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## Citizens Academy encourages engagement

By Jill Trotter  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A group of residents has graduated from the inaugural Neenah Citizens Academy.

The 14 participants in the academy learned how local government functions, experienced simulated real-world problems facing local government departments and learned of ways to get involved in the community and the city's government.

The academy classes were held on Thursday evenings for a series of eight

weeks with a graduation ceremony May 14. Each week, two department heads from the City of Neenah gave interactive presentations on the vital role his or her department has in the local government.

Topics included public safety, investment and growth in Neenah, parks and recreation, water utility, infrastructure, internal support services, governance in action, and civic engagement and community participation. Participants learned what each department's duties are and

how those individual departments work together to keep Neenah's city government running smoothly.

The program was envisioned and created by former Mayor Jane Lang, who enlisted the help of high school intern Nina Bhattacharjee to assist in developing the curriculum.

Lang's goal in creating the academy was to "get the community involved and more

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## INSIDE



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Photo by David Hall

## Garden party

The annual garden party Saturday at the Neenah Animal Shelter featured various activities, including shopping for house plants, annuals and perennials, vegetables, garden decor, hanging plant baskets, NAS merch and more. Other activities included a brat fry, bake sale, kids craft table and raffle baskets.

## Summer programs offer theater performance opportunities

By Pamela Hart  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Programs in the area this summer are offering opportunities for community members to perform in and view live theater.

### Riverside Players

To celebrate Riverside Players' 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Neenah community theater group is presenting "The SpongeBob Musical" and Neil Simon's "Rumors: A Farce" at Riverside Park led by directors Amanda Petersen and Laura Frelich, who have been contributors to the group throughout the years.

Looking to the future, the group is planning significant upgrades to the event space and amenities to enhance the experience for performers, audiences and the community.

SpongeBob is a joyful, family-friendly musical that

invites the community to come together for a few hours of laughter and an unforgettable trip to Bikini Bottom. The plot is welcoming and silly, in the best way but reminds audiences how powerful optimism and community can be, especially in uncertain times. Petersen plans to transform the pavilion into a world that is playful, handmade and full of heart with bold colors and big movement for audiences to feel they are immersed in Bikini Bottom itself.

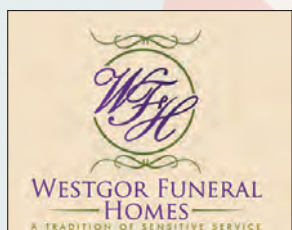
Set in the 1980's, Rumors is a Neil Simon comedy that takes place during an elegant dinner party hosted by New York's Deputy Mayor. Upon arrival, the guests discover a gunshot wound and a missing spouse which sets off a chain reaction of outrageous rumors. Simon's comedic timing enhances the plot and reveals what lengths people will go to protect their innocence. This

SEE **Summer theater** ON PAGE 8



Submitted photo

Inspiration Theatre will be performing David again this summer after shows in 2024.



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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.

## Memorial Day events set for Monday

Neenah News

The annual Memorial Day celebration put on by Twin Cities veterans' organizations, which include Neenah American Legion Post 33, Menasha American Legion Post 152, Menasha VFW Post 2126, and the cities of Neenah, Menasha and Village of Fox Crossing, will be held on Monday.

The event will start at 8 a.m. at the waterfront on Mill Street in Menasha, with a tribute including a rifle salute, band and flowers put in the water for veterans who were lost at sea.

The procession starts at Second and

Milwaukee streets, proceeds down Milwaukee to Main Street and continues to Tayco Street, then to Commercial Street in Neenah to Main Street, where it ends at Main and Doty.

After the procession at about 10:45 a.m., the celebration moves to Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah for military honors. The event includes speakers, music and rifle salute and taps. The Neenah High School Band will provide music for the event.

A car show will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lucky Dogz on Green Bay Road in Neenah, sponsored by American Legion Post 33.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

## Memorial Day Procession 1996

The Shattuck Middle school band marches onto West Wisconsin Avenue in the Memorial Day Procession. From the Neenah Citizen Newspaper photograph collection in May 1996.

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# Calendar of events

### Friday, May 22

Commencement Liturgy, 9 a.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

### Monday, May 25

Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day Procession, 9 a.m.

Car Show, 10 a.m., Lucky Dogz, 157 S. Green Bay Road

Memorial Day Ceremony, 10:45 a.m., Oak Hill Cemetery

### Wednesday, May 27

Graduation Parade, 11 a.m., Neenah High School

Graduation, 7 p.m., Neenah High School

### Saturday, May 30

Art Mercantile, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

### Sunday, May 31

Family Day, 11 a.m., Octagon House

Sunday Concert: Walt Hamburger, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Neenah Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

### Tuesday, June 2

Neenah Community Band Concert: Neenah Ambassadors Big Band, 7 p.m., Riverside Park

### Wednesday, June 3

Lunchtime Organ Recital Series featuring Rowen Erickson, 12:15 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 200 N. Commercial St.

### Friday, June 5

Listen to the Loop Music Festival, 4:30 p.m., Arrowhead Park

Listen to the Loop Music Festival, 5:30 p.m., Fritse Park

### Saturday, June 6

Book Launch for Jill D. Swenson, Author of "The Land of Everlasting Sky: A Memoir of Loss and Legacy on Lake of the Woods," 2 p.m., Lyons Books, 127 Wisconsin Ave.

Remarkable Style, 4 p.m., Miron Construction, 1471 McMahon Drive

### Tuesday, June 9


Nutman Sale, 10 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

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Photo from Neenah Police Department

K9 Bo and Officer Bryce Sweeney graduated from handler school and are ready to begin serving the Neenah community.

## New K-9 officer joins police department

Neenah News

K-9 Bo has joined the Neenah Police Department as its newest officer.

Bo and his handler, Officer Bryce Sweeney, recently graduated from handler school at Jessiffany Canine Services LLC in Neosho and are ready to begin serving the Neenah community together.

