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INSIDE

Senior Standout
'Stink' helps Zephyrs
smell success
Page 11

New policy
Board unveils plan for
animals in classroom
Page 4

Kids day

A Kids Day was held Saturday at the Future Neenah Farmers Market featuring various activities for children and families. Families could enjoy a bounce house, games, balloon animals and kid vendors selling their own homemade goods. The event had been rescheduled due to rain the previous week.

Neenah News

Campaign supports local journalism

Neenah News has been delivering local news home to every door in 54956 since August 2023 after initially starting as a subscription based newspaper in February 2022.

We believe communities deserve a local newspaper to keep them informed on what is happening in the government, schools, sports and business.

When we launched in February 2022 as a subscription model, we had nearly 1600 subscribers when we converted to the every door delivery model. Our communication of this transition and the need for continued local support was

faulty on our end as we've heard from many of our supporters that since the paper kept on coming, they assumed they had paid for it.

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Sharp said zines have always been a means of connecting with other people.

"I find these objects to be very powerful because of their accessibility," she said. "They are a really an immediate and quick way to express yourself, similar to the notes you pass in class."

Zines first became popular in the 1930's with the rise of interest in sci-fi and then again in the 1980's with the punk movement, Sharp said.

"There have always been alternative means of expression," she said. "The chat books of the American Revolution, like "Common Sense," by Thomas Paine

Independent publishing highlighted

By George Halas
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

An inclusive event to uplift creators of all backgrounds and perspectives while shining a light on the vibrant world of independent publishing is coming to the Neenah Public Library.

The Friends of the Neenah Public Library and the Neenah Public Library Trust Fund, in partnership with ZABA and Root & Runner Creative Space, will present the Fox Cities Zine and Book Arts Festival from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the library.

In conjunction, the Neenah Arts Council will be offering zine making from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Future Neenah Farmers Market. The arts council will provide zine-making materials.

Sunday's ZABA Fest will feature over 30 vendors, panel discussions and hands-on activities, celebrating zines, book arts and the creative people who bring them to life.

Zines are small books or magazines that are often made with only one cleverly folded sheet of paper. Zines are created by individuals or groups using a DIY approach, often sharing artistic expression or interest in a specific topic.

Neenah artists Michelle Sharp and Emily Runnerstrom will lead the exploration into zines, a group effort.

"We're a collective of volunteers and I'm the bossy one," Sharp said with a laugh. "I've spearheaded and pushed things forward while the others have slowed me down and made sure that we are making thoughtful decisions."

"I started this last year for selfish reasons. I love zines and I have wanted to have a zine fest for years," she continued. "A bunch of us got together and made it happen."

Sharp said zines have always been a means of connecting with other people.

"I find these objects to be very powerful because of their accessibility," she said. "They are a really an immediate and quick way to express yourself, similar to the notes you pass in class."

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SEE Zine workshop ON PAGE 3

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Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Octagon House

A view of the Octagon House and Soo Line Engine No. 2645 from across the tracks. Some old cars were parked on the road. The picture was taken in the early 1940's. The train tracks that run on the westside of the Octagon House are still an active part of Neenah.

School for Seniors will return Oct. 16

Neenah News

School for Seniors, a free event on Oct. 16, will provide area seniors with informa-
tional sessions designed just for them.

Held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 140 S. Green Bay Road, Neenah, the event begins at 8:45 a.m. It is co-led by Lakeland University and the City of Neenah's Committee on Aging.

School for Seniors features three ses-
sions:

Never Grow Up ... It's a Trap! Edie Raether, an 82-year-old neuro-behavioral strategist and bestselling author, will talk about your birthdate should never deter-
mine your expiration date.

Ageless Grace — Timeless Fitness for the Body and Brain will be led by Stacy Parish of the YMCA of the Fox Cities.

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Protect Yourself from Common Scams
will feature Neenah Police Department
officer Joe Benoit who will discuss scams
that target seniors.

Seating is limited. Contact the City of
Neenah at 920-886-6125 or visit ci.neen-
ah.wi.us/departments/community-de-
velopment by Oct. 12 to reserve your seat.

School for Seniors has been held an-
nually since 2016 and interest contin-
ues to grow in the program, said Joshua
Kutney, Lakeland University's Executive
Vice President and Vice President for Ac-
ademic Affairs. Kutney and committee
members organized the event to meet the
needs of seniors in the community.

Program focuses on brain
wellness, technology use

Neenah News

The kick-off event for the Adult After-
noon Program series is at 2 p.m. Oct. 5
in the Shattuck Community Room at the
Neenah Public Library.

LaReina Tipping, program manager
from the Brain Center of Green Bay, will
be presenting a program on the use of
technology and how it impacts the brain.

Technology use can cause structural
changes in the brain. Pings, alerts, rings and
notifications can shift focus in a way that
can lead to long-lasting difficulties with
paying attention. Difficulties paying atten-
tion can lead to poorer performance on
academic, personal and professional tasks.

The hour-long program will take place
on the first floor in the Shattuck Commu-
nity Room at the Neenah Public Library.
All interested individuals are welcome to
attend this free event. No registration is
necessary.

Calendar
of events

Friday, Oct. 2

First Friday Concert: Cat Plan, 2 p.m.,
Neenah Public Library
The Hallows, 6:30 p.m., Memorial
Park

Saturday, Oct. 3

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8
a.m., Shattuck Park
Neenah Parks and Recreation Howl-
O-Ween, 9 a.m., Neenah Dog Park,
2122 Brooks Ave.
Flag retirement ceremony, 9 a.m.,
American Legion Post 33, 541 Green
Bay Road
October Art Activity Day, 10 a.m.,
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
Fox Valley Fish Fair, 11 a.m., Lucky
Dog'z, 157 S. Green Bay Road
Future Neenah Old Fashioned Satur-
day, noon, Downtown Neenah
Rally for the Valley, 2 p.m., Down-
town Menasha
The Hallows, 6:30 p.m., Memorial
Park

Sunday, Oct. 4

Fox Cities Zine and Books Arts Festi-
val, 12:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Paranormal Series - Alien Wisconsin:
Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Contact,
6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Paranormal Series – Hauntings on the
Fox River, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Li-
brary

Thursday, Oct. 8

Fox Crossing Howl-O-Ween Trail, 5
p.m., Fritsch Park
Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Cen-
tral Wisconsin Dream Big Gala, 5:30
p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood
Resort and Hotel
Paranormal Series – A Bump in the
Night, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Homecoming Week Outdoor Mov-
ie: Home, 6:30 p.m., Rocket Stadium,
Neenah High School

Friday, Oct. 9

The Hallows, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Saturday, Oct. 10

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8
a.m., Shattuck Park
Neenah Joint School District Hall of
Fame Induction, 9:30 a.m., Bridgewood
Conference Center
Build a Scarecrow, 10:30 a.m., River-
side Park Pavilion

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Human Services Department budget adds four employees

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Human Services Department seeks to add a total of four positions as part of its 2027 budget plan.

The Human Services Department, which is the county’s largest department, operates five divisions: Administration, Behavioral Health, Child Welfare, Economic Support and Long-Term Support.

