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Photo from Neenah Public Library

Playing games

Neenah police officers, including Chief Aaron Olson, joined kids and parents last week to play games such as Connect Four at the Neenah Public Library. Officers handed out 2026 Neenah Police Department trading cards, sponsored by Rosenow Customs, along with other handouts for the kids to take home.

Neenah voters elect Borchardt

Neenah News

Neenah voters elected Brian Borchardt as the city's new mayor on Tuesday. Borchardt defeated his opponent by over 3,500 votes.

Voters across the state went to the polls to cast their votes in a number of races. In Neenah, those races were for mayor, common council seats and the school board.

All election results remain unofficial until the votes are certified at the Winnebago County Board of Canvass meeting which was held on Thursday.

Borchardt, who has served as the common council president, won by a three to one ratio against Scott Becher. Borchardt will begin his four-year term as mayor on April 21.

Borchardt takes over the office held by Jane Lang over the last four years. Lang, who beat Borchardt in the 2022 mayoral race, decided not to seek reelection after one term in the position.

As mayor, Borchardt has said he will look for ways to say "yes" to the people of Neenah.

"To me, the citizens of Neenah are our customers, and you deserve a city government that works for you," Borchardt said.

After the results came in, Becher stated on Facebook he was disappointed in the results, but continued to highlight a top issue for him, which is fixing the city's roads.

"There are still a lot of issues with the city roads, the business districts and we still need better city services," Becher told the Neenah News following the results.

SEE **Election results** ON PAGE 3

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Senior standout Krause hopes to fuel Rockets' success
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Sweet music Lawrence students to perform at library
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Neenah surgeon on road to recovery after stroke

By Eric Endres
NEENAH NEWS

First, Dr. Kevin Wasco's arm felt numb. Then his hand. Then he couldn't reach his phone right away to call for help, until he finally got ahold of one of his partners and then his wife, who both separately called for an ambulance. It was a stroke.

Just like that, Wasco's decades-long, storied career as an active practicing surgeon was over. But, nearly a year later, he's not letting that get in the way of his desire to keep making a difference.

The stroke happened last May, shortly after Wasco offered some encouragement to a colleague who was feeling down.

His last act as a practicing surgeon was trying to help someone.

But helping people had been the rule of Wasco's life and career, not the exception. His career in medicine began with tending to people when they needed it most as an Emergency Room Physician for the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative in 1995.

He continued in 1997 with more training, serving as a General Surgery Resident at the Univer-



sity of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison, marking somewhat of a return to where he'd graduated from medical school in 1994 (University of Wisconsin Medical School). He became Chief Resident in 1998.

Soon after came his time at Surgical Associates of Neenah, where he'd eventually become a Partner in 2002 while also serving as an active part of the medical staff for ThedaCare facilities around Northeast Wisconsin, including ThedaCare Medical Center in Neenah, a city he loves to call home.

"I'm proud to be from this area," Wasco said.

He grew up in Neenah after moving here from Chicago as a child, later graduating from Neenah High School summa cum laude and with National Honor Society recognition. He went on to Marquette University in Milwaukee where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biology and a minor in chemistry, with another round of honors, before going to medical school.

Over the course of his career, Wasco has been a member of a multitude of professional organizations, including the Wisconsin Surgical Society, the American

SEE **Neenah surgeon** 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

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

Change to nonprofit keeps news focused locally

So...what's in it for you?

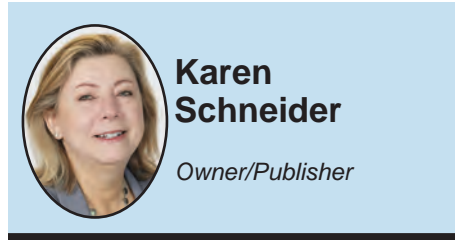
I've been asked this a lot lately. *What's in it for me? What does this mean? Why are you doing this?*

Those are fair questions – and you deserve a clear answer.

Here it is: this is about making sure your local newspaper is still here a year from now... five years from now... 10 years from now.

Every week, we show up for this community. We sit through the meetings. We report on the decisions that affect your taxes, your schools, your neighborhoods. We tell the stories of the people and businesses that make this place home.

But the truth is, our business model isn't sustainable. Advertising alone no



Karen Schneider
Owner/Publisher

longer covers the cost of doing this work – not here, not anywhere.

That's why we created **Winnebago Media Group** and made the move to a nonprofit model.

So what's in it for you?

It means someone is still in the room when decisions are made. It means your community stays informed, connected and accountable. It means the stories that

matter here don't disappear.

But here's the part I want to be honest about: this only works if the community steps in.

If you value having the Neenah News, a local newspaper – one that's independent, focused on your community and committed to showing up – we're asking you – to **join us** in sustaining it.

For me, this isn't just a business decision — it's personal. My family and I have invested our time, resources and heart into keeping local journalism alive here because we believe this community deserves it.

Join us in protecting local journalism for the next generation.