Born in Hungary in January 2025, Bo is a Belgian Malinois trained in narcotics detection, officer protection and apprehension.

When he's off duty, the department said

Bo enjoys long morning stretches, belly rubs and carrying Officer Sweeney's work boots around the house.

Bo joins the department two years since the department last had a K-9 officer. The department has been without a K-9 program following the passing of K-9 Bobby in early 2024 and the medical retirement of K-9 Cam a couple of months later.

The Neenah Common Council in February approved spending \$19,000 to purchase the new dual-purpose K-9 and provide the necessary training for Sweeney.

# Westbrook receives 10-year federal prison sentence

Neenah News

Neenah's former city attorney Adam Westbrook has been sentenced to serve the next 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty in his 2024 child pornography case.

Westbrook, 36, was charged with one count of distributing a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The federal indictment filed in February 2024 stated Westbrook used Snapchat to distribute two videos of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Westbrook was sentenced on May 15 to a 10-year federal prison sentence and 20 years of extended supervision.

He was initially charged in state court by the Sauk County District Attorney's office. However, those charges were dismissed when the federal government took over the case.

Westbrook made several attempts to withdraw his guilty plea, which delayed sentencing numerous times.

The investigation began in February 2024 when law enforcement received a report that Racine County Sheriff's Deputy Preston Kite performed lewd acts in a public bathroom while in uniform.

Westbrook and Kite were close friends who met in college, according to the criminal complaint. Investigators reviewed Kite's phone and located four videos that Westbrook allegedly sent to Kite through Snapchat of a prepubescent naked male child.

Westbrook was arrested Feb. 16 and police executed a search warrant at his

Neenah home. A review of Westbrook's Snapchat records revealed messages and images that he received from Jacob Boudreau containing alleged child pornography and references to sexual activity with the minor depicted in the videos.

Boudreau, owner of a Menasha dog grooming salon that has since closed, was arrested March 6 and a search warrant executed at his home and the salon. Documents say he acknowledged to law enforcement that Westbrook was a client of his and the men exchanged pornographic images. He denied discussing sexual activity with a minor and said he was referring to Westbrook in the messages and not the child.

Boudreau, 32, was sentenced 15 years in state prison for his role in the activity. Kite, 39, was sentenced to 55 years in state prison.

Westbrook resigned as Neenah city attorney in 2022 and was serving as Outagamie County's human resources director at the time of his February 2024 arrest.

## State senator slated to host office hours

State Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim is holding office hours next week to meet with constituents.

Dassler-Alfheim will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at Lawless Coffee, 124 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Time slots are offered on a first come, first served basis by contacting Dassler-Alfheim's office at 608-266-7513 or email [sen.dassler-alfheim@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sen.dassler-alfheim@legis.wisconsin.gov).



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Photo from Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department

## Playground opening

Despite rainy weather Sunday, the Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department officially opened the O’Hauser Park playground as part of its Take Your Parents to the Playground Day. The aging playground equipment at the park was replaced last year with features for all ages, including a zip line. The playground equipment had been the oldest in the village’s parks.



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# Changes made to Doty Cabin ahead of visitor season

Neenah News

Changes have been occurring at the Doty Cabin in anticipation of its opening on Memorial Day for the 2026 visitor season.

Thanks to a donation from the Doty Island Community Partners, there will be new displays to view, programs to attend and visitor-friendly objects to hold.

Last year, a full inventory occurred at the Cabin and the basement of City Hall. Many of the items inventoried have not been viewed since Harvey Leaman, the first Neenah curator, hosted the Cabin in the early 1970’s.

For the 2026 season, the spinning wheel collection has been placed in storage, and a new collection is being exhibited. To accomplish the new “We the People” exhibit, the Neenah Parks and Recreation Department said help was needed.

Since January, five community volunteers, nicknamed the “Weapons Team,” organized, cleaned and created displays for the military objects and weapons re-discovered during the 2025 inventory.

Civil War enthusiast Bob Chabalowski helped identify many of the swords, scabbards and objects on the weapons belts. He was most excited about the Confederate Kenansville Artillery Cutlass.

A Neenah High School woodshop student took on the project of creating articulated mannequins made from plywood to hold four military uniforms, including an 1842 Mexican-American War coatee. Another team nicknamed the

“Book Club” sorted through over 250 books located in storage.

The Parks and Rec Department has been hosting programs this spring at Doty Cabin. Tables and chairs have been added for public use, allowing patrons to sit, rest or look through visitor-friendly books and other objects.

Classes scheduled inside the building include beginner embroidery classes, a poetry study and an educator’s appreciation event.

“It is important to provide programming at the Cabin and, more importantly, to fully engage our community in the living history of the many individuals who have had — and still have — an impact on our great community today,” said Parks and Rec Director Michael Kading.

Kading went on to state, “Jacy Park, lead docent, has dedicated many volunteer hours throughout this off-season to bring forth this USA’s 250th Anniversary celebration of the ‘We the People of Neenah & Menasha’ project, and we are very excited about the new exhibits.”

Many of the programs are partnered with other organizations, including the Neenah Historical Society, Neenah Police Department, Root & Runner Creative and local museums to bring a diverse offering of educational experiences.

The cabin is open every day from noon to 4 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day with extended hours until 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Sign up for programs online or call Neenah Parks and Rec at 920-886-6060.



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# District continues to make progress toward community goals

As I approach the two-year mark of serving as superintendent of the Neenah Joint School District, I continue to be inspired by what we have been able to accomplish together as a school community.

While there is still important work ahead, I am proud of the meaningful progress we have made through collaboration, transparency, and a shared commitment to doing what is best for students.

One of the district's greatest strengths continues to be the willingness of staff members to share their perspectives, experiences and ideas for improvement. Over the past two years, more than 50 superintendent listening sessions have taken place with employees across the district, and I am incredibly grateful to the many staff members who dedicated their time to participating in these conversations.