Under the proposed budget, Behavioral Health looks to add 1.5 psychotherapists to work at the jail, two full-time case managers positions to work at the jail and one full-time mental health crisis specialist position. Long Term Support looks to add a part-time Aging and Disability Resource

Center (ADRC) specialist position.

The 1.5 psychotherapists will replace contracted staff who work at the jail and will save the county money, said Renee Soroko, interim Human Services director.

Soroko also sought a full-time adult protection services position, but it was removed from the budget by the county executive’s office.

“There’s not enough money for us to do all the things we want,” she said.

Overall, regular pay in the budget proposal will rise 5.14% from \$22.7 million in 2026 to \$27.04 million in 2027. That includes the new positions as well as the cost-of-living wage increases for all employees.

Besides the addition of the new employees, the Human Services Department is

taking multiple positions and using them differently to better meet residents’ needs, Soroko said. For example, in Behavioral Health, the department will eliminate a full-time psychotherapist position and replace it with a full-time crisis center shift supervisor.

Another shift in the organizational chart is taking a mental health crisis specialist who works in the jail from the Sheriff’s Department’s budget and move it to the Human Services Department. There already is one specialist employed by the Human Services Department working at the jail. Both positions’ salaries are covered by grants.

“Why isn’t it staying in the jail’s budget? When the grant is no longer avail-

able, we’re going to be responsible for funding it,” said Supervisor Kristl Laux during the Human Services Board meeting where the department’s budget was reviewed.

Soroko said the department met with the Sheriff’s Department and the County Executive’s office to discuss what to do with the positions and it was decided that it made more sense to have them fall under Human Services.

If the grant funds run out, she said they agreed to come back together to discuss how to pay for the positions.

Laux said she thinks the positions will eventually be lost.

“These will be gone as soon as we lose the grant funding,” she said.



Photo from Neenah Public Library

Zines are small books or magazines that are often made with only one cleverly folded sheet of paper. Zines are created by individuals or groups using a DIY approach, often sharing artistic expression or interest in a specific topic.

Zine workshop

FROM PAGE 1

could be considered zines. You could argue that (Martin Luther’s) ‘95 Theses’ was a zine.”

Runnerstrom, former manager of the Richeson Gallery and current owner of the Root & Runner Creative Space on Commercial Street, brings expertise in book-making and book arts.

Sharp also cited the significant contributions of Eclectic Market co-organizer Emily Schanowski. Eclectic Market is a seasonal makers and artists market that Schanowski presents at the Appleton Beer Factory with co-organizer Arkana Books.

“Emily is well-versed in handling applications, organizing artists and making sure that the artists get paid,” Sharp said.

Cristian Andersson is “always thinking about who is not at the table and making

sure that we are inclusive with clean artists representation and disabled artists representation and not creating barriers,” she noted. “He knows how to use existing organizations as partners.”

Lawrence University professor Benjamin Rhinehart has done graphic design and has been “thinking a lot about the variety, integrity and quality control of the art,” Sharp said. “He keeps us mindful of not censoring.”

Felicia Bartoli, a comic maker, “is making sure that we do things correctly,” Sharp said. “She gets licenses and handles the necessary but mundane administrative stuff.”

The Neenah Public Library encourages people to stop by to connect with creators from near and far, discover self-published works and explore unique art and merchandise. Attendees can also enjoy a panel discussion and get hands-on with zine making workshops.



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Photo from Neenah Historical Society
Tours providing a rare look inside the historic Babcock House are being provided as a fundraiser for tornado relief.

Historical tours raise funds for tornado relief

Neenah News

The public had the opportunity Saturday to tour the historic Babcock House on East Wisconsin Avenue in Neenah. The tours were a fundraiser for tornado relief and were held in partnership with the Neenah Historical Society and the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society. This was a ticketed event, with all proceeds benefiting local tornado relief efforts. Tickets for both the Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 tour dates sold out in record time, as people were eager to see the Babcock House. The Wisconsin Historical Society included the Babcock House as one of the state's 20 most historically significant homes.

This marked the first time in more than 60 years that the house had been open to the public. The home was built in 1883 by Havilah Babcock and his wife, Frances. Babcock was one of the four founders of Kimberly-Clark. The majority of the home's furnishings, wall coverings, floor coverings and decorative elements remain much as they were when the house was originally built, offering visitors a rare glimpse into the past. The current owners of the house, Peter Adams (Havilah's great grandson) and Patricia Mulvey, opened their home for this tour.

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School board approves updated policy for animals in classrooms

By Eric Endres
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District Board of Education last month approved an updated policy regarding animals on district property after discussing how to centralize and structure the enforcement of it for district-wide consistency. Policy 8390 says in its introduction, "Animals are commonly utilized by teachers during classroom presentations and are often housed in classrooms and other locations on campus. Additionally, employees, students, parents, vendors, and other members of the public may be accompanied at school by a service animal in accordance with Federal and State law and this policy."

The board approved the policy with updated language, including a section that indicates that a handler wishing to bring a therapy dog to school must submit a completed Therapy Dog Request Application to the district administrator each school year and that prior approval must be secured before the animal is presented. The policy now offers more specifics about therapy dogs, with seven conditions that must be met before the therapy dog is allowed on district grounds. This includes documentation of certification as a therapy dog from a certification program recognized by the American Kennel Club, documentation of an educational purpose and documentation from a licensed veterinarian that the therapy dog is current on its vaccinations and immunizations, is free of ticks and fleas, is in good health, is housebroken and doesn't pose a danger to the well-being of students or staff. During the open forum at the beginning of the Sept. 15 meeting, a staff member expressed concern over this policy potentially excluding animals like the rabbit she has in her room which she said serves as

a source of comfort and learning for the students. Mentioned in the discussion that took place among the board and administration later was that the intent of the policy was not to prohibit classroom pets. Regarding non-service animals on district property, the policy states, "Animals permitted in schools and elsewhere on District property shall be limited to those necessary to support specific curriculum-related projects and activities, those that provide assistance to a student or staff member due to a disability (e.g., seizure disorder), or those that serve as service animals as required by Federal and State law." That portion of the policy lays out conditions that must be met to permit such animals, including a satisfactory health certificate or report of examination from a veterinarian, taking precautions necessary to protect the health and safety of students and staff, ensuring the animal is treated humanely and keeping the surrounding areas clean. Additionally, other staff members and parents of students in areas potentially affected by animals must be notified in writing and adjustments must be made to accommodate verified health-related or other concerns, including an excessive fear of the animal. The policy then says that, except where required by law, "the presence of a non-service animal shall be disallowed if documented health concerns of a student or staff member cannot be accommodated." Most of the non-service animal verbiage was already present in the policy before the update. The board discussion did not change any of the language from what was already presented, but it was agreed that the policy would be more consistently enforced throughout the district.

