sophomore Gabby Guerrero was the next highest scorer for the Zephyrs with five points, while junior Amelia Virlee added four points off the bench. The other players to score in the game for St. Mary Catholic were junior Luci Nackers and sophomore Brecken Britzke who each tallied three points.

Things started out well for the Zephyrs as a pair of Crowe baskets helped St. Mary Catholic tie the game at 4 about three

minutes into the contest. Albany/Monticello then surged out to a 10-4 lead before a 3-pointer from Nackers and five straight points from Crowe gave the Zephyrs a 12-10 advantage.

After a Space Stallion free throw, Virlee gave the Zephyrs their largest lead of the game when her layup made the score 14-11 while a Virlee putback about a minute later gave St. Mary Catholic a 16-14 lead.

Virlee's basket would be the final points of the first half for the Zephyrs as they would go scoreless over the final 6:46 before intermission. Albany/Monticello scored the final 11 points of the half to take a 25-16 lead into the halftime break and then took its first double-digit lead of the game with a basket to open the second half.

Guerrero knocked down two free throws to get the margin back to nine but the Space Stallions countered with a 7-0 spurt to extend the lead to 34-18 and the Zephyrs trailed by double digits the rest of the way.

Bretzke and Crowe hit back-to-back 3-pointers to get St. Mary Catholic as close as 44-31 with 57 seconds to play but the Zephyrs wouldn't score the rest of the way.

It's the second straight season the Zephyrs have ended their year with a loss at the Resch Center, having fallen in the state title game to Cuba City last year. Albany/Monticello lost to Neillsville in the state title game, 43-40.

The Zephyrs finish the season with a 25-4 record with all four losses coming against teams that made it to the sectional level of the tournament, including Division 3 state champion Oostburg.

St. Mary Catholic was the only Division 4 state qualifier that did not have at least one senior in its starting lineup as the Zephyrs could potentially return its entire roster next season.

Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad
Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday. \$15 for first 20 words

Miscellaneous

Reimer Jewelers has a Full-Service Watchmaker on Staff. 11 Waugoo Avenue, Oshkosh

+ Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-877-845-6606

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

Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Joclyen Skyler Roundtree By (Petitioner) Joclyen Skyler Roundtree

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2026CV000272

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

From:
First – Joclyen Middle – Skyler Last – Roundtree To:
First – Joclyen Middle – Skyler Last – Schwartz Birth Certificate:
First – Joclyen Middle – Skyler Last – Roundtree

Judge's Name: Michael D. Rust Place: Winnebago Courthouse, Rm 410 415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: April 13, 2026 Time: 3:30 PM

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4811 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

NOTICE TO NEWSPAPER AND PETITIONER:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the following newspaper Neenah News.

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: March 13, 2026 **Winnebago County Circuit Branch I** **Runs:** March 20, 2026, March 27, 2026 and April 3, 2026.

For Sale

Audien Hearing. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-855-943-6279

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

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Pomeranian Puppies For Sale! Dewormed, shots and vet checked very social. \$400 Born 11-9-25 \$450. Female born 1-23-26 \$550 Call 715-654-5149

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material -steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer -up to 50% off installation

IT IS ORDERED:

WNAXLP

All-conference

FROM PAGE 10

sociation following a standout senior season with the Rockets.

The four-time state qualifier and two-time state placewinner earned first-team all-FVA honors for the second straight season and was one of seven first-team honorees for the Rockets.

Kurszewski, who earned the nod at 126 pounds, was joined on the first team by seniors Joelle Reay (114) and Janet Sorto (145), juniors Maya Ives (100) and Amari Richard (132) and freshmen Greenlee Ennis (107) and Xiomara Liriano-Rueda (235).

Second-team honors went to seniors Ava Armatti (138) and Lluvia Carrillo (185), junior Kylie Alexandroni (145) and sophomore Jenson Kurszewski (152).

Senior Rayleigh Pearson was on the honorable mention list at 126 pounds.

All-conference honors were based on the wrestlers finishes at the FVA meet.

Neenah's Madison Ruckdashel was named Coach of the Year for the second straight season.

BOYS WRESTLING

Koch, Sheppard lead Rockets on all-FVA squads

Senior Declan Koch and junior Landen Sheppard led the Neenah contingent on the all-Fox Valley Association squads.

Koch, who won a WIAA state title this season, earned first-team honors for the fourth straight year. The University of Northern Iowa recruit, who finished the season undefeated, earned his spot on the list at 165 pounds.

Sheppard earned first-team all-FVA honors for the first time after making the second-team list the past two season. The two-time state placewinner garnered the honor at 157 pounds.

Four Neenah wrestlers earned second-team honors in seniors Jaxon Ennis (132) and Kaden Roth (190), junior Joaquin Quinonez (150) and freshman Broden Butzke (113).

Senior Garrett Nedens (126), junior Willy Brucks (285) and sophomore Declan Epley (144) landed on the honorable mention list.

All-conference honors were based on

the wrestlers finishes at the FVA meet.