Their honest feedback and thoughtful insights have helped identify both the areas where we are excelling and the opportunities where we can continue to grow. Just as importantly, these discussions have reinforced the importance of ensuring all employees feel heard, valued, and connected to the direction of the district.

Many of the initiatives currently underway throughout the Neenah Joint School District have been directly shaped by the ideas and feedback shared during these sessions.

Building on that feedback, we expanded the NJSD Plan for Success into a more comprehensive strategic plan that includes clearly defined goals, measurable action steps and ongoing progress mon-



**Dr. Steve Harrison**

*NJSD Superintendent*

itoring. This effort has created stronger alignment across the district and greater clarity around where we are headed together.

A strategic plan only matters if it is actively guiding decisions and driving improvement. I am proud that our plan has become a living framework for the learning and growth taking place in our schools every day.

Another important accomplishment has been the completion of a collaborative grades 5K-6 English Language Arts Program Evaluation. Guided heavily by staff feedback and professional expertise, this process helped us identify updated instructional materials that better support current best practices in literacy instruction.

Literacy remains one of the most important foundations for future student success, and this work positions us to strengthen outcomes for students across all grade levels. At the same time, we implemented a district-wide continuous school improvement process that aligns all schools with the district's literacy improvement goals.

This alignment helps ensure that every school is working toward shared outcomes while still meeting the unique needs of their students and communities. Supporting these efforts is the development of a multi-year professional devel-

opment plan focused on establishing what we call the "Neenah Guarantee," which is a commitment to ensuring all students have access to essential learning outcomes regardless of classroom, school, or background.

This initiative reflects our belief that every child deserves consistent opportunities for success.

We have also taken steps to ensure NJSD can better meet the diverse needs of today's learners and families. This year, the district developed a virtual instruction option for students who may otherwise have enrolled in neighboring districts for that opportunity. By creating this option within NJSD, we are able to maintain connections with our students and families while providing greater flexibility in how students access their education.

Finally, I am especially appreciative of the collective efforts that allowed us to address a \$1.7 million budget deficit without pursuing an operational referendum. Through careful planning, difficult conversations and a focus on long-term

sustainability, we were able to maintain fiscal responsibility while continuing to prioritize student learning and support.

None of this happens alone. These accomplishments belong to our teachers, staff, administrators, families, Board of Education and community partners. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such dedicated individuals, and I look forward to continuing this important work together on behalf of all NJSD students.

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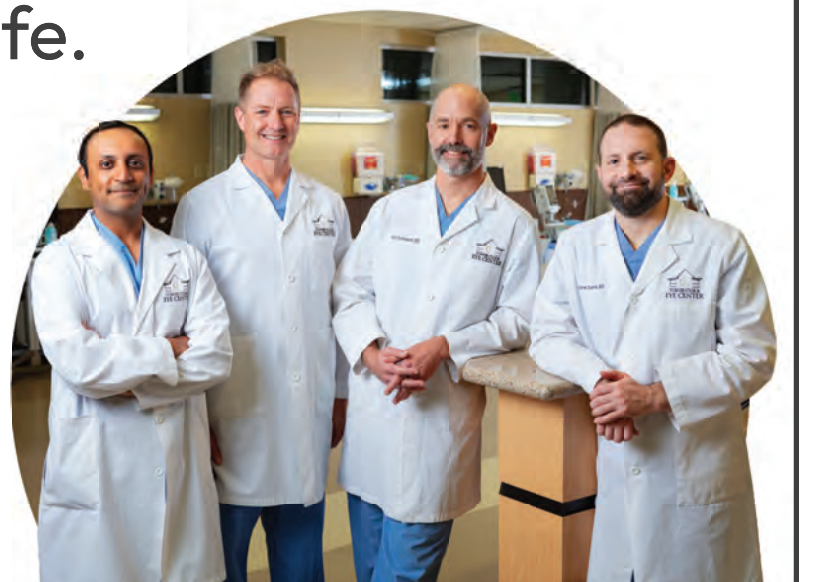
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# Mental health first aid training helps those in crisis

By MaryBeth Matzek  
NEENAH NEWS

Just as people are trained in first aid to help those with physical injuries, there's training available to assist those dealing with a mental health crisis.

Called mental health first aid, Katie Jaegly, health and well-being educator and behavior health for the University of Wisconsin-Extension in Winnebago County, trains people how to respond to someone in a mental health crisis. In 2025, she pro-

vided the training to 10% of Winnebago County employees and hopes to train another 10% of county staff this year.

"Mental health first aid is important to learn since you want to make sure people know how to respond in a crisis," Jaegly said. "Like regular first aid, we're not solving the whole problem; we're just providing assistance until someone with more experience can take over."

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, Jaegly said it is a good time

to call attention to mental health first aid. The program requires eight hours of training that begins with looking at mental health in the United States and talks about the stigma around the disease, she said. From there, she discusses the importance of mental health care and why people should provide their own self-care before helping someone else.

"It's like when you're on an airplane and they always tell you to put on your oxygen mask first before helping someone else," she said, adding class attendees learn about different signs and symptoms to look for and then how to react and respond in crisis scenarios. "The goal is to provide support and then encourage the person to call a crisis line, reach out to a medical professional, a counselor — someone else who can provide deeper support."

Jaegly said program participants are encouraged to follow the ALGEE action plan when approaching someone in crisis: Approach and assess for risk of suicide or harm; Listen nonjudgmentally; Give reassurance and information; Encourage appropriate professional help; and Encourage self-help and other support strategies.

"When you think about county work-

ers, especially caseworkers, those at the front desks or dispatchers, they are sometimes working with people who are in some difficult situations, so it is important they have these tools available to them," Jaegly said. "They can better respond to residents' needs. It improves safety as people feel better understood."