Sheriff explains how county used Flock cameras

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Although the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office turned off its Flock Safety cameras last month, Sheriff John Matz said the cameras enhanced the department's work. The county had 15 Flock cameras it rented for an annual fee of \$52,500. The cameras were located on major thoroughfares, which are ingress and egress points into municipalities. On Sept. 4, Matz sent a 30-day notice the company, ending the contract. All cameras have since been bagged. Matz shared with the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee at its Sept. 24 meeting how the county used the cameras and the decision to end the contract. "Flock enhanced our investigative abilities," he said. "It was an effective tool for us." Flock cameras capture license plate images and vehicle characteristics along with a date/time stamp and the camera's location. The sheriff shared multiple examples of how Flock helped law enforcement find and arrest suspects by using the cameras to find vehicles associated with the crime. He said Flock cameras were used in major investigations, including when a Town of Omro resident was defrauded out of \$298,153. The victim's neighbor had security cameras, which helped the department get a general description of the vehicle, which was later stopped in Walworth County. The suspect was arrested and brought back to Winnebago County. Matz said the corridor from Green Bay to Fond du Lac is well connected and if one municipality is looking for a vehicle, Flock could help another one track it down.

Accountability was essential when the department operated the Flock cameras, said Ryan Hathaway, a detective sergeant. He said audits were done every two weeks to make sure the searches done were legitimate. This is important since officers in other jurisdictions, including one in Menasha, had been charged with using Flock cameras for personal purposes, he said. "We also limited how long we stored the footage from 30 days down to 14 and all of our search activity is logged so we know who was looking for what," Hathaway said. Matz said when he decided to cancel the contract with Flock it was due to information that he obtained from another sheriff that Flock data was released in other states in response to open records requests. Some of those records were tied to active investigations, although none were connected to Wisconsin. There was also concerns about safeguarding agency data. "I feel now that some of the information we received that led to us canceling our contract was misleading, but I know there is a lot of people out there who are opposed to Flock cameras," Matz said. "They may have privacy concerns, but there are a lot of devices out there that spy on us already, especially our phones." Matz is retiring at the end of the year, so it will be up to his successor to decide what the department should do about Automated License Plate Reading (ALPR) technology, although he hopes the state Legislature will put rules into place for the technology. "I think we need to wait for legislation to catch up before moving ahead with anything related to ALPR," he said.

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The Power of Local



School district implementing new de-escalation program

By Eric Endres
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District is implementing a new training model to de-escalate unsafe student behavior as it relates to seclusion and restraint.

As presented to the Board of Education last month in a report containing seclusion and restraint statistics, the Handle with Care (HWC) Seclusion and Restraint Program will provide different methods

of training staff within the district on seclusion and restraint for when a student's behavior presents a clear and imminent risk to the physical safety of those around them.

Seclusion, as defined in the report, refers to the involuntary confinement of a student apart from other students in an area where the student is prevented from leaving. Restraint is a physical restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of

a student to freely move their torso, arms, legs or head.

HWC allows for a specific team in each building, including special programs that are higher risk programs, with all staff having the opportunity to partake in the de-escalation training. The report said there will be multiple training opportunities throughout the year for new staff or for those who missed sessions.

In addition to aligning with district policies relating to maintaining a supportive learning environment and empowering staff, a Sept. 15 memo from director of

special education Valerie Moore said that the transition to the new HWC training model yields cost savings for the district by cutting training expenses in half from approximately \$40,000 to approximately \$20,000 compared to the previous Non-violent Crisis Intervention program and ensures broader district-wide preparedness.

The report indicated that during the 2025-26 school year, there were 76 total seclusions (up from 43 the prior year) and 28 physical restraints (up from 27 the prior year).

District names new communications director

Neenah News

Bringing over a decade of experience in school communications, Jill Aykens has been named the Director of Communications, Community Relations and Marketing for the Neenah Joint School District.

In total, Aykens has over 20 years of experience in communications, marketing and public relations, including more than a decade focused on education. She most recently has worked with several area school districts as a communications and marketing consultant for CESA 6.

Aykens is a Neenah High School graduate and her three children have all attended Neenah schools. She also previously spent three years as the district's web content specialist.

In her role with CESA 6 since 2022, Aykens has served as the senior communications strategist and executive advisor to superintendents, leadership teams and school boards, providing director-level

communications leadership across multiple Wisconsin school districts.

From 2014-22, Aykens was a communications and marketing specialist for the Kaukauna Area School District, serving as the district's lead communications strategist and executive advisor to the superintendent. She also founded and operated an independent communications consulting practice providing strategic communications, branding, marketing and creative services called AykensInk from 2006-22.

Aykens has been a champion for digital accessibility as a core communications practice by developing sustainable systems, guiding implementation and building organizational capacity. Over the past year, she has presented on digital accessibility for the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA), Wisconsin School Public Relations Association (WSPRA), Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA) and Wisconsin Rural Schools Association (WRSA).

The hire is pending Board of Education approval on Tuesday, and Aykens is scheduled to officially begin her role on Oct. 19.



Aykens



Photo from St. Mary Catholic Schools

Giving back

St. Mary Catholic High School students closed out homecoming week by giving back to the Zephyr community. Students loaded buses and spent time around the Neenah Menasha area helping clean parks damaged by the July tornado, headstones at multiple cemeteries, local parish buildings and prepared meals at St. Joseph Food Program.



Photo from Neenah Police Department

Campfire with Cops

The Neenah Police Department invited community members to attend Campfire with Cops held Sept. 23 at Memorial Park. Officers interacted with community members through skits and music while enjoying treats around the campfire. Dates for next year's gatherings will be announced later.

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This raffle is in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin's Annual Dream Big Gala, which will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at Bridgewood Resort Hotel in Neenah, WI. Winner will be drawn at the Gala on 10/8/26. Winner does not need to be present to win. Prize fair market value: \$18,299. Tickets will be sold at \$100 each. Please contact Maria Gutschmedl at mgutschmedl@bbbsecw.org or 920-260-6010 with questions. More details can be found via link above.

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Neenah woman found guilty of mistreatment of animals

Neenah News

A Neenah woman received a sentence of two years of probation after multiple dead cats were found inside her home in April.

Jennifer J. McDonald, 48, was found guilty by Judge Michael Gibbs on Sept. 24 after she pled no contest to one count of mistreatment of animals. A misdemeanor charge of intentionally abandoning an animal was dismissed but read in for sentencing purposes.

One condition of her sentence is that McDonald cannot own or possess any animals

or pets. She was facing a potential sentence of 18 months in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, a bank was in the process of foreclosing on the house. The bank hired a subcontractor, identified as the reporting party, to change the locks of the home and clean inside the residence.

The community service officer who later searched the house described it as in “extreme disarray, with lots of garbage, personal items and furniture.”

The first thing the officer noted was a pile

of animal fur attached to skin and then they found the skeletal remains of a cat. Limbs were detached from the body and a partial skull, spine, hips and rear leg bones were found several feet from the pile of fur.

The officer found a total of seven cats throughout the home. The complaint states “it appears that the cats had cannibalized each other after other food sources were no longer available.”

The complaint notes that no other non-cat animals were located in the home, and there were no evident holes or open entryways into the home.

A neighbor told police McDonald lived in the home, but no one had seen her in seven months.

Police spoke with McDonald, who explained she moved out of the house in

late 2024 but had been back to the house weekly since then to feed the cats and pick up the mail. However, the mail service and water service were shut down in October 2025, and she hadn’t been back at the house since.

McDonald claims she got rid of the cats before she moved out. She told police there were between two and four cats at the house but definitely not seven cats. She added none of the cats were spayed or neutered.

On two occasions, McDonald said she left the doors open at the house in hopes they would run outside.