Kaukauna's Liam Crook was named Wrestler of the Year.

BOYS HOCKEY

Two Rockets earn first-team honors

Senior Mark Sutton and junior Carter Simonson were each named to the all-Badgerland Conference first team after helping lead Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha to the league title this season.

Sutton was the team's leading goal-scorer with 28 tallies in the regular-season while also adding 15 assists. Simonson was the team's leading scorer finishing the regular season with 22 goals and a team-high 32 assists.

Two players earned second-team nods in junior defenseman Clay Laabs and senior goaltender Matthew Nelson.

Netting honorable mention honors for the Rockets was senior defenseman Keegan Krueger.

St. Mary Catholic senior Elliott Reichenbacher, who plays for the Fox Cities Stars, earned honorable mention all-Badgerland Conference as a goaltender.

SWIMMING

Wendell earns spot on all-FVA first team

Junior Burke Wendell was Neenah's lone representative on the all-Fox Valley Association first team this season.

Wendell, a state qualifier, earned a spot in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Senior Gideon Benner was a second-team honoree for the 100-yard freestyle.

Both Wendell and Benner also received honorable mention recognition. Wendell earned the honors in the 200-yard individual medley as well as part of the 200-yard medley relay. Benner earned a spot for the 200-yard freestyle as well as on the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Junior Ryker Zarda was honored in the 100-yard backstroke as well as on the 200-yard medley relay team. Other members of the 200-yard medley relay team to be recognized were junior Gage Jensen and freshman Jack Kippa, while Jensen, junior Ben Munson and freshman Josh Powell were also honored for the 400-yard freestyle relay team.

Kid Scoop .COM

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WORLD'S LARGEST RODENT

CAPYBARA ANSWERS KIDS' QUESTIONS!

There are more than 2,000 species of rodents around the world.

When you think of rodents, you might picture mice or rats. But the **capybara** is also a rodent, and it's the largest one on Earth!

What does a capybara eat?

Capybaras are **herbivores**, which means we only eat plants. And we can eat a lot of grass every day! Circle every other letter to find out how much:

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

During dry seasons, we may also eat reeds, grains, melons and squashes.

How are capybaras like hippos?

We capybaras share a clever feature with hippos. Our eyes, ears and nostrils sit high on our heads, so we can keep our bodies mostly underwater while still seeing, hearing and breathing. Pretty sneaky, right?

How do capybaras stay cool?

On hot days, capybaras relax in shallow water or mud to keep our bodies cool. We usually eat when temperatures are cooler, like early morning or evening. But if we feel threatened, we wait until nighttime to find food.

Nice to meet you!

How big is a capybara?

Capybaras are surprisingly big. Here's how much we can grow:

- Length: 3.2 to 4.2 feet (100–130 cm)
- Height at shoulder: about 1.6 feet (50 cm)
- Weight: 60 to 174 pounds (27–79 kg)

Some people say we look like a barrel with legs! We have long, light-brown hair and no tail. Our feet are slightly webbed, with four toes on each front foot and three on each back foot.

Try This!

Measure your height and weight and compare yourself to a capybara. Who is taller? Who weighs more?

MY HEIGHT: _____
MY WEIGHT: _____

Why do capybaras have webbed feet?

Capybaras live near rivers, lakes, and wetlands in Central and South America. Water is important because the plants that capybaras eat grow nearby, and it also helps keep them safe from predators.

Capybaras are strong swimmers and can stay underwater for up to five minutes to hide. Their webbed feet help them paddle through water.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have physical features and adaptations that aid in survival.

Why do birds sit on capybaras?

You might see birds perched on capybaras' backs. The birds search for insects in the grass and sometimes pick bugs from a capybara's fur.

Both of us benefit—the birds get food, and we capybaras get a little grooming!

Extra! Extra!

Capybara Facts and Opinions

Look through the newspaper and find six adjectives that describe a capybara. Can you find three that are opinions and three that are facts?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand the difference between facts and opinions.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have physical features and adaptations that aid in survival.

Kid Scoop Together Capybara Quiz

Read this week's *Kid Scoop* page. Then work with a family member to answer these questions.

1. Do capybaras have tails?

2. How long can a capybara stay underwater to hide?

3. How do birds and capybaras help each other?

4. Why do capybaras live close to water?

5. When do capybaras eat?

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Capybara Fun Facts

Use the code to learn more about these cool creatures.

CAPYBARA CODE	
A = 26	N = 13
B = 25	O = 12
C = 24	P = 11
D = 23	Q = 10
E = 22	R = 9
F = 21	S = 8
G = 20	T = 7
H = 19	U = 6
I = 18	V = 5
J = 17	W = 4
K = 16	X = 3
L = 15	Y = 2
M = 14	Z = 1

What is a group of capybaras called?
26 19 22 9 23

Because of their calm, social behavior, many people consider capybaras to be this.
21 9 18 22 13 23 15 2

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

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Write On!

If I Were an Animal

If you were an animal, which animal would you be? Why did you choose that animal?