Jaegly said one of the hardest parts of mental health first aid is when someone reveals he is thinking about harming himself.

"You need to come out and ask if they're thinking about injuring themselves. And if they are, you need to sit with them and help them connect with a local crisis line or the national 988 Suicide and Crisis Line," she said.

Going through mental health first aid training can also help people improve their own well-being and provide them with the tools they need if they find themselves in crisis, she added. Those trained can also help family, friends and neighbors facing mental health crises.

Jaegly provides training to organizations beyond the county. Anyone interested in mental health first aid training or other behavioral health training, such as suicide prevention, can contact at the Extension office at 920-232-1970.

"There's such a need and desire for this kind of training since people want to support each other," she said.



Jaegly

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# Citizens Academy

FROM PAGE 1

aware of how local government functions and get people interested and involved in that process.”

Her hope was that “people would want to come and learn and be interested in finding out more (about local government)” right from the source, providing the added benefit of dispelling misinformation and hopefully leading to more trust in local government.

“It’s a different way to engage with the community and anytime you do that, it’s positive,” Lang said.

City Attorney David Rashid, who was a presenter for the academy, likewise finds the program to be beneficial to increase communication and trust between Neenah citizens and local government.

“We’re doing it so we can enhance people’s knowledge of city government,” Rashid said. “I think it promotes communication between the citizens and their local government. I think it hopefully improves trust.”



Submitted photo

Participants in the Neenah Citizens Academy learned about various aspects of city government, including the Public Works Department.

He went on to say that “trust in government...is at an all-time low it seems. Unfortunately, there is a trickle-down effect that affects us here at the local levels.”

He is hopeful that this program will lead to more goodwill between the residents and those at City Hall.

Current Mayor Brian Borchardt plans to continue the academy in the future. He is grateful to Lang and to all the department heads for their work and effort, which ensured the program was a success.

He noted that the program aligns with his vision and his hope of getting the public more engaged and involved in the community and local government.

The program provides a sense of ownership in the community, which Borchardt thinks is important because city officials want to make sure people feel that they’re part of this community and that participation in local government is within the reach of Neenah’s citizens. He hopes this program will inspire residents’ interest in volunteering, lead to the creation of new programs and avenues for citizens to become involved, and even motivate citizens to run for political office.

“I hope this also spurs people’s interest in running for political office,” Borchardt said. “Maybe even there’s someone in the private sector that says I didn’t know that my skill set applies to this job at City Hall.”

This is the exact response that participant Gina Larsen, a Neenah resident of 30 years, had while attending the academy. Her participation in the academy inspired her to apply to be an alderman, a role she had not pictured herself in previously.

“I wouldn’t have ever thought about it if I hadn’t been going to this class,” Larsen said. “People think you must have all these special skills or that it’s not for people like me.”

By attending the classes, she realized



Submitted photo

A group of residents on May 14 graduated from the Neenah Citizens Academy.

that involvement in local government is attainable.

Regarding the academy, Larsen said, “I have loved every minute of it...I cannot get over how lucky we are in Neenah. I’ve just really come to love hearing from these incredibly smart people who work for the

City of Neenah.”

Neenah Citizens Academy is free to enroll and open to anyone over 18 years old who works or lives in Neenah. For more information, visit the City of Neenah website at [ci.neenah.wi.us/communications/citizens-academy](http://ci.neenah.wi.us/communications/citizens-academy).

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# Summer theater

FROM PAGE 1

fast-paced farce induces nonstop laughter, especially with a wildly talented cast who embraces the madness.

SpongeBob hits the Riverside Park stage July 23-26 and July 29-Aug. 1 with all performances at 7:30 p.m. Rumors will be presented at 7 p.m. Sept. 10-13. Tickets are available on the city of Neenah website or at the door before each show.

## Inspiration Theatre

Back by popular demand, Inspiration Theatre in Winneconne presents "David, the King of Jerusalem."

This story of David from Jewish history begins from the perspective of Old King David reliving his life. The victories and the failures that brought him to his old age. Flowing through all of it is the vital and intimate relationship with God, who is portrayed by a figure in white: kind, strong, good and true.

The family-friendly production won Appleton's Broadway World awards in 2024. Michael McGinnis, portraying young adult David, won Best Performer in a Musical and Wesley Breyer won second place for Best Lighting Display. Many of the 2024 cast members are returning to reprise their roles.

"David, the King of Jerusalem" performances are at 7 p.m. July 30 and 31, 6 p.m. Aug. 1 and 2 p.m. Aug. 2 at the Winneconne Community Arts Center. Tickets can be reserved by email to winneconneticket@gmail.com, or on the group's website inspirationtheatre.org. The tickets are free but reservations are appreciated. The reply email is the admission ticket. Doors open a half hour before the show. Walk-ins will be welcome on a first come,

first serve basis.

## Jolly Jester Children's Theatre

Well known for their 62 years of children's productions, Jolly Jester has expanded to community theater in recent years.

Since 2019, the Oshkosh group offers opportunities for adults and children to participate in one of their shows every other summer. This summer they are presenting "Shrek, the Musical" directed by Tracie Schlaak. Given the success with their children's theater presentation of "Shrek, Jr." in 2019, eager community members requested the full version for all ages to be a part of the production.

Organizers said to get ready for big laughs, big hearts and one very big green ogre. A hilarious and heartfelt fairy tale filled with catchy songs and outrageous humor. It is a joyful celebration of individuality and friendship reminding us that what makes us different is exactly what makes us special.

"Shrek, the Musical" will be presented at 7 p.m. Aug. 12-15 along with 2 p.m. matinees Aug. 15-16 at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium in Oshkosh. Tickets are available online at the Oshkosh Recreation Department and at the door before each performance.

## Jubricosa Youth Theatre

A place where young people ages 7 to 18 learn the basics of theater, Jubricosa instills self-confidence and responsibility in youth both on and off the stage. Classes are held in Oshkosh and Neenah with students participating from the Fox Valley area.