During an interview with police, McDonald expressed remorse for her actions.

“I did not handle it very well at all,” McDonald told police. “I totally dropped the ball on this, and I feel horrible.”

Glass art activity day celebrates Houdini

Neenah News

The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass is inviting community members on the first Saturday of the month to a special Art Activity Day celebrating the Fox Cities’ own Harry Houdini.

Guests will be able to create an elephant suncatcher for \$20, inspired by Houdini’s famous illusion or create a pet of their own, like one of his many beloved pets.

The famous Rondini will be performing a magic show in the galleries at 11 a.m. After making a free activity in the McClanahan Study Gallery, participants can listen to a special poetry reading by Poet Laureate, Brenda Cárdenas at 1 p.m.

Thirty-minute sessions to create glass projects start at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. Oct. 3. Pre-registration for the glass activity is required. Visit the website to register bmmglass.com/artactivityday.



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Sheriff’s budget plan includes adding deputies

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department is looking to add four correctional deputies as part of the 2027 county budget.

Sheriff John Matz shared a detailed look at the department’s budget at the Judiciary & Public Service Committee on Sept. 24 as it begins consideration of the 2027 budget. Matz said the four deputies — in addition to the six deputies hired in 2026 — restore the corrections department back to the numbers it had prior to the closure of Pod C in 2021. Earlier this year, Pod C reopened, requiring more deputies.

“All of our jail pods are in operation,” Matz said. “Our numbers are not going to go down and we won’t be closing any pods.”

The 2027 executive budget is asking for \$2.67 million, an increase over the approved 2026 budget of \$2.31 million. One way the department saved money in 2026 was switching to a new provider for inmates’ medical and mental health needs, Matz said.

Under the advice of County Executive Gordon Hintz’s office, the sheriff’s department took some of its planned 2027 purchases and will purchase them now with capital outlay funds.

The department plans to purchase new SWAT/Dive vehicles to replace vehicles that no longer meet team needs and improve emergency response effectiveness.

In the coming year, the department plans to expand the Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) Program in partnership with Solutions and DHS to connect participants with community partners and post-release resources. Another 2027 project will be completing the planned 911 and audio-recording hardware and software upgrades.

Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller said her department’s goals for

2027 include retaining current employees and cross-training employees. The budget’s across-the-board 3% salary increase will help with the retention, she said.

Mueller said her attorneys need to obtain their licensure by attending classes and seminars and she expressed concern the department’s registration tuition was decreased from the \$4,620 she requested to \$4,360.

“I know that’s not much but having back that \$260 would help us make sure our attorneys are getting the training they need to retain their licenses,” she said.

The corporation counsel department looks to create more revenue in 2027 by increasing the hourly fees it charges when inmates at the Wisconsin Resource Center use its staff. The hourly attorney fee is rising to \$350 per hour, up from \$300 and the paralegal hourly fee is rising to \$150, up from \$120.

District Attorney Eric Sparr said his department is seeking to change some positions in 2027 to better meet its needs. He wants to add two full-time administrative associate IV positions and eliminate one full-time administrative II position, one full-time administrative III position and add one full-time victim witness supervisor and eliminate one full-time victim witness program coordinator.

The department is requesting a vehicle with squad equipment for \$43,620 that the office uses to serve subpoenas and transport witnesses. It would replace a 2011 vehicle.

The Judiciary & Public Service Committee will next meet at 4 p.m. Monday in the Rick Meyer Community Room at the Sheriff’s Department. They will then vote on making changes to the budget at that time. Those changes will be forwarded to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors where they will be voted on in late October as part of the budget deliberations.

Unemployment rate remains steady in August

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area (MSA) and Winnebago County saw their unemployment rate stay the same at 3.3% in August as it was in July but up from 2.9% a year ago, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Preliminary August 2026 unemployment rates increased in one metropolitan area over the month: Kenosha. Rates decreased in five metropolitan areas over the month and stayed the same in the remaining seven metropolitan areas. Rates increased in all 13

metropolitan areas over the year.

Preliminary August 2026 unemployment rates increased in seven of Wisconsin’s largest cities over the month. Rates decreased in 13 cities over the month and stayed the same in the remaining 15 cities. Unemployment rates decreased in three cities over the year. Rates increased in 30 cities over the year and stayed the same in the remaining two cities.

Estimates of unemployment and employment statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Public library calendar

Oct. 2
Fitness Friday: Full Body Strength 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.
First Friday Concert: Cat Plan 2 p.m.

Oct. 4
Fox Valley Zine and Book Arts Festival (ZABA) 12:30 p.m.

Oct. 5
Stitching Group 1 p.m.
Adult Afternoon Program: Technology Use & Brain Wellness 2 p.m.

Oct. 6
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA (all ages) 10 a.m.
Tween Create Lab (ages 9 -14): Spinning Ghosts with Plexus 3:45 p.m.
Powered by Yarn 6:30 p.m.
Paranormal October: Alien Wisconsin: Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Contact 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 7
Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 2-6) 10 a.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up -Instruction and Open Play 5:30 p.m.
Paranormal October: Hauntings on the Fox River 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 8
Valley Transit: Fixed Route Buses and More! 10 a.m.
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 and up) with ASL Interpretation (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
Creative Studio for Adults: Goo-gly-Eyed Monster Art 6 p.m.
Paranormal October: A Bump in the Night 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 10
Repair Cafe Neenah 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 12
Stitching Group 1 p.m.
Monday Matinee: Project Hail Mary 1 p.m.
Short Story Night 7 p.m.

Oct. 13
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.
Tech Talk Tuesday: All About Google Drive 1:30 p.m.
Legal Assistance Clinic 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 14
Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 2-6) 10 a.m.
Field Trip Storytime: Thiesen’s Hardware Store 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up - Open Play Only 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 15
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 and up) with ASL Interpretation (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
History Program: Fame in Neenah 6:30 p.m.
Parenting Workshop: Raising a Thinking Child 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 16
Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.

Oct. 17
SciFest: Science Extravaganza 10:30 a.m.
Volunteens (ages 12-18) Meeting 10:30 a.m.

Oct. 19
Stitching Group 1 p.m.
Memory Cafe: Growing Up Neenah 1:30 p.m.
Open Art Studio for Adults 3 p.m.
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m.
Women’s Health Empowerment Series: Domestic Partner Violence 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 20
Tween Create Lab (ages 9 -14): Eyeball Plants 3:45 p.m.
Cookbook Book Club: Italian 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 21
Field Trip Storytime: Great Harvest 1:30 p.m.
Library Board Meeting 4 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up - Open Play Only 5:30 p.m.
Adult DIY Design Workshop 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 22
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
Smart Telescopes: A New Way to Explore the Night Sky 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 24
Monster Mash Dance Party - all ages 10:30 a.m.

Oct. 26
Monday Morning Book Klatch 10 a.m.
Stitching Group 1 p.m.
Suburban Homesteading: Gardening for Winter Wildlife 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 27
Movie Talks: The Silence of the Lambs 6:30 p.m.
An Evening with Author David McGlynn 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 28
Field Trip Storytime: Nicolet National Bank 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up - Open Play Only 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 29
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

Oct. 30
Fitness Friday: Full Body Strength 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.