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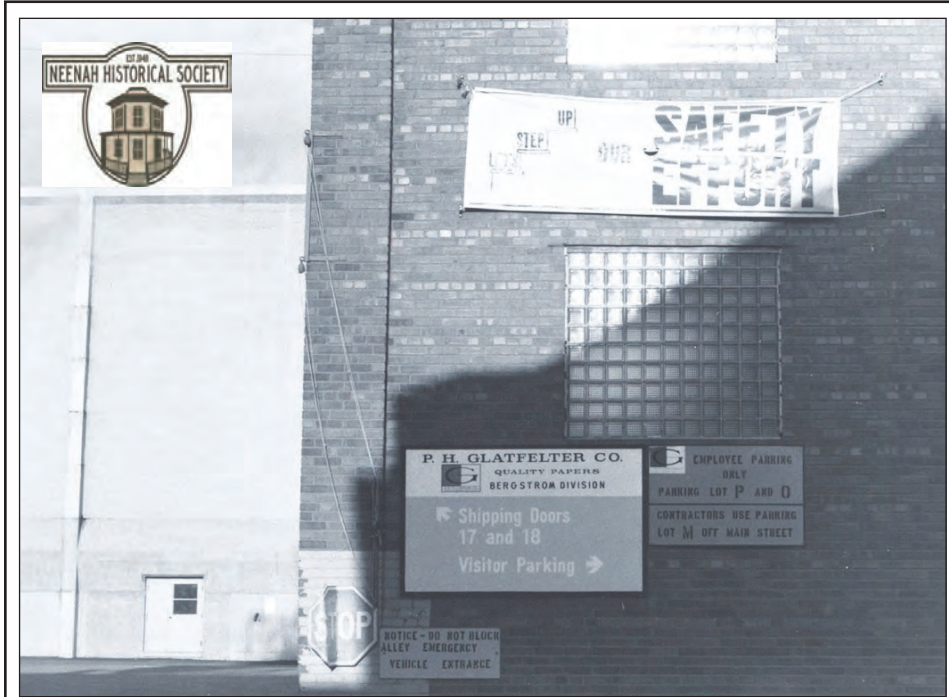


Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Glatfelter signage 1983

Directional signage on the outside of the P.H. Glatfelter Co. is shown in 1983. Glatfelter bought the Bergstrom Paper Co. in 1979.

American Legion hosts fundraiser for military kids

Neenah News

The Neenah American Legion Auxiliary will be raising funds as part of Purple Up Day for Military Kids.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be sharing The Dome Sports Bar & Grill's profits from 5 to 8 p.m. today at 1338 Commercial St.

The fundraiser is an opportunity to honor military children from all branches

of the military. Organizers said military children across the country play a significant role in their schools, youth organizations and communities.

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Military Youth and Family Program established Purple Up Day as a way to support them. It lets them know that they are recognized and appreciated as they make sacrifices to make sure the country is safe.

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Tickets on sale for gala

Neenah News

Tickets are available for Zephyrfest 2026, a gala event supporting St. Mary Catholic Schools.

The event starts at 5 p.m. May 2 at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center. Attendees will be able to win various prizes, including the Ultimate Packers Package, a Kawasaki Ridge XR Crew, cash prizes or a 2026 Chevy Colorado.

More information is available at shorturl.at/wCT11.

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Calendar of events

Saturday, April 11

Brews with the Bunny, 5 p.m., Fritsch Park, Fox Crossing
Adults-Only Egg Hunt, 7:45 p.m., Fritsch Park, Fox Crossing

Sunday, April 12

Lawrence University Student Jazz Quartet: Spring Sessions, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, April 14

Volunteer Fest, 3 p.m., Kimberly-Clark, 2300 County Road II

Thursday, April 16

Neenah Sports: Big Wins and Big Losses presented by Kara Rothkegel, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, April 18

Fox Crossing Electronics Recycling Event, 8 a.m., 2000 Municipal Drive
Volunteer Tree Planting, 8 a.m., Carpenter Preserve

Sunday, April 19

Fox Crossing Fire Association Drive Thru Pancake Breakfast, 8 a.m., 1326 Cold Spring Road
Larsen-Winchester Lions Pancake Breakfast, 8 a.m., Winchester Elementary School
Lawrence University Student Jazz Quartet: Spring Sessions, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, April 21

Fox Valley Memory Project Annual Fundraiser and Celebration, 5 p.m., Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center

Thursday, April 23

Doty Cabin Museum presents We The People of Neenah and Menasha: Governor Doty's Home by Tom Vanlieshout, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
NHS Spring Show - Clue: High School Edition, 7 p.m., NHS Black Box Theater

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Neenah News

Neenah Mayor Jane Lang receives a standing ovation during the April 1 common council meeting, the last in her term as mayor.

Mayor prepares for end of term

Neenah News

Neenah Mayor Jane Lang presided over the last common council meeting of her term April 1 after deciding not to seek reelection.

Lang, who was elected mayor in 2022 and had previously served as an alderman, received a standing ovation from members of the council and city staff after she reflected on her time as mayor.

“The biggest blessing to me personally over the years I’ve been part of this organization, is the incredible honor it has been to have been able to work alongside the exceptional people who serve the City of Neenah,” Lang said. “I’m incredibly proud of our team and the fact that day after day they dedicate themselves to serving others – that really takes a special kind of commitment.”

Lang said she decided not to seek another term due to wanting to spend more time with family despite her experience in serving the community. She said for the past 12 years, her focus has been on the City of Neenah, its well-being, improvement and its future.

“The friendships I’ve formed have meant so much to me,” Lang said. “Those

partners in the community who have also supported our city and me were also a huge part of why my decision not to run again was so difficult...I would be doing my ancestors (including my great-grandfather Mayor Kimberly) and all of this community a huge disservice if I hadn’t given this job my all.”

Lang closed her remarks with some of the words her great grandfather spoke at his inaugural meeting when he was elected as mayor of the young city of Neenah in 1877.

“The City of Neenah stands today, young, healthy and vigorous, offering advantages which when utilized, will insure us wealth and an increased intelligent population,” Lang quoted her great grandfather as saying. “While our citizens are looking to us for action in all matters of public interest, let us acquaint ourselves thoroughly with the provisions of our charter – so that no act of ours shall be considered hasty or irregular – but at the end of our term of office we may be enabled to present a report of our doings acceptable to the public, and satisfactory to ourselves.”

Election results

FROM PAGE 1

Borchardt collected 5,398 votes compared to 1,726 for Becher.

Becher told the Neenah News he left a message to congratulate Borchardt on his victory.

Three alderperson seats were on the ballot in Neenah for districts 1, 2, and 3. District 2 alderperson Tami Erickson and District 3 Alderperson Scott Weber both ran unopposed and will serve another term on the Neenah Common Council.

In District 1, challenger Brian Defferding defeated incumbent Cari Lendrum by 24 votes. Defferding collected 1,111 votes, compared to 1,087 for Lendrum.