The younger class is performing "Seussical, Jr." a whimsical tale narrated by the Cat in the Hat. Horton the Elephant must protect the Whos from a dangerous world. Although he faces ridicule and trials along the way, Gertrude McFuzz never loses

faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant.

The high school students will present "Freaky Friday" based on the popular movie which follows a mother and daughter who end up magically switching bodies for a day. Chaos ensues as they experience each other's perspective on empathy and family. The story captures the challenges and joys of life while walking in someone else's shoes.

## County hopes to rent out space at Fox campus

By MaryBeth Matzek  
NEENAH NEWS

Progress continues at the Winnebago Fox campus in Menasha.

Winnebago County and Wisconsin Entertainment Group Venue Partners (WEG), the organization running the communications arts center and field-house at the former University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh campus, are working on a companion agreement for the group to rent out the adjacent two-story office and classroom space.

"They are seeing an interest from groups who want a home on campus," Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz told members of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors at its meeting Tuesday. "As a reminder, we didn't budget for this revenue so even if they have moderate success, it will be good for us."

He said several events have been held at the theater since it opened, including a concert by the Fox Valley Concert Band and an illusionist. The Attic Theater is planning performances next month.

Hintz said the next step for the campus is to invite a technical assistant panel — a short-term advisory group of nine to 12 experts — brought together next month to the campus to discuss what could be envisioned on the 43-acre site.

Classes begin the week of June 8 in Neenah and Oshkosh. Registration is open to all Fox Valley youth until the first day of class. Seussical performances are at 7 p.m. July 9-11 with a matinee at 2 p.m. July 11. Freaky Friday performances are at 7 p.m. July 16-18 with a July 18 matinee at 2 p.m. Both shows will be performed at the Winneconne Community Arts Center. Tickets are available at jubricosa.org or at the door one hour before showtime.

He said this option was more economical than hiring a consultant since the panel members already understand the community's needs.

"We've all agreed that whatever is done with the site that it is value-added, adds to the tax base and preserves community assets to maximize community benefit, long-term financial sustainability and economic development," Hintz said.

**911 System upgrade approved:** The county board approved technical upgrades for Winnebago County's 911 dispatch center.

The Sheriff's Office, which runs the 911 center, will add upgrades that include updated software, updated voice-to-text translations for calls and a new audio recording system. The county's 911 call processing equipment will also be replaced.

The upgrades and five-year contract with AT&T Enterprises, LLC will cost an estimated \$500,000, with grant dollars covering 90% of the cost. For the recording system, the county would enter a five-year agreement with WSI Technologies. The county was awarded a \$514,513.76 grant, which will be spent in 2027 on the system.

The new system will be installed in the first quarter of 2027.

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# Rockets' Juckem happy to be back playing at full speed



Neenah News

Neenah's Cal Juckem has bounced back from an injury-slowed junior season to help lead a resurgent Rockets baseball team that is challenging for a top finish in the Fox Valley Association.

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Cal Juckem is a member of the close-knit Neenah High School baseball team.

The Rockets team chemistry is something that Juckem feels is an asset and a key to the team's success this season. During those crucial times in a game when players may be feeling some stress or after a miscue that needs to be left behind before the next play, Juckem said his teammates are always there to help one another out.

"We are able to just pick each other up no matter what is happening," Juckem said, further explaining how that is done with a big grin on his face. "We know we can make fun of each other a little bit and that really helps us settle down and have fun."

Whatever the approach is, it is working for the Rockets.

After losing their first two games of the season and starting the year 3-3 overall, the Rockets have gone 12-4 over their last 16 games – highlighted by a recent seven-game winning streak – and elevated themselves into a position to earn a top-three finish in the Fox Valley Association.

"I feel like we are playing really well as a team," Juckem said at a practice last week. "We have been putting hits together, pitching well and keeping things going. Our bench guys have had so much energy that has really helped us out."

"I feel like we expected this at the beginning of the year."

Juckem has been a vital cog in Neenah's success both on the mound as one of the top pitchers on the Rockets' staff and in the line-

## Senior Standout



up where he serves as a key run-producer. Entering this week, Juckem – who regularly serves as the No. 3 hitter in the lineup – was batting .306 with 14 RBIs and 17 runs scored for the Rockets. He was leading the team with three triples and among the team leaders in walks and on-base percentage.

Although Juckem is part of a potent top of the order for Neenah, he said the strength of the team's offense is its ability to produce one through nine.

"If some of our top three guys struggle, we know the bottom of the lineup will come up big for us," Juckem said. "They really picked us up when we were struggling last week and we won all three games we had."

Juckem is a contributor at the plate, but it's on the mound where he feels the most comfortable.

In his first seven appearances of the season, including six starts, Juckem has compiled a 4-1 record with a 2.03 earned run average. He has fanned 48 batters in just over 34 innings and opponents were batting just .228 when he was on the mound.

"I really enjoy pitching. I think it's fun to be able to control part of the game," Juckem said. "I really like the pressure of pitching against good teams."

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 12

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# Prep sports roundup

## TRACK AND FIELD

### Neenah girls repeat as FVA champions

Celia Gentile and Emma Severson each won two individual events and Neenah collected a pair of relay wins en route to claiming its second straight Fox Valley Association title at the conference meet held Monday at Lawrence University.

The Rockets finished with 153.5 points in the meet to outduel Appleton North, which totaled 141.5. Oshkosh West was a distant third with 98.5 points.

Gentile not only won two events but placed in the top three in four events overall. The junior's wins came in the long jump and triple jump, while she placed second in the 100 meters and third in the 200 meters.

Severson dominated both throwing events for her two wins, beating the second-place throw in the shot put by about 10 feet while winning the discus by nearly 20 feet.