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Photo from Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue

Lunch surprise

Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue members received a lunchtime surprise last week they won't soon forget. The Green Bay Packers provided lunch for the crews as a thank you for their hard work and dedication during the tornado response. Jordan Love, Kitan Oladapo and the entire Packers organization took time out of their day to spend time with the crews and show their support.

Homecoming week includes outdoor movie showing

Neenah News

A free outdoor movie will be included as part of the celebration of Homecoming Week at Neenah High School.

The movie "Home" will be shown on the video board at Rocket Stadium from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday. Adults should accompany students in fifth grade or younger.

Former city employee ordered to pay restitution from scrap metal scheme

Neenah News

A former City of Neenah public works employee has been found guilty of theft-movable property.

Gregory Radtke, 54, was ordered to pay \$3,407.80 in restitution for his role in having public works employees sell city-owned scrap metal and then pocketing the funds.

Radtke pled no contest to the sole misdemeanor count in the case on Tuesday morning in front of Judge Bryan Keberlein.

Radtke was terminated by the city before an investigation began into his handling of the scrap metal funds.

Online records show Radtke owes a total of \$4,130.49, which includes the restitution and \$722.69 in additional court costs and fees that are due on Nov. 30.

According to the criminal complaint, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office began investigating the theft after Radtke was terminated.

"Neenah employees realized that Radtke had been directing his department to take scrap metal to Gibson Iron and Metal, to get cash for it, and it did not appear that cash ever got to any legitimate fund at the City of Neenah," the complaint states.

One employee told authorities that he had been directed by Radtke to take city-owned scrap metal to the scrap yard between February and March 2026. The employee said Radtke told him to keep the load under \$500 because then he would get cash for the metal and not a check.

The employee said he did this six to eight times and found it strange that employees were getting cash for scrap metal.

The department kept a "petty cash" fund which was from employees recycling their own aluminum cans and the money was used to buy pizza for the employees.

One employee told authorities there was \$442 in that fund in Radtke's desk. When Radtke was terminated he did not turn over that money.

Neenah's director of human resources told an officer that Radtke had a duffel bag with cash in it. The HR office has no records of Radtke depositing cash at City Hall during the time of the theft.

Officers obtained records from Gibson Iron and Metal showed that cash payments for transactions directed by Radtke totaled \$3,098.

On June 25, officers met with Radtke he admitted to directing public works staff to scrap city metal for cash.

He told police the total amount was between \$1,200 and \$1,300. The officer told Radtke what the number was and then asked where the money had gone.

Radtke told the officer he had used the money at various retailers to buy tools and that he was willing to pay back the difference.

He said there should be receipts in his desk linked to the tool purchases. Radtke also admitted some of the money was used to buy alcohol.

City employees searched Radtke's office and were unable to locate any documentation of tool purchases.

The complaint concludes by stating, "There is no indication that Radtke had permission to make personal use of City funds or retain City funds."



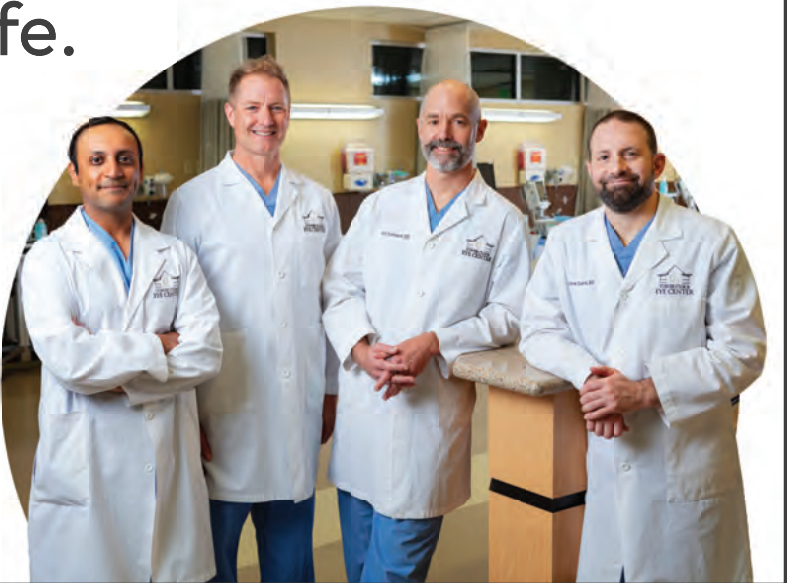
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Two candidates seeking state Senate District 19 seat

Neenah News

Democrat Emily Tseffos is taking on incumbent Rachael Cabral-Guevara, a Republican, in state Senate District 19.

The district covers most of Winnebago County, western Outagamie County, all of Waushara County, southern Waupaca County, a part of eastern Adams County and a part of southeastern Portage County.

Neenah News sent the same questions to each candidate and are printed here as part of the preview coverage leading up to the election. Some of the responses are edited for style and clarity.

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

Rachael Cabral-Guevara

Age: 50

Occupation: Nurse Practitioner

Highest level of education: Master's degree



Cabral-Guevara

Relevant experience: Prior state Representative and current state Senator

Why are you running for the state Senate? I am running to continue my efforts for accessible and affordable healthcare.

We have passed policy for breast cancer screening and hospital discounts. We have worked on or are working on policy for direct primary care, medical care for minors, audiologist, nurses, nurse practitioners, psychiatric nurse practitioners, nurse educators, physician assistants, respiratory

therapist, local health officers and health-care focused students.

Many voters are concerned about the lack of affordable housing. What policies would you support to make housing more affordable? I am currently not on any housing committees and am not working on housing policy. My focus has been mostly healthcare. I am open to discussions and suggestions for policy.

More communities are getting rid of their Flock cameras. Do you think the state should have legislation regulating how automatic license plate readers are used?

I support local control for Flock cameras.
as.

Emily Tseffos

Age: 39

Occupation: Educator

Highest level of education: Bachelor's degree



Tseffos

Relevant experience: I'm a former main classroom teacher, a volunteer and community organizer focused on community service, public schools and healthcare.

I'm also a mom of three raising my family

outside of Appleton. My youngest son has developmental delays, and my middle has a rare disease, and advocating for them has taught me so much about how our government can help or hurt our neighbors and the importance of speaking up for those who need help.

My volunteer work has allowed me the

opportunity to speak with and learn from people from all walks of life: farmers, business owners, healthcare providers, parents, kids, retirees, and so many others. It's given me a widened perspective when it comes to crafting and implementing policy and the real-world impacts of regulations and cuts.

Why are you running for the state Senate?

I'm running because I keep meeting people who are working hard, raising their families, and doing everything they are supposed to, and they are still falling behind. I've talked to thousands of neighbors across this district, and I hear the same concerns: healthcare, childcare, housing, property taxes, schools and utilities. So many people are staring at their bills on their kitchen table wondering how they'll be able to do it again this month and save anything going forward.

This isn't bad luck; it's policy choices being made in Madison. I'm tired of people being handed crumbs and being told to be thankful. We should expect better from our elected officials and government in general.

Many voters are concerned about the lack of affordable housing. What policies would you support to make housing more affordable?

In my eyes, housing is a supply problem

and an affordability problem. We need more homes that people can actually afford in the communities where they work. Just building isn't enough, however.