“The race didn’t go my way but I want to thank you for all your support over the last 15 years as your District 1 alderman,” Lendrum said in a social media post on election night. “It’s been an honor to have served you and I will continue to be very active in the city and continue to serve in other capacities.”

Defferding said the results were humbling and that he cannot wait to start to work. He said that work includes working on a resolution to increase transparency and to refocus the city budget based on priorities from citizen input.

The Neenah Joint School District’s Board of Education had three seats on the ballot. The top three vote getters in the field of four candidates were Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski with 6,916 votes, Samuel Roth with 6,175 votes and Christian Blanton with 5,822 votes. Each was elected for a three-year term.

“I’m excited for this opportunity and am ready to get to work,” Heidke Kwiatkowski said after the results were announced.

Tom Hanby received the least number

of votes with 5,257.

Blanton and Roth also went online to thank their supporters.

Winnebago County Board of Supervisors seats were also on Neenah and Fox Crossing area ballots.

In District 5, Shiloh Ramos defeated Rich Bodenhausen. Incumbent Stefanie Holt did not seek reelection in the district. Incumbent Lucas Reinke of District 6 won his reelection bid defeating challenger Brandon Ramus. The race was decided by 53 votes.

District 10 will have a new supervisor as Bryan Stafford did not seek reelection. In Tuesday’s contest Chris Rosenow defeated Timothy Jacobson by 147 votes.

In District 27, Carl Schulze defeated incumbent Morris Cox. Schulze won the seat by 113 votes. District 29 incumbent George Bureau won by just two votes. Bureau collected 474 compared to 472 votes for challenger Benjamin Frank.

Several candidates ran unopposed on the county board. District 7 Kate Hancock-Cooke was elected to another term. In District 8, incumbent Jim Wise will remain in the seat.

Devin Moonin won the District 9 seat and will replace outgoing supervisor Donald Nussbaum, who decided not to run for reelection. Incumbent Robert Gustafson ran unopposed for the District 28 seat.

In District 30, Matt Woods will serve the next two years as the supervisor. Woods replaces former vice chair Chuck Farrey on the county board.

In the sole statewide race, Chris Taylor defeated Maria Lazar for a 10-year term on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The results for the race in Winnebago County mirror the state results with Taylor receiving 58% of the votes in the county and 60% of the votes across the state.

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Lawrence students to perform jazz music at library

By George Halas
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

April is Jazz Month and the Neenah Public Library joins in the celebration with the return of one of its most popular programs, Spring Sessions, featuring the Lawrence University Student Jazz Quartet.

Live concerts will be held in the library's Shattuck Room on April 12, April 19, April 26 and May 3. The hour-long performances begin at 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Lawrence University students compete for the coveted spots in the quartet. The foursome this year will include Charlie White playing trombone, pianist Rowan McJimsey, bassist Cooper Luedtke and Tyler Donnelly playing drums.

With the exception of an interruption due to COVID, the series has been running continuously since 2018 under the direction of Adult Services Librarian Richie Zaborowske with significant input from Jose Encarnacion, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at Lawrence.

"When I design library programs, I start with 'would I be into them?'" Zaborowske said. "I lead with my passions and I am into jazz."

"The original focus was albums, record labels and eras but we have since added an educational component," he added. "I could not have done it without Jose Encarnacion. He was on board right away, seeing it as an opportunity for Lawrence students to play a live gig."

"The art form is important and April is Jazz Month," Zaborowske continued. "It's important to highlight the Lawrence University students. They are very talented."



Submitted photo

The Lawrence University Student Jazz Quartet will be performing four upcoming concerts at the Neenah Public Library.

The sessions are well attended and have grown largely via word-of-mouth.

"When we first did this, there were a few people at the first session," Zaborowske noted. "The word-of-mouth, particularly about how good the musicians are, resulted in the last session being packed. People now start asking me in January about them."

In addition to the music, the setup of the Shattuck Room is part of the attraction.

"The room has good acoustics and there is stage lighting in the ceiling," Zaborowske said. "We dim the rest of the lights and it looks, pretty cool, like a jazz club, which enhances the experience."

"Like a jazz club, the audience is up

close," he added. "For the audience, there is the enjoyment of the music and a special connection with the musicians."

"The audience really gets into it. The shows attract all ages, from kids to retired folks," he continued. "For some, this is the music they listened to when they were younger and so they have a shared passion with these students."

The educational component is an important part of the overall experience. The musicians take time between compositions to talk about the artists and the music. Encarnacion is often on hand to lend additional perspective and insight.

"The audience has an investment in the concerts," Zaborowske said. "At the end of each concert, they get to ask questions

of the musicians about the music as well as the musicians themselves, like what music they listen to. The musicians often stay around afterwards to continue the conversations. The connection is very endearing."

The concerts vary from year to year, but Zaborowske notes one constant that is "really cool to see. The music is very free flowing and the musicians are able to stretch out and improvise."

"This year, we're trying something different, leaving it up to the students to play the music that they are interested in and communicating their interest to the audience," he said. "This is also the first year we have featured a trombonist, but I am expecting a similar vibe."