Neenah also had a strong showing in the relay races where the team of Savannah

Wendrick, Brynn Fox, Molly Snider and Kobi Meyer won the 800-meter relay and the foursome of Elsa Gruber, Elise Braaten, Lizzy LaPlant and Anna Benthein took first in the 3,200-meter relay. The Rockets were also second in the 400-meter relay.

Sam Zilm and Izzy Malloy also had strong meets for the Rockets with Zilm placing second in both the 1,600 meters and 3,200 meters, while Malloy picked up a second place in the 800 meters and was fourth in the 1,600 meters.

Other top-five finishers for Neenah were: Lexi Davis, third in the shot put; Resa Goethel, tied for third in the pole vault; Aubrey Strosahl, fifth in the 300-meter hurdles; and Eva Marose, fifth in the pole vault.

The Neenah boys finished sixth overall at the conference meet with 62 points, just four points out of the top five. Kimberly easily won the team title.

Owen Fox paced the Rockets with a second-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles and a third place in the 110-meter hurdles.

Oliver Peterka added a second place in

the long jump for Neenah.

Other top-five finishers for Neenah were: Arlo Ferguson, fourth in the 400 meters; Oliver Steiner, fourth in the 800 meters; Nate Kramp, fourth in the shot put; Elliott Drake, fifth in the 3,200 meters; and Dawson Oberer, fifth in the shot put.

The Rockets also finished fifth in the 400-meter, 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

### Davel leads Zephyrs at Big East meet

Sophomore Ellie Davel won three individual events and placed second in another to lead the St. Mary Catholic girls to a second-place finish at the Big East Conference meet on Monday.

The Zephyrs finished with 95 points in the meet, which was eight more than third-place Kohler. Mishicot won the team title with 140 points.

Davel swept both hurdle events at the meet, while also finishing first in the long jump – where she finished more than nine inches ahead of the runner-up. She also

placed second in the 200 meters, with teammate Luci Nackers coming in third.

Claire Higgins in the 400 meters and Lucy Norville in the high jump also added third-place finishes for St. Mary Catholic, with Nackers also picking up a fourth place in the 100 meters. Marissa Hahn added a fourth place in the discus.

St. Mary Catholic also finished in the top five in all four relays, with the 800-meter relay team leading the way with a third place. The Zephyrs were fourth in the 1,600-meter relay and fifth in both the 400-meter relay and 3,200-meter relay.

The St. Mary Catholic boys were led by its throwers as Isaiah Hennessy in the shot put and Sean Brennan in the discus each took third.

Ethan Auer added a fourth place in the pole vault, with Augustus Clark tying for fifth place in the same event.

The Zephyrs finished 10<sup>th</sup> among the 14 teams in the meet, which was won by Manitowoc Lutheran.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 11

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## Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 10

### SOFTBALL

#### Rockets rally to knock off Ghosts

Neenah scored three runs in the top of the sixth inning to pull out a 5-4 win over Kaukauna on Tuesday, giving the Rockets four straight wins in the Fox Valley Association to move them above .500 in league play.

Libby Jahnke had a big night to lead the Rockets to the win over the Ghosts, going 3-for-3 with two doubles and an RBI in the game. She also walked and reached base in all four plate appearances.

Kyleigh Mathe added two hits, including a triple, while Olivia Rasmussen picked up three RBIs in the game.

Neenah scored single runs in the second and fourth innings, but Kaukauna answered with two runs in the bottom of the fourth to take a 4-2 lead.

Kayleigh Johnson struck out two and scattered five hits in seven innings to get the win. Only two of the four runs she allowed were earned as the Rockets overcame five errors in the game to get the win.

The Rockets posted a 10-0, five-inning win over Appleton East last Friday, scoring six runs in the bottom of the second to break the game open.

Natalie Coffey finished 3-for-4 with three RBIs, while Taytum West chipped in two hits and two RBIs in the win. West and Mathe combined on a five-hit shutout in the circle.

Earlier in the week, Neenah took down Oshkosh West 13-3 with Coffey and Livia Hechimovich each collecting three hits in the game.

Jahnke, Hailey Burt and Carli Baltus each added two hits, with Jahnke, Hechimovich and Baltus each driving in three runs in the game. Jahnke also scored four times.

Neenah trailed 2-1 after one inning but scored four runs in the top of the second and added four more in the third to take control of the game.

Mathe struck out five and allowed only one unearned run in 5 2/3 innings to get the win in the circle for the Rockets.

#### Zephyrs drop pair of close contests

St. Mary Catholic lost a pair of one-run non-conference games earlier this week.

The Zephyrs fell to Manawa 2-1 on Tuesday after getting nipped by Peshtigo, 4-3, on Monday.

Against Manawa, the Zephyrs scored in the first inning on Paxtyn Trinkner's two-out, RBI-double that scored Emmi Weiss but Manawa took the lead with two runs in the third and led the rest of the way.

Gabby Guerrero finished 2-for-4 for the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic scored a pair of runs in the top of the sixth inning to pull even with Peshtigo, but the Bulldogs answered with a run in the bottom of the inning to hand the Zephyrs the loss.

Illa Moder and Audrey Weber drove in the runs in the sixth inning for the Zephyrs, while Trinkner added an RBI-double in the first inning.

The Zephyrs used a pair of first-inning runs to down Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah, 2-1, in a Big East Conference game last week.

Weiss singled home Gabby Guerrero in the top of the first against the Resorters and then scored on a base hit from Scarlett Reichenbacher to stake the Zephyrs to the two-run lead.

Trinkner pitched 5 2/3 innings to earn the win in the circle, while Guerre-



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Neenah's Hailey Burt makes contact with a pitch during last week's win over Oshkosh West.

ro earned the save with 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

### BASEBALL

#### Zephyrs edged by Lancers in Big East tilt

St. Mary Catholic scored a run in the top of the seventh to tie the game but Manitowoc Lutheran won it, 2-1, with a run in the bottom of the inning in a matchup of the top teams in the Big East North on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs were held to just four hits in the game, with Tarver Trinkner scoring the only run for St. Mary Catholic.