What is considered “affordable” should reflect local wages, median incomes and housing costs. State government can partner with local communities and private developers to remove barriers and help projects get off the ground, all while preserving local control.

More communities are getting rid of their Flock cameras. Do you think the state should have legislation regulating how automatic license plate readers are used?

Absolutely, Wisconsin should establish clear statewide guardrails for automatic license plate readers. Tools such as these have legitimate public-safety uses, but technology that is capable of recording where thousands of people travel creates serious privacy and abuse concerns. I'd explore limits on how long data can be retained, clear rules about who can search it and when it can be shared with other agencies, required audit processes and penalties for misuse.

Public safety and privacy don't have to be in conflict. If governments have access to powerful technology, citizens should have equally powerful safeguards to protect their rights.



Photo from Neenah Public Library

Festive atmosphere

The Neenah Public Library and L.E.A.P. Cultural Community organized a Dragon Boat Festival on Saturday at the library. The event for all ages celebrating Chinese Dragon Boat races included games, presentations and food. Participants explored Chinese traditions with crafts and hands-on activities like paper zongzi and origami dragon boats. Patrons could participate in dry land dragon boat racing.

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Klinkhammer helping Zephyrs smell success on gridiron

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Nicknames don't always last. Even a funny or meaningful moniker may only last a short stretch before it fades and disappears like the warm aroma of a big home-cooked meal.

But the good nicknames – the ones that are a genuine match to the person they are placed upon – will likely last forever.

St. Mary Catholic senior Alex Klinkhammer, a four-year varsity starter in football and a three-sport athlete for the Zephyrs, has one of the good nicknames. The type that when he shows up for a 25-year reunion, more people are likely to use it over his given name.

And how he got it, well, he can tell its origins the best.

“When I was in eighth grade, I farted in class and my teacher – because my last name is Klinkhammer – started call me Stinkhammer,” Klinkhammer explained like it’s something he’s had to do many times before. “That just evolved into ‘Stink’ and that’s just what I’ve gone by ever since.”

“Everyone calls me ‘Stink.’ My girlfriend, even parents sometimes. I don’t really mind it.”

While Klinkhammer carries ‘Stink’ as a nickname, it certainly isn’t in reference to his play on the field for the Zephyrs.

He has become a stalwart on the Zephyrs’ physical offensive line that has helped pave the way to the team’s 4-2 overall record and 3-1 mark in the Eastern Wisconsin Conference. He was a second-team all-conference selection last season and is a candidate to be on the top team this season.

“It’s fun being a lineman. It’s the only (offensive) position I’ve ever played, so I just enjoy it. I love hitting people and pulling is my favorite for sure,” Klinkhammer said. “It was definitely scary (playing as a freshman) but I never really thought about it. I was just trying to focus on doing my best every play and I knew if I did that, I would be just fine.”

Klinkhammer knows that he and his linemates up front may not actually gain a yard or score a touchdown, but how the Zephyrs fare each week relies heavily on how they play as a group.

“Knowing we can control the game and control the outcome means a lot,” Klinkhammer said. “It’s a lot of fun when we (get on a long drive). We just keep reminding ourselves to keep doing the little



Alex Klinkhammer is a four-year varsity starter on the offensive line for the St. Mary Catholic football team and has made the move from lineman to linebacker to help anchor the Zephyrs’ defense this season.

things that gets us those yards.”

For much of his high school career, Klinkhammer played on the line scrimmage on both sides of the ball. He would knock helmets with an opposing defensive lineman to clear a path on offense, then turn around and take up position on the defensive line to gobble up running backs and quarterbacks.

Late last season, though, Klinkhammer moved back a few feet into a linebacker spot and has thrived. He currently leads the defense in tackles with 56 and has totaled 10 tackles-for-loss on the season.

“I felt comfortable right from the start,” said Klinkhammer, who did play linebacker in middle school. “It’s a switch because you are taught completely different things

Senior Standout

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but at the end of the day, it’s just go make a tackle. I always knew I had it in me.

“I have to give a lot of credit to our d-line, opening up the gaps for George (Voss) and I to make a lot of tackles. It’s been a lot of fun.”

But he has to miss the grind and camaraderie of playing on the defensive line, right?

“I don’t miss it at all,” Klinkhammer said with a chuckle. “I’d rather be running downhill with some speed just to hit someone. That’s more fun.”

In addition to football, Klinkhammer also plays basketball and golf for St. Mary Catholic and enjoys the never-ending run of practices and workouts.

He said that being a student at St. Mary Catholic is what has allowed him to compete at the varsity level in all three sports and he remains thankful for that opportunity.

“It’s just always been something I did and being at St. Mary’s definitely helps that,” Klinkhammer said. “You have the ability to play three sports and play three sports at the varsity level while balancing academics. I have to thank a lot of teachers for spending time with me out of class.”

“Having such a small school helps to have better relationships with your teachers so you can come in extra time for help.”

Academics are certainly a prominent focus for Klinkhammer, who carries a 4.1 grade point average and is in the running to possibly be a salutatorian in his class.

In fact, it’s such an important aspect that he is forgoing the chance to continue to play football at the next level in order to focus on academics in college.

“I want to focus on school because I have the rest of my life ahead of me,” said Klinkhammer, who is planning for a career in the medical field. “Football can take you to only so many places so I think focusing on what you will have educational wise, job wise for your future is the most important thing.”

But football will always have a bit of an edge to academics at the high school level.

“(To be salutatorian) would be pret-

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 14

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Tuesday, October 13 10 a.m.	10 a.m. OR 2 p.m.
Wednesday, October 21 1 p.m.	Tuesday, October 20
Wednesday, October 28 1 p.m.	10 a.m. OR 2 p.m.
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Prep roundup

CROSS COUNTRY

Zilm leads Rockets to win at Midwest Invitational

Neenah's girls cross country team continues to roll through the 2026 season.

The Rockets dominated the field at one of the most prestigious races of the regular season, taking first at the Midwest Invitational held Saturday at Blackhawk Golf Course in Janesville.

Neenah topped the 37-team field consisting of some of the top teams in Wisconsin and Illinois with 73 points with Mount Horeb taking a distant second place with 157 points. Madison West was third with 167 points.

Leading the way for the Rockets was sophomore Sam Zilm, who was the individual champion of the girls race, finishing with a time of 17:39.2. Zilm was one of just four runners among the 254 individuals at the race to cover the course in under 18 minutes and finished more than 13 seconds ahead of the race's runner-up.

Izzy Malloy finished just outside of the top-10 in 11th place, followed by Natalie Schultz in 15th place. Lizzy LaPlant in 24th place and Elsa Weiland in 26th place rounded out the scoring runners for the Rockets.

The Neenah boys finished 28th out of



Submitted photo

The Neenah High School girls cross country team won the title at the prestigious Midwest Invitational in Janesville on Saturday. The squad consisted of (from left) Izzy Malloy, Olivia Landrath, Lizzy LaPlant, Maddie Schoonover, Natalie Schultz, Sam Zilm (who was also the individual champion) and Elsa Weiland.

48 in the final team standings, just behind Woodstock (Ill.) and Milton.