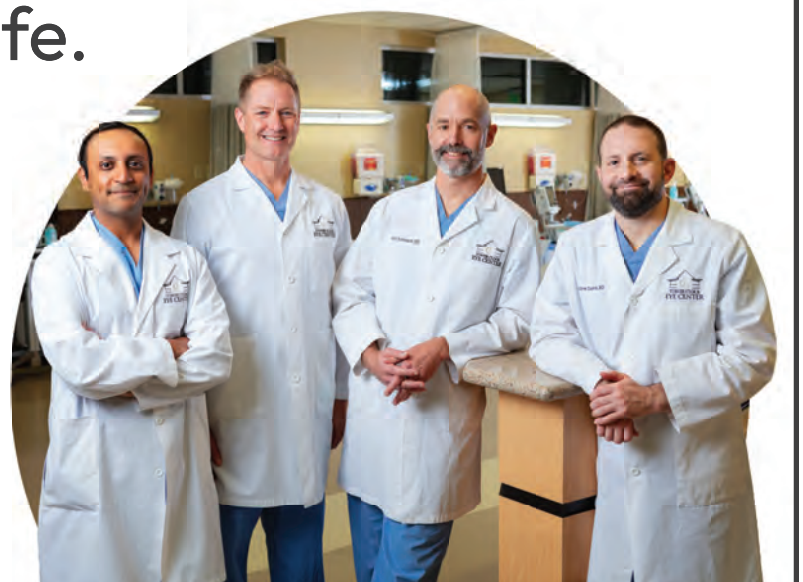
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Photo from Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue

Construction underway

The Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue Station 31's remodel on Breezewood Lane and Training Center construction are underway. Construction began last fall with progress on track for crews to start moving into the new living quarters by the end of May. Foundation work for the training tower and storage building is currently underway.

Chamber program provides leadership conversation

Neenah News

An upcoming Fox Cities Chamber Fox Talk will provide a conversation with three past participants of the chamber's leadership programs.

The presentation from 8 to 9:30 a.m. May 13 at Community First Credit Union in Neenah will feature real stories, lessons learned and moments that shaped the speakers' leadership styles.

The panelists include Chloe Kampe, the Clinic Operations Manager at Orthopedic and Sports Institute; Preston Kendall, a

Director at Baird and a founding partner of the Zuleger Kendall Group and Alicia Frank, an Associate Director of Resource Development at United Way Fox Cities. Terry Wetzell from Summit Leadership Development will be the facilitator.

The event is free for Fox Cities Chamber members, and \$25 for non-members. To register, visit members.foxcc.net/chamber-events/Details/2026-fox-talks-leadership-in-the-fox-cities-paths-people-and-possibilities-1684277?sourceTypeId=Website.

City reports sanitary sewer overflow

Neenah News

A sanitary sewer overflow was reported to have occurred in the City of Neenah on Saturday. According to the City of Neenah Public Works, the overflow occurred at Henry Street and Curtis Avenue.

Public Works said a high amount of clear water inflow was experienced due to large amounts of rain and saturated soils. Public Works personnel responded to, monitored and managed the incidents to limit harm to the public, residential property and the environment.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural

Resources has been notified, the city said in a news release.

The city said it continues to make improvements to the sanitary sewer system to reduce the potential for these incidents. Residents are also reminded to make sure that sump pumps are not connected to the sanitary sewer system.

This will assist in reducing the clear water flow into the sanitary sewer system, thereby reducing the potential for these incidents.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 920-886-6240.

Winchester fire chief passes away at age 48

Neenah News

Town of Winchester Fire Chief Glen Mathison is being remembered as a long-time pillar in the community.

The Town of Winchester Fire Department and EMS announced Tuesday that Mathison, 48, passed away.

"Glen meant so much to each and everyone of us," the fire department said in a Facebook post. "There are not enough words to describe how much he is going to be missed."

The department said Mathison was



Mathison

proud carrying on the family tradition of serving his community like his father, the late Chief Dean Mathison, and his brother, the late Captain Scott Mathison, who passed away in 2022 at the age of 42.

Glen served the Town of Winchester and Town of Clayton for 30 years.

The Town of Clayton Fire Rescue paid tribute to Glen in sharing the news.

"As we reflect on his steady leadership, and wealth of experience, we know that his lasting impact will be felt for years to come," the Clayton Fire Rescue post said.

The Boom Bay Volunteer Fire Company added, "The memories will never be forgotten. Just do us all a favor and watch over keeping everyone safe. He will be missed by many."

Fire department hosts drive thru pancake breakfast

Neenah News

The Fox Crossing Fire Association will host a drive thru pancake breakfast.

The event will be from 8 to 11:30 a.m. April 19 at 1326 Cold Spring Road.

Guests will be served a pancake breakfast cooked by firefighters and their families. The breakfast includes three pancakes with butter and syrup, sausage links and scrambled eggs.

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Fox Crossing officer shot dog three times to stop threat

Neenah News

A police officer has been justified in the fatal shooting of a dog in March at a Fox Crossing park. The officer fired three shots into the dog that was attacking two people and their two dogs.

Police records obtained by the Neenah News show that Fox Crossing Police Officer Dominick Texeira's actions were justified following an internal investigation by the department. The department had four previous incidents with the dog, a black and brown rottweiler named Beo, before the March 7 shooting.

Fox Crossing Police community liaison officer Dan Wiechman confirmed the rottweiler died on the way to an animal hospital following the shooting. A news release said the investigation found the officer's actions were justified in compliance with the department's policy and Wisconsin State Statute for officers discharging their firearms.

"The officer's actions, although perceptually drastic to some, were taken to prevent serious injury to the person it appeared to be attacking as well as continued attacks on the other dog involved," the release stated. "Other force options, if considered, could have potentially intensified and significantly worsened the outcome of the attack."

The police report does not mention another use of force besides multiple officers looking for a catchpole to try and catch the dog. A catchpole, which is common in animal control, is a handheld pole with a loop at the end to apprehend animals.

According to the police report, the rottweiler had jumped the fence of Fritsch Park and was running through the park.

Texeira and a community service officer were first on the scene around 11:30 a.m. March 7.

When they arrived, the dog was attacking a man and a woman and their dogs. Texeira notes in his report that he believes this is the same dog that was involved in a similar incident last August. It was later confirmed this is the same dog that was involved in the August incident.

Body camera footage shows Texeira take aim at the dog and fire two consecutive shots. The dog rolls backward and whimpers for a moment, then gets back up and that is when Texeira shoots the dog a third and final time.

An ambulance was called to the scene after the shots were fired. However, the two people that were attacked left the scene before the ambulance arrived. They told officers they did not have any injuries.

One of the other dogs sustained a bite wound on its leg. The dog received care for its injury and was prescribed anti-biotics.