Ethan Plutz struck out three and allowed just one earned run in six-plus innings of work but was saddled with the hard-luck loss.

The Zephyrs also dropped a close game with Iola-Scandinavia on Saturday, losing the nonconference contest, 7-6.

Luke Fairweather, Caleb Vogel, Jacob Ernsting and Andrew Ernsting each finished with two hits in the game, while Caleb Springborn drove in two runs in the contest.

St. Mary Catholic scored four runs in the sixth inning to break open a close game against Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah en route to a 6-1 win last week.

Seven different players had hits in the game for the Zephyrs, with Vogel collecting a doubles, while Plutz, Jacob Ernsting and Andrew Ernsting each drove in runs.

Jacob Ernsting struck out 11 and allowed just two hits to earn the win on the mound.

#### Rockets fall to Ghosts in FVA showdown

Kaukauna scored five runs in the second inning and tallied six in the sixth to hand Neenah a 13-3 loss in a showdown of two of the top teams in the Fox Valley Association on Tuesday.

Mack Krause hit a solo home run and Cal Juckem finished 2-for-2 to pace the Rockets, who had their six-game conference winning streak snapped with the loss.

Over the weekend, Neenah split a pair of nonconference games, beating Eau Claire Memorial, 3-2, in eight innings while falling to DC Everest, 4-1.

In the win over the Old Abes, Neenah trailed 2-0 after six innings but scored two runs in the top of the seventh and then won the game in the eighth.

Krause finished 3-for-4 with an RBI, while Gus Weinholzer and John Weiland also drove in runs for the Rockets. Owen Pire earned the win with four innings in relief of Zachary Waite. The duo allowed just six hits and struck out four.

In the loss to DC Everest, Krause had two of the Rockets' three hits and drove

in the lone run in the game. Sam Printz allowed one unearned run in four innings of relief on the mound.

Neenah scored 12 runs in the first inning and added five more in the second in a 21-2 win over Appleton East last week.

Krause paced the offense by going 3-for-3 with three RBIs, while Landen Sheppard had a pair of triples and drove in five runs in the game. Levi Bolvin also had three hits in the contest, while Brett Walther, Weinholzer, Ethan Hellingreen and Henry St. Clair each finished with two.

Connor Amsler got the win, striking out five in three innings.

Rounding out the action for the Rockets was a 4-0 win over Oshkosh West, with Juckem tossing a three-hit shutout with 13 strikeouts.

### BOYS LACROSSE

#### Offense erupts in pair of wins for Rockets

Jude Marsh scored seven goals and Drew Green finished with five as Neenah posted a 19-2 win over Notre Dame at home last week.

Tyler Resch and Jack Werner added two goals apiece with Luke Hamer and Brayden Willes adding one. Willes led the team with four assists while Marsh added three.

Troy Kahler totaled eight ground balls in the win for the Rockets, while Isaac Scholl made four saves in goal.

The Rockets added a 17-5 win over Oneida Nation on Monday, while suffering an 8-7 loss to Oregon on Saturday.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

#### Neenah falls in nonconference game

The Rockets dropped an 8-5 decision to Central Wisconsin on the road last week.

Josie Mroczkowski and Emmaree Drach each scored two goals in the game for the Rockets, while Lola Johnson also found the net.

Ainsley LeClair led the team with four ground balls and Bristol Beschta finished with nine saves.

The Rockets also lost to Waunakee, 13-

6, on Tuesday.

### SOCCER

#### Zephyrs notch shutout victory

Luci Nackers scored a pair of goals to help St. Mary Catholic to a 5-0 win over Sevastopol/Gibraltar on Tuesday.

Bitsy McCauley, Vivie Auth and Brecken Britzke also scored in the game for the Zephyrs. Britzke also led the team with three assists.

The Zephyrs were coming off a 3-3 tie with Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah last week where McCauley finished two goals and Morgan Porsche had one. Britzke picked up an assist in the game.

#### Neenah erupts for five goals against Ghosts

Kaukauna scored first against Neenah in a Fox Valley Association match last week, but the Rockets responded with five unanswered goals in a 5-1 win on Parents Night and Club Soccer Night in Neenah.

Lawsyn Michalkiewicz scored a pair of goals to lead the offense, while Maddie Schoonover and Mea Jones combined on two goals to get the Rockets the lead.

Schoonover took a pass from Jones and was all alone with the goalkeeper to get the Rockets on the board – about four minutes after the Ghosts had scored. Just before halftime, it was Schoonover carrying the ball to the endline before cutting a pass back to Jones who drilled a rising shot into the net for a 2-1 lead the Rockets took into intermission.

After Michalkiewicz scored twice, Isla Jones added the final goal of the match to all but seal the win. Maddy Lautenschlager assisted on the goal.

Neenah also played to a 0-0 tie against Fond du Lac on Tuesday.

### TENNIS

#### Rockets split a pair of weekend dual meets

Neenah went 1-1 in a pair of dual meets

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 12

# Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad

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

### Miscellaneous

Flea Markets: Antigo (FRI - Downtown) May 22; Shawano, May 23 & 24; Merrill (SAT) June 6; Union Grove (SAT) June 27; Shawano Summer Market, SUNDAYS. NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED! Info: Zurko 715-526-9769 or www.zurkopromotions.com

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### Legal Notice

**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF:**  
Phoenix Dimerra Coudeyras  
By (Petitioner) Phoenix Dimerra Coudeyras

**Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2026CV000503**

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
From:  
First - Phoenix  
Middle - Dimerra  
Last - Coudeyras  
To:  
First - Lucy  
Middle -  
Last - Morningstar  
Birth Certificate:  
First - Phoenix  
Middle - Dimerra  
Last - Coudeyras

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: Michael S. Gibbs  
Place: Winnebago Courthouse, Rm 211  
415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901  
Date: July 6, 2026  
Time: 8:30 a.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4846 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: May 18, 2026  
Winnebago County Circuit Branch 4

**Runs: May 22, 2026, May 29, 2026 and June 5, 2026.**

## Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 11

at Whitefish Bay on Saturday, knocking off Verona, 6-1, while falling to the host Dukes, 5-2.