The Rockets were led by Elliott Drake in 65th place, followed by Connor School (121st), Isaac Rangel (128th), Drew Sabatke (172nd) and Dylan Olson (207th).

Zephyrs compete at Lourdes Invitational

Fritz Staner finished in the top 30 to highlight the day for St. Mary Catholic at the Lourdes Invitational on Saturday.

Staner finished 29th overall among the 159 runners in the field to lead the Zephyrs.

Brady DeLeeuw was the next Zephyr to finish, placing 65th, followed by Brandon DeBraal (146th), Leo Gruber (157th) and Anderson Himburg (158th).

The St. Mary Catholic girls were led by Natalie Lee in 78th place, with the

rest of the scoring runners consisting of Claire Lundgren (133rd), Claire Mislinski (137th), Chloe Beckett (139th) and Mary Auer (141st).

GOLF

Oitzinger advances to sectional meet

Senior Adrianne Oitzinger earned one of the four individual sectional qualifying spots by tying for 10th overall at the WIAA Division 1 regional meet held at Northbrook Golf & Grill in Luxemburg on Tuesday.

Oitzinger shot a 91 in her round to earn the trip to sectionals, which will be held Tuesday at Thornberry Creek Golf Course.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 394 to place sixth overall among the 10 schools. Luxemburg-Casco finished four shots ahead of Neenah in fifth, while De Pere grabbed the final team sectional qualifying spot with a 387. Kaukauna easily won the meet with a score of 333.

Lilly Quella posted a 98 to finish three strokes short of qualifying for sectionals, while Leah Milske had a 102 and Paige Keck shot a 103.

Rockets third at FVA meet

Neenah edged Appleton North by six shots to take third place at the Fox Valley Association meet held at Chaska Golf Course last week.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 390 to finish behind only Kaukauna (320) and Hortonville (354).

Adrianne Oitzinger led the way for Neenah, placing fifth overall with a round of 94. She was one of only two golfers in the top 10 not from Kaukauna or Hortonville.

Paige Keck added a 101 for the Rockets, while Leah Milske posted a round of 102. Alex Guden and Lilly Quella each shot rounds of 103 for Neenah.

SOCCER

Rockets extend winning streak to five

Two goals in a five-minute span early in the second half broke a tie game and Neenah went on to hand a 4-1 loss in Fox Valley Association action on Tuesday.

The Cardinals tied the game at 1 less

than 10 minutes into the second half but Neenah responded about a minute later with a goal from Kolton Fleege. Ian Baetke then scored a couple of minute later as the Rockets pushed their lead to 3-1 and went on to win from there.

Juan Alvarado Mata added an insurance goal in the 62nd minute for the Rockets. Fleege opened the scoring in the first half for Neenah, with Baetke, Owen Van Zealand and Cooper Christian registered assists in the win.

On Saturday, the Rockets erupted for five first-half goals and cruised to a 5-1 nonconference win over Hartford.

Five different players found the net for the Rockets as Owen Pire, Fleege, Mata, Tyler Gehschreia and Joseph Buttron each scoring a goal. Geschrei, Brody LaBarge, Christian Ortiz and Baetke had assists in the match.

Oliver Peterka was in goal in both wins.

SWIMMING

Brygger records win to lead Rockets at invite

Freshman Kirsten Brygger paced the field in the 100-yard breaststroke to help Neenah take fifth among the nine teams at the Neenah Invitational on Saturday.

Brygger led three Rockets in the top 10 in the event, winning the race by about seven-tenths of a second. Breleigh Maurer finished eighth and Aubrey Murwar was ninth.

Brygger also finished third in the 50-yard freestyle for Neenah and joined Maurer, Bridgett Bloomhuff and Elisabeth Hang in taking third in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Hang picked up a second-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle and added a ninth place in the 50-yard freestyle.

The Rockets had three other swimmers who registered a pair of top-10 individual finishes at the meet.

Maurer added a sixth place in the 100-yard butterfly, while Bloomhuff was sixth in the 100-yard backstroke and tied for seventh in the 200-yard freestyle. Ellen Farrell also had a strong meet by placing eighth in the 100-yard backstroke and ninth in the 200-yard individual medley.

Neenah also placed fifth in the 400-yard freestyle relay and sixth in the 200-yard medley relay.

Neenah dominates meet with North/Lourdes

The Rockets won every event and swept the top three places in all but three of the individual events in posting a 140-43 win over Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy in a Fox Valley Association dual meet on Tuesday.

Thirteen different Rockets grabbed a first, second or third place at the meet with a trio of Neenah swimmers placing first in two different events.

Kirsten Brygger finished first in both the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard backstroke and led Neenah sweeps in both events. Bridgett Bloomhuff was second and Ellen Farrell took third in the 200-yard freestyle, while Emma Doiron was second and Daphne Vande Slunt was third in the 100-yard backstroke.

Elisabeth Hang won the 200-yard individual medley, followed by teammates Doiron and Anna Benthein, while Bloomhuff, Vande Slunt and Aubrey Murwar went 1-2-3, respectively, in 100-yard butterfly.

Neenah also swept the top three places in diving with Sydney Hansman placing



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By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Both of the regular-season losses in each

Neenah averaged more than four yards a carry and rushed for 175 yards overall – including 104 yards on 21 carries by Cooper Sieck – against a stout Appleton North defense. Sieck and Talon Fluette

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

The Huskies would get another crack at taking the lead but a defensive stand at about the Zephyrs' 30-yard line turned the ball over and St. Mary Catholic ran out the

St. Mary Catholic (3-1) at Roncalli (1-3)
Kiel (3-1) at Brillion (4-0)
Chilton (1-3) at New Holstein (2-2)
Two Rivers (0-4) at Chilton (2-2)

St. Mary Catholic finished with 240 yards on the ground and averaged a whopping eight yards a carry. Dominic Todd led the team with 128 yards on 19 carries, while

SEE **Zephyr football** ON PAGE 14



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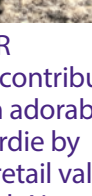
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Neenah (3-1) at Fond du Lac (2-2)
Kaukauna (3-1) at Hortonville (2-2)
Kimberly (2-2) at Appleton North (3-1)
Appleton East (0-4) at Oshkosh West (1-3)

Jung believes that Van Beek – the reigning offensive player of the year in the Fox

“We thought Ashton was going to be back (last) week but we are 90 percent sure he’ll be back this week,” Jung said. “We’ve devised an offense that features (Van Beek) and his skill set. That’s what we have been preparing for all season long, the confidence boost of having him come back to play for our team will be a big deal.”

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The image is a promotional graphic for 'The Cheese Table'. At the top center is a circular logo. The outer ring of the logo contains the text 'UNION STAR' at the top and 'THE CHEESE TABLE' at the bottom, separated by two small black dots. In the center of the logo is a stylized eight-pointed star. The star is composed of several colored triangles: red, yellow, and blue. A horizontal bar with a blue top half and a white bottom half crosses the center of the star. Below the logo, the text 'Perfect Pairing Starts Here' is written in a large, bold, dark blue serif font. Underneath this, in a smaller, dark blue serif font, is the text 'Curated pairings | Local favorites | Expert guidance'. A thin horizontal line separates this text from the two images below. The left image is a block of text in a dark blue serif font, with the first line 'From artisan cheeses to' in italics. The right image is a photograph of two glasses of red wine. Below these, another block of text in a dark blue serif font, with the first line 'Whether you're planning a cozy' in italics, is positioned to the left of a photograph of a cheese board. The cheese board features various cheeses, crackers, nuts, and herbs. A thin horizontal line is at the bottom of the graphic.