The police department reported it had four previous interactions with the rottweiler and its owner going back to May 2025. The owner was given a warning for animal at large in May and two municipal citations for a dog at large 10 days apart in late July and early August. She was then issued a municipal citation for vicious dog at large and failure to license on Aug. 25.

During that incident the rottweiler allegedly attacked a 65 year-old person who was walking their dog nearby in Fox Crossing. Officers told the dog owner after the incident the dog would need to be euthanized or surrendered after the quarantine period. The owner allegedly told

officers at the time that the dog was set to be relocated outside of Wisconsin.

The owner was cited with two ordinance violations in connection with the March incident – dogs/cats not to run at large and vicious dogs/cats prohibited. Village code states a vicious animal "is any animal that, when unprovoked, inflicts bites, injuries, kills or attacks a human be-

ing or domestic animal on either public or private property."

The police department said it recognizes these situations are always difficult and that the department, "recognizes that incidents resulting in harm to an animal, and in this case an unfortunately fatal discharge of a firearm, can be upsetting to members of the community."



Photo from Neenah Police Department

Traffic lights were without power at Main Street and Green Bay Road along with several other intersections in Neenah April 2 as icy conditions caused power outages throughout the area. Stop signs were deployed in an effort to control traffic.

Late season ice storm knocks out power

Neenah News

Due to weather related power outages, traffic lights at numerous intersections in Neenah were briefly without power April 2.

Temporary stop signs were deployed to help control traffic. Due to the icing conditions, tree branches fell on power lines around the city.

The intersections that were affected included Commercial Street and Wisconsin Avenue; West Wisconsin Avenue

and Church Street; Main Street and Lake Street; and Main Street and Green Bay Road.

The Fox Crossing Fire Department also reported that the rain and wintry mix were making trees and power lines heavy, leading to the high potential for slippery roads and power outages. The fire department reminded residents to never touch a downed power line and report downed lines to the utility company.

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Neenah surgeon

FROM PAGE 1

Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) and many more. His resume is pages and pages long.

Then everything changed last May. After experiencing his initial symptoms at home, he was transported to the emergency room and treated. He later pointed out that he'd been used to working in the ER but not used to being in the ER as a patient.

Even when the most critical moments were over and he was stabilized, he still had a long road ahead. Wasco underwent extensive rehab with physical therapy and occupational therapy as well as relearning how to speak.

"I learned to be a good learner again," he said.

After being discharged in early July, the recovery journey wasn't finished, and it still isn't. It continued at home, where he carried on pushing himself to get better at everything, to focus on moving better, speaking more clearly. He moved on from relying on a wheelchair to now being able to walk around with a cane. He's even gone to the Ogden YMCA to work out.

And he hasn't had to go it alone at home; his six children are supportive, and his wife, Mitzy, who Wasco referred to as "a saint," has been resolutely by his side. She later said he's probably the most resilient person she knows.

While it has taken and continues to take a lot of effort, Wasco's mindset about his recovery is one of gratitude and appreciation for his friends, family and all the medical professionals who've helped him

and continue to help him along the way, and he credited the stroke program here in Neenah for saving his life.

By October, Wasco was able to move around better while using his cane. That's also when he was recognized with the UW-Madison Department of Surgery "Forward Award," which turned out to be the first in a string of recognitions for his many contributions to the field and his work.

"I didn't know that I was making a difference. Apparently, I was," Wasco said, later adding, "That was really amazing. ... I was not expecting that." According to its website, the UW-Madison Department of Surgery "Forward Award" recognizes outstanding alumni contributions by current or former residents, faculty and fellows of the department. Wasco accepted the award in person at the celebration dinner in Chicago.

Late last month, Wasco also received the SAGES Excellence in Community Surgery Award, promptly followed by an unexpected Recognition of Excellence award, also from SAGES.

And there's still more to come for Wasco this year; he's been announced as a 2026 inductee to the Neenah Joint School District Hall of Fame. Wasco and five other inductees will be honored during a luncheon in October.

While Wasco sometimes has difficult days and his surgical career as he knew it is over, he considers himself lucky and doesn't live with a self-pitying attitude. Support from his loved ones and his desire to help patients and continue to possibly serve in an instructive role in the surgical field drive him forward.

"I feel like I'm blessed, I can't complain," Wasco said. "And I'm going to," he later continued, repeating those words for emphasis, "I'm going to have part two. 2.0."



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

Neenah High School's Tarrah Landskron (center) captured a national championship by winning the girls' equipped 65-kilogram weight class.

Powerlifting team earns top national finishes

Neenah News

Neenah High School's powerlifting teams recently competed at the High School Nationals Powerlifting Championships in Killeen, Texas.

The Rockets achieved top three finishes in all of the raw divisions with the girls placing second and the boys finishing third. Their combined finish placed second overall, finishing just two points behind national champion Boston Latin School.

Individually, Tarrah Landskron captured a national championship by winning the girls' equipped 65-kilogram weight class. Kaya Berkley and Aubrie Vanevenhoven each placed second in their weight classes, while Rylee Ehlke was third and Sophia Diaz was fifth.

Carter Zoz had the boys' top finish with a fifth place performance.

Neenah had 34 athletes competing in the meet.

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Senior Spotlight is brought to you by: **Nicolet NATIONAL BANK**

Krause settles in at shortstop to help lead Rockets

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

No athlete wants to experience an injury.

For Mack Krause, though, getting hurt helped define his path on the baseball diamond.

Krause broke through as a sophomore for the Neenah High School baseball team establishing himself as one of the up-and-coming pitchers in the talent-laden Fox Valley Association.

An elbow injury going into his junior year, however, led him to playing more shortstop and his trajectory in the sport changed.

"I wasn't ready to pitch going into the season so I just played shortstop and I really enjoyed just focusing on hitting and playing short," Krause said after a chilly Neenah practice earlier this week. "Throughout last summer and into the year, I decided I'm just going to stick to that."

"I only had to focus on one thing which was new for me because I had always done both."