The Rockets posted five of their wins against Verona in straight sets, with Hunter Brown, Henry Farrell and Mercer Moss collecting wins at the top three singles flights, respectively. Joe Buttron dropped the first set in his No. 4 singles match, but rallied back to win 0-6, 7-6, 11-9 to complete the singles sweep.

Brady Lawatsch and Luke Grassl dropped only two games in winning their No. 1 doubles match, while Charlie Perry and Eric Hein also won at the No. 3 flight.

Against Whitefish Bay, the Rockets got a win from Lawatsch and Grassl at No. 1 doubles and from Moss at No. 3 singles, who won his match 7-6, 7-6.

Last week, the Rockets won a pair of Fox Valley Association dual meets, collecting 6-1 wins over both Appleton North and Kimberly.

Neenah swept the singles matches against the Lightning, while taking all three doubles matches in straight sets against the Papermakers.

### GOLF

## Zephyrs finish sixth at Big East meet

Brady DeLeeuw carded a top-10 finish as St. Mary Catholic placed sixth at the Big East Conference Championship at Town & Country Golf Course in Sheboygan on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs tied with Sheboygan Christian at 348, one shot behind Sheboygan Lutheran and seven behind Howards

Grove. Kohler and Oostburg each shot 330 to lead the team scores.

DeLeeuw turned in a round of 81 to finish tied for 10<sup>th</sup> among the individuals with Charlie Whaley finishing just behind him with an 84. Alex Klinghammer added an 89, while Mason Uhlenbrauck and Carter Pendergast each finished at 94.

The Zephyrs also finished sixth at the Appleton West Invitational on Saturday at Chaska Golf Course with a 354.

Finnley McClone led St. Mary Catholic with an 83, followed by Pendergast with an 86, Rhett Probst with a 90 and Klinkhammer with a 95.

## Neenah pulls out close win over Kaukauna

Cartyr Simonson tied for medalist honors with a 40 and Neenah edged Kaukauna by a single stroke in a Fox Valley Association dual meet at Butte des Morts Country Club.

Simonson tied with the Ghosts' Jonah Roehig for the low score with the Rockets' Carson Seitz and Zach Schneider finishing one stroke back. Vinny School shot a 44 to round out the scoring golfers for Neenah.

Neenah came up just short against Oshkosh West on Monday, losing to the Wildcats 164-167 at Ridgeway.

Mason Peitersen earned medalist honors with a 39 to lead the Rockets, while Simonson finished with a 40. Seitz and Schneider each added scores of 44 for Neenah.

Last week, the Rockets scored a 160-169 win over Appleton West at Winagamie Golf Club.

Henry Menchl had the low score of the day with a 37, followed by Scholl with a 38, Anders Wilgreen with a 39 and Schneider with a 39.

## Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 9

Juckem showcases a slider as his "out pitch" but will also throw a change-up to keep hitters off balance.

But his two-seam fastball has been his best pitch so far this season and he knows the best way to throw it.

"I just like throwing hard," said Juckem, whose dad, Neil, pitched at UW-Oshkosh and got him started on the mound. "The two-seam has been moving good. That's been really helpful."

Being able to contribute to the team is something that Juckem has a special appreciation for.

During his junior season of basketball, Juckem suffered a knee injury that ended his season on the court and delayed his return to the diamond. Although he avoided surgery, he still missed nearly all of the preseason preparation.

Juckem was able to do some pitching early in the season, but wasn't able to play the field or hit at the start and that hampered his production throughout the season.

"I really couldn't do much right away, so I just started pitching, but I was very limited," Juckem said. "I couldn't hit for the first few weeks which made me struggle when I started hitting."

It was an unusual feeling for Juckem, who was used to being out on the field in one capacity or another for just about every inning.

"It sucked," said Juckem, who still earned second-team all-FVA honors. "Every other year I could just play whenever I wanted and I didn't have to worry about it. It was a really weird change."

This season, though, that wasn't the case. Juckem returned healthy for basketball – where he played in all 27 games for the

Rockets – and entered the baseball season fully prepared.

"It was great to be able to start practicing right away which gave me a headstart going into the season," Juckem said. "I didn't have to start my season after the season already started. It was a big motivator."

Juckem plans to attend UW-Platteville next year to study engineering but doesn't plan to play baseball for the Pioneers.

That means his playing career may only have a few weeks left and he knows that when it ends, it's going to be tough taking off the uniform for the last time.

"It's going to be sad. I've played my whole life," said Juckem, who is a honor roll student at Neenah. "I've taken some harder classes this year and it's kind of shown me what it would be like (at college). I just feel like it's a lot for school."

Just because his playing days are coming to an end, it doesn't mean that it is going to happen soon.

With the talent and pitching depth the Rockets possess, a lengthy tournament run is certainly a possibility and Juckem believes that the game-in, game-out grind of playing in the FVA will help the team when the post-season begins.

"Going into the postseason, I don't have to worry about going against kids that are better than the kids I've already faced (in the FVA)," Juckem said. "This year, we have so many good teams in the FVA. Coming into games, you get pretty nervous but it's always fun knowing you are going against the best."

And if the Rockets continue to play at a high level, Juckem believes finishing the season at the WIAA state tournament just up the road at Fox Cities Stadium is a possibility.

"It would be awesome just ending my career going to state, playing with the boys I have played with my whole life," Juckem said. "It would be great ending."



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