The Cheese Table

Visit us at 125 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 12

first, followed by Meredith Buttron and Sophie Diaz.

Hang also added a win in the 100-yard freestyle, with Farrell taking second, while Breleigh Maurer posted first-place finishes in both the 50-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle.

The other individual win for the Rockets came in the 100-yard breaststroke with Benthein finishing second.

Neenah also won all three relays, placing first and second in both freestyle relays.

The winning relay team in the 200-yard medley was Brygger, Maurer, Doiron and Sophie Wypiszynski, while Bloomhuff, Benthein, Farrell and Hang won the 200-yard freestyle relay. Bloomhuff, Maurer, Brygger and Hang teamed up to win the 400-yard freestyle relay.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Rockets stay unbeaten in FVA

Sam Keepers finished with 17 kills as Neenah swept past Kaukauna on Tuesday night, 25-16, 25-12, 25-21.

Trevor Ricketts added seven kills and Colin Martin had six in the win.

Cam Diekfuss racked up 32 assists, four aces and four blocks in the match, while Ricketts also chipped in four blocks.

Levi Steckling led the team with seven digs.

Last Thursday, Neenah topped Appleton East 25-12, 25-9, 25-18.

Keepers led the team with 12 kills with Xander Reddick adding six.

Diekfuss led the team with 23 assists with Druis Kaye O'Brien posting a team-best ix digs.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Zephyrs cruise past Mishicot

St. Mary Catholic notched a couple of easy wins in the first two sets and then finished off the sweep of Mishicot, 25-11, 25-4, 25-23 on Tuesday.

Autumn Crowe led the team with nine kills, while Adele Brennan finished with six kills.

Emmi Weiss and Brennan racked up 18 and 15 assists, respectively, while Bitsy McCauley led the team with 15 digs.

Rockets pound out win over Patriots

Neenah racked up a whopping 42 kills in a three-set sweep of Appleton East last Thursday as the Rockets won the match 25-21, 25-15, 25-11.

Lilly Romjue led the Rocket hitting brigade with 16 kills, followed by Elaina Kramer with 10. Brielle Brown chopped in eight kills in the victory.

Finley Kelley led Neenah with 26 assists with Sena Messner adding 10. Kelley also led the team with four aces.

Defensively, Kramer and Paige Hoelzel each totaled three blocks in the match while Aubrey Lindgren posted a team-best 13 digs.

Neenah also beat Luxemburg-Casco on Tuesday, bouncing back from a first-set loss to score a hard-fought 23-25, 25-21, 25-20, 25-22 win on the road.

TENNIS

Doubles play leads Neenah at invite

All three doubles teams went 4-0 as the Rockets picked up four wins at the Madison West Invitational last weekend.

Neenah blanked Brookfield Central 7-0, while earning 5-2 wins over Madison West and Middleton and a 4-3 victory over Elkhorn.

Sydney Michalkiewicz and Rebekah Thomas at No. 1 doubles, Ella Motto and Evelyn Buss at No. 2 doubles and JB Kennedy and Mollie Van Dyke at the No. 3 flight combined to crop only one set in the four matches and posted three 6-0, 6-0 wins in the dual against Elkhorn.

Celia Gentile at No. 1 singles and Rebekah Thomas at No. 2 singles each finished the day 3-1, while Paige Vickman added a pair of wins at No. 4 singles

The Rockets also picked up a 6-1 win over Appleton North last Thursday, winning all six matches in straight sets.

Gentile, Rachel Thomas and Ellie Grace Zickler earned singles win for the Rockets, while the winning doubles tandems were Michalkiewicz and Rebekah Thomas, Motto and Buss and Kennedy and Van Dyke.

Obituaries

Charles D. Randall

Charles D. Randall, 90, passed away peacefully, unexpectedly at home on Thursday, September 24.



The middle of three children, he was born on August 3, 1936 - an exceptionally hot summer day in Ripon, Wisconsin - to Donald and Evelyn Gady Randall. Known to many

as Chuck and Mr. Randall- but best of all as husband, Dad, and Umpa his life was a testament to kindness, perseverance, resilience, self-sacrifice, and love.

The family invites all who knew Chuck to a celebration of life service on Friday

October 2nd at Westgor Funeral Home in Neenah, officiated by Dr. Harry Shields. Visitation begins at 1:00pm and will continue until the time of service at 3:00pm. A reception will follow and all are invited to celebrate the remarkable life well-lived by Chuck Randall: Christ-follower, husband, dad, father-in-law, grandpa, great-grandpa, brother, uncle, cousin, teacher, colleague, neighbor, mentor, and friend.

Please visit <https://www.westgorfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/11346/chuck-randall> to view Chuck's full obituary and to share memories, photos, and condolences with his family.

WESTGOR FUNERAL HOMES

Leslie David Lohff

Leslie David Lohff, 87, passed away on August 18, 2026, in Oshkosh, WI. He



was born on January 11, 1939, in the town of Deer Creek, WI to parents, Arthur and Viola (Russell) Lohff.

Les attended Marion High School. On February 24th of 1962 he married Phyllis Knitt at Christus Lutheran

Church in Clintonville. They were later divorced. He later married Ethel Rasmussen.

Les worked in sales most of his life selling and installing farm equipment, he also sold used cars. For over 25 years he was the Owner of Les's One Better Furniture store in Neenah. Work was his life, he enjoyed working hard and spending time with customers. He also enjoyed polka music and dancing.

He is survived by wife, Ethel Rasmussen; children, Cindy (Randy) Roberts, Amy Widman and Jeff (Rhonda) Lohff;

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grandchildren, Vance Roberts, Amber Johnson, Leslie Mears, Rebecca Cifaldi, Brandon (Deanna) Widman and Jada Lohff; great-grandchildren, Coralyn and Olivia Widman, Madison Main and Michelle Wilis; brother, Leroy (Fernanda) Lohff; and sister-in-law, Violet Lohff.

Les is preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Linda and Leri; brothers, Lyle and Levi (Inez); and the mother of his children, Phyllis Bethke.

A celebration of life will be held at Memory Lanes Bar and Grill, 250 Co Hwy I, Clintonville, WI 54929 on October 23, 2026, from 1pm to 4pm.



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STATE OF WISCONSIN,

CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Mckenzie AnnMarie Sykes By (Petitioner) Mckenzie AnnMarie Sykes Notice of Name Change Hearing Case No. 2026CV000846

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: First – McKenzie Middle – AnnMarie Last – Sykes To: First – McKenzie Middle – Marie Last – Meacham Birth Certificate: First – McKenzie Middle – AnnMarie Last – Sykes

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. John A. Jorgensen Place: 415 Jackson Street,

Room 320, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: October 5, 2026 Time: 9:30 a.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4866 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: August 31, 2026 Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 5 Runs: October 2, 2026, October 9, 2026 and October 16, 2026.

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