After earning honorable mention all-FVA honors as a sophomore, he was a first-team all-conference choice at shortstop last year – one of two players selected at the vital and most demanding position – and one of just seven juniors listed on the 20-member first team.

Krause found a home playing shortstop for Neenah. Krause led the team with a .403 batting average while showcasing

Senior Standout
Nicolet NATIONAL BANK

strong defensive skills at the position.

This year he has his sights set on even gaudier numbers.

"I want to do a lot with the bat, maybe put up some more power numbers this year," said Krause, who hit two home runs last year. "I have done a little bit but I have always been more of an average guy. I want to dig in with the power and see what I can do."

Krause also wants to be a part of a Rocket resurgence.

After finishing under .500 as a team last season, Krause wants to help lift Neenah back among the elite teams in the FVA and believes this group can do it.

"We are really deep this year and I think we can win the conference if we really put it all together. Win the conference and make a playoff run," Krause said. "It's fun to be here at Neenah and I want to extend the culture and develop ourselves as a winning program again."

Krause will have a hand in the Rockets reaching those marks but not just with his bat and glove.

As the only player entering his third full season on varsity, he knows he has to set an example for the rest of the team.

"I don't really feel much pressure but there's definitely a responsibility because I have been on varsity longer than any of these guys," Krause said. "It's my job to lead the guys not only with words, but by example."

Krause started playing baseball – along with a list of other sports – as a youth and enjoyed some success when he was in the development stages.

But it wasn't until he really started focusing on baseball – which started with the summer before his freshman year at Neenah – that he really found his groove.

"I was playing everything. I was just an athletic kid but I didn't have the skills. I just had the athleticism," Krause said. "Going into high school, I just kind of dropped everything else and went all-in on baseball. Once I started focusing on baseball, the skills came."

That's one of the things that Krause appreciates about the sport and why it was easy for him to focus solely on baseball.

"Part of the thing was that baseball was hard. It was challenging. You need more than just the physical to be good at it," Krause said. "It wasn't really tough (to give up the other sports). Baseball was always my favorite sport by a large margin."



Neenah News

Senior shortstop Mack Krause is a returning first-team all-Fox Valley Association and will be one of the leaders of the Neenah baseball team this season.

In the FVA where varsity rosters are dominated by upperclassmen, Krause was brought onto the Neenah varsity squad as a sophomore. He joined a senior-heavy roster that eventually made it all the way to sectionals.

Some players might be a little nervous playing with an older crew like that. Not Krause. He felt it allowed him to play more free.

"I was friends with a lot of those older guys and it was cool being just the young guy who was getting a chance," Krause said. "I really took advantage of it. I was kind of like an underdog. There was no pressure and I could just go out and play."

Baseball has also led to another passion for Krause – weight training.

He said he started lifting because of baseball but now hits the weight room not just for his sport.

"It helps with everything, just being stronger. There is no downside to it," Krause said. "It started with baseball. If you want to be better at your sport, it's kind of a given to hit the weights. But honestly, I fell in love with it. I don't do it just for baseball anymore."

Krause's days playing baseball won't end after the final game of his senior season

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 11

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Experienced Rockets look to challenge in talent-rich FVA

Neenah News

Led by a pair of returning first-team all-Fox Valley Association selections, the Neenah baseball team will send an experienced bunch onto the field as they look to rebound from a rough season a year ago.

The Rockets finished tied for seventh in the FVA a year ago and finished 8-19 overall, but more than a third of their losses were by three runs or less and head coach Aaron Nelson is hoping the experience of those tight defeats will have an effect on this year's squad.

"We will need to grow from opportunities that we had last year and that we didn't take advantage of," commented Nelson. "With a year under their belt, we are hopeful that the seniors will take advantage of opportunities and the juniors will challenge them each and every day."

Among Neenah's seniors are Mack Krause and Gus Weinholzer, who each earned first-team honors in the FVA last year. Krause will anchor in the infield at shortstop, while Weinholzer plays the outfield and is also one of the top hurlers for Neenah.

Senior first baseman Cal Juckem also returns after earning second-team all-conference honors.

Seniors Henry St. Clair on the infield and James Weiland in the outfield along with junior outfielder Ethan Hellengreen also return from a year ago.

Junior Landen Sheppard, Owen Pire

and Jackson Mayer are expected to fill out the lineup for the Rockets.

Behind Weinholzer, Neenah's pitching staff is expected to have plenty of depth with all of the returning players as well as the trio of newcomers available to take the mound.

"We feel pitching will be a strength due to the amount of game action we got last year from a lot of guys," commented Nelson. "We hope those innings from last year allow for growth this year as well as hopefully getting back some of our top arms due to injury last year."

With the experience and depth the Rockets have, Nelson believes Neenah has the potential to climb back up the FVA standings and compete with the top teams in the conference.

With the majority of at bats and innings pitched returning, we will not lack experience compared to last year's team. With three all-conference players returning and other seniors that played a majority of the innings last year back, we look to have composure and growth in big moments to finish games," commented Nelson. "(A key for us will be) how connected we stay as a team, playing together, complementing each other both on the mound and at the plate. If we stay connected and believe in our teammates more than we believe in ourselves, this team has the chance to do something special."

St. Mary Catholic

With a solid pitching staff expected to take the mound for the Zephyrs this season, the key for success for St. Mary

Catholic could lie in the amount of runs the team can produce to back their hurlers.

But head coach Jeff Hogenson believes his roster has the bats to do it.

"The key to the Zephyrs success in 2026 will come down to our ability to produce on the offensive side," commented Hogenson. "I believe our experienced returners ... will all provide a much more consistent offensive performance which is what we were missing in the 2025 season."

Hogenson cited returning players Mason Wagner, Luke Fairweather, Owen DeWitt and Nick Jensen among the key offensive threats this season, with Wagner having earned all-Big East North recognition the past two seasons.

Ethan Plutz, Jacob Ernstring and Tarver Trinkner are also returning from last season and will look to contribute offensively as well as on the mound.

Ernstring was a first-team all-conference pitcher last season and will lead the

rotation along with Plutz.

The Zephyrs, who finished third in the Big East North last season, will also be looking for a pair of freshmen in Caleb Vogel and Caleb Springborn to contribute this season.

Although the Zephyrs have just three seniors on the roster - Wagner, Plutz and Carter Nicholson - St. Mary Catholic will sport an experienced group and Hogenson hopes that will be a benefit for the team.

"We are counting on those returners to learn from their experience last season, especially on the offensive side, and bring a quality approach day in and day out whether that be in our practice habits or in game time," commented Hogenson. "Although we will be a younger team again this year with only three seniors, we are very excited to watch our team compete throughout the season and we expect to compete for a conference title in 2026."

Baseball PREVIEW

Neenah News Boys Varsity 2026 Baseball Schedules

ST. MARY CATHOLIC		
Mar 31	Lourdes	7:00pm
Apr 1	Lourdes	4:30pm
Apr 7	Algoma	4:30pm
Apr 9	Luxemburg-Casco	6:00pm
Apr 11	Waupaca	10:00am
Apr 11	Ozaukee	3:00pm
Apr 13	Little Chute	5:00pm
Apr 17	@Oshkosh West	4:30pm
Apr 21	Hilbert	5:00pm
Apr 23	@Hilbert	5:00pm
Apr 25	Ripon	10:00am
Apr 25	Howards Grove	3:00pm
Apr 28	@Reedsville	5:00pm
Apr 30	Reedsville	5:00pm
May 5	Mishicot	5:00pm
May 7	@Mishicot	5:00pm
May 8	@West Bend West	5:00pm
May 9	Appleton West	10:00am
May 12	Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	5:00pm
May 14	@Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	5:00pm
May 15	@Iola-Scandinavia	4:30pm
May 19	@Manitowoc Lutheran	5:00pm
May 21	Manitowoc Lutheran	5:00pm

Home games in bold. All home games played at St. Mary Catholic High School

NEENAH		
Apr 1	@O'Fallon	1:00pm
Apr 7	Hortonville	4:30pm
Apr 9	@Appleton West	5:00pm
Apr 14	@Oshkosh North	5:00pm
Apr 16	Oshkosh West	5:00pm
Apr 18	@Slinger	10:30am
Apr 21	@Appleton East	4:30pm
Apr 23	Kaukauna	4:30pm
Apr 25	@Badger	11:00am
Apr 28	@Fond du Lac	4:30pm
Apr 30	Kimberly	4:30pm
May 2	@De Pere	11:00am
May 3	Menasha	1:10pm
May 5	@Appleton North	4:30pm
May 7	@Hortonville	5:00pm
May 8	Appleton West	4:30pm
May 12	Oshkosh North	4:30pm
May 14	@Oshkosh West	4:30pm
May 15	Appleton East	4:30pm
May 19	@Kaukauna	4:30pm
May 21	Fond du Lac	4:30pm
May 26	@Kimberly	4:30pm
May 28	Appleton North	4:30pm
May 30	Whitefish Bay	10:30am

Home games in bold. All home games played at Neenah High School

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Rockets return wealth of players to compete in FVA

Neenah News

Neenah girls soccer seems to be a program on the rise.

With a long list of returning players and experience at every position group, the Rockets are looking to compete with the top teams in the Fox Valley Association.

Soccer PREVIEW

“We will be competitive in every game and look to give each FVA opponent everything they can handle,” commented head coach Charles Coan. “I feel like we our still building our program.”

Neenah was once the dominant program in the FVA having reigned over the conference every year from 1986-2001 and won or shared the league crown for five straight seasons from 2013-17.

After finishing third in the league last year, the Rockets could be primed to take another step or two up the standings this season with a veteran-laden team. The

experience the Rockets carry will be key with what looks to be another strong roster for FVA teams and plenty of contests away from their homefield.

It’s a very difficult schedule this year with only four games and many tough out of conference opponents,” Coan commented. “We plan to take what we learn from those tough opponents and apply it to our FVA games.”

The Rockets will return two players who received all-FVA recognition a year ago in senior Annabelle Perry and junior JB Kennedy. Perry was a first-team selection at forward, while Kennedy earned honorable mention honors as a defender.

Perry will be joined up front by seniors Hailey Van Wie and Lilly Romjue and junior Maddie Schoonover, while seniors Mea Jones and Rylie Acker will fill in at forward and in the midfield. Other returning midfielders are senior Lizzy Luenberg and junior Ella Buchta with junior Maddie Lautenschlager and sophomore

Isla Jones playing both in the midfield and on defense.

Senior Eliana Stier played at both defense and forward last season.

In goal, senior Raleigh Peterson and sophomore Eleanor Wild are returning, while senior Olivia Hanneman could also figure into the mix in goal.

Newcomers to the varsity squad that Coan sees being able to make an impact this year are senior defender Aurey Wilgreen, junior defenders Ramsey Briones and Julianna Betker, sophomore defender Chloe Sprague and freshmen midfielder/forwards Lawsyn Michalkiewicz and Brooklyn Myers.

“(Our strengths will be) attacking flair, midfield leadership, solid defense and goalkeeping,” Coan commented. “Also our cohesiveness with playing for each other and our resilience and mental toughness.”

St. Mary Catholic

The Zephyrs graduated only one senior

from last year’s squad and will add a nice influx of newcomers to a veteran roster as they look to challenge in the Big East.

“We have a core group of returning starters who provide a solid foundation to build on,” commented head coach Erin Porsche. “While young, we believe we have a solid defense and a developing midfield coming into the season. And above all, we believe this is a resilient group of girls willing to put in the work to be successful to handle whatever challenges the season brings.”

The experienced defense for the Zephyrs will be anchored by senior goalkeeper Bethany Ruppert. Ruppert has started in goal since her freshman season and brings a wealth of experience to the position.

In front of Ruppert, the Zephyrs return senior Olivia Nagel and sophomores Morgan Porsche, Daphne Dwyer and Olivia Kraft to the defensive backline.

SEE Soccer preview ON PAGE 11

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Prep sports roundup

BASEBALL

Rockets can't hold off Polar Bears

Neenah built a 3-1 lead after five innings but couldn't hold off Hortonville in 5-3 loss in the Rockets Fox Valley Association opener on Tuesday night.

Hortonville scored four runs in the top of the sixth to overtake the Rockets and Neenah was held scoreless in its final two at bats. The Rockets took the lead with single runs in the first, fourth and fifth innings.

Gus Weinholzer, Cal Juckem and Levi Boivin each had two hits in the game for the Rockets. Juckem added a double. Mack Krause and Ethan Hellingreen each drove in a run in the game.

Weinholzer had a strong outing on the mound in getting the start. The senior al-

lowed just three hits and a run in five innings but did not figure in the decision. He struck out seven without walking a batter.

Zephyrs' rally falls short in loss

St. Mary Catholic rallied for two runs in the bottom of the seventh but couldn't overtake Algoma in a 6-5 loss in a nonconference contest on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs trailed 3-0 entering the bottom of the fifth inning and scored in each of their final three at bats, but never led against the Wolves.

Caleb Vogel and Mason Wagner each finished with two hits in the game for St. Mary Catholic.

Ethan Plutz allowed four earned runs over six innings with four strikeouts but took the loss for the Zephyrs.

SOFTBALL

Neenah falls at home to Hortonville

The Polar Bears scored a pair of unearned runs in the top of the seventh inning and dealt the Rockets a 2-1 loss in a Fox Valley Association game on Tuesday.

Neenah scored a run in the first inning when Libby Jahnke doubled home Natalie Coffey and the Rockets held the 1-0 lead until the top of the seventh.

Norah Paider and Hailey Burt also had hits in the game for the Rockets.

Taytum West struck out eight and allowed just two hits in the complete game.

BOYS LACROSSE

Neenah storms past Pulaski in opener

Lenny Coulman finished with seven goals and also picked up three assists as

the Rockets rolled to a 17-1 win over Pulaski on Tuesday night.

Jackson Herres added five goals, while Jude Marsh and Mason Koslowski each had two goals. Tyler Resch and Brayden Willes also scored for Neenah.

Marsh led the team with seven assists with Lukas Hamer picking up two.

TRACK AND FIELD

Hennessy leads Zephyrs at indoor meet

Isaiah Hennessy finished sixth in the shot put to lead St. Mary Catholic at the Small School Boys Invitational hosted by UW-Oshkosh last week.

Hennessy was one of two Zephyrs to finish in the top-12 in the event as teammate Sean Brennan took 12th.

Other top finishes for the Zephyrs were Ethan Auler in the 400 meters and Jacob Hall in the triple jump, who were each 11th.



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Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
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St. Paul Lutheran Church
200 North Commercial Street, Neenah
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www.stpaulneenah.org
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Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Worship Times: Saturday 5PM, Sunday 9AM
809 S Commercial St, Neenah 920-725-3956 www.our-saviors.org
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We have Sunday school, confirmation, youth groups, and mission trips.




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- Proclaiming the Gospel
- Strengthening Believers
- Serving Others
- Supporting Neenah Lutheran School - 3K to 8

The mission of Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church as a gathering of Christians is to serve all people in God's world with the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the holy scriptures.

436 S. Lake St.
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 725-1330
www.martinlutherneenah.org

Worship Times
Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 9:00am



APPLE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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10:00 AM & 6:00 PM
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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Worship Times: Saturday 6PM, Sunday 9am & Monday 6pm
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The Church by the Lake
Sundays at 10:15
1511 Nicolet Blvd. • Neenah
All are welcome!

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FOX VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
www.foxvalleychurch.net
@the Brigade in Downtown Neenah
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Join us on Sundays at 10 am. All are Welcome!

Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 8

either.

He is committed to the highly successful Madison College program, which has racked up 39 conference championships in its history to go along with 19 national tournament trips and three national titles.

"It's exciting not only because of the (success they have had) but I also got a few buddies that I played with over the summer that I played baseball with and they are going there as well," Krause said.

"Our incoming class is really talented."

Before Krause lands in Madison, he still has his senior season to finish up and possibly do something he has yet to accomplish in a Rocket uniform.

As much as he would take pride in making a tough defensive play to end a game and deliver Neenah a victory, he really wants to end a game in the batter's box.

"At the plate for sure. I feel like it's a bigger moment," Krause said of his preferred way to end a game. "You are expected to make those defensive plays even in a big moment. But there is something about getting a walk-off hit that is something pretty special."

Soccer preview

FROM PAGE 10

Offensively, St. Mary Catholic will be led by junior Bitsy McCauley and sophomore Brecken Britzke.

Erin Porsche also will have the skills of eight newcomers to fill out the lineup.

"Each of (the newcomers) has added to

the positive and strong work ethic on the field," the coach commented. "Our outlook for the season is positive and focused on growth. This team of young women has demonstrated resilience, a willingness to work hard and a strong desire to grow both individually and together. These are mature qualities for a young team and should serve us well throughout the season."

Classifieds

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE

NAME CHANGE OF:
Ruby Lynn Rivera
By (Petitioner) Heather Lynn Fremling

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing
Case No. 2026CV000300

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

From:
First - Ruby
Middle - Lynn
Last - Rivera
To:
First - Ruby
Middle - Lynn
Last - Fremling
Birth Certificate:
First - Ruby
Middle - Lynn
Last - Rivera

IT IS ORDERED:
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Michael D. Rust
Place: Winnebago Courthouse, Rm 410
415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901
Date: May 1, 2026
Time: 11:30 a.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4848 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 27, 2026
Winnebago County Circuit Branch 1
Runs: April 3, 2026, April 10, 2026 and April 17, 2026.

WNAXLP

Miscellaneous

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

