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Fun in the winter sun at Scandihoovian



A one-of-a-kind event

The Scandihoovian Winter Festival took place Friday through Sunday, offering all kinds of fun for families. “This was my first Scandihoovian Winter Festival, and I had a blast!” said Allison Plumer, President and CEO of the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce. “It was wonderful to see both the community and visitors from across the state and beyond come together to enjoy the weekend’s activities. The mix of quirky fun and celebration of Norwegian heritage really captures the spirit of Mount Horeb. With great weather and energy throughout the weekend, I’m excited to continue growing this event in the years to come.”

Sled Pull Winners: Mary and Joel Reinders.
Scandi Fatty Bike Race Winner: Levi Baldwin Hart.
Spelling Bee Winner: Meredith McGlone.
Turkey Bowling Winner: Eric Masters
(pictured at right with son, Arlo)



Former coach arrested on tentative charges of stalking and 4th degree sexual assault

Mount Horeb Police Department investigators on Monday of this week arrested a recently fired Mount Horeb High School running coach “in regards to communications and acts committed with a former athlete.” After the approximate week-long investigation, he was taken to the Dane County Jail and booked on tentative charges of Stalking § 940.32(1)(a) and Fourth Degree Sexual Assault § 940.225(3m), said police.

On the same day, superintendent Dr. Steve Salerno issued the following statement: “As a follow up to last week’s communication, I regret having to share this information. Mr. David Chancellor was arrested this morning for two alleged crimes: felony stalking and fourth degree sexual assault. I can appreciate the serious nature of the

allegations and that the feelings surrounding this news can be jarring.”

“As noted last week, the District’s benchmark for taking employment action is vastly different than the standards established for the filing of criminal charges,” Salerno continued. “To that end (and as has been reported), Mr. Chancellor was terminated following a meeting [on February 2] in which he admitted to several lapses in professional and personal judgement.”

Salerno added that the school district has “absolutely no concern for the actions of our team of assistant coaches and volunteers; to the contrary, they leave us feeling inspired for a great season, launching in just a few short weeks. A leadership announcement will

soon be made. I have great faith their skills will help our athletes blaze their own trail for success. Activities Manager Chris Carr will be sure to stay in touch directly with our athletes.”

“For those having felt a void in communication, please remember your desire to know more is not outweighed by the Constitutional rights afforded to both Mr. Chancellor and the students/parents who have come forward throughout this past week,” Salerno continued. “While we are entitled to first amendment free speech rights, this matter serves as a good reminder for us all that this ‘inalienable right’ comes with responsibility.”

“The safety and well-being of every student are paramount,” he said. “For many, this may be the first time an adult for whom we

have cared is alleged to have engaged in hurtful behavior. A sense of innocence lost and emotional rawness is understandable. I have asked Director of Student Services, Mr. Brian Johnson, to identify ways in which you can receive and give support to others.”

The district provided an extensive list of tips and resources for families to help deal with the emotional impact of the situation. Advice included: When children hear about trusted adults making concerning decisions, it requires careful and thoughtful communication at home. Per the Child Mind Institute, they advise families to: Make your Child Feel Safe; Act Calm; Maintain Routines as Much as Possible; Help Children to Have a Routine; Share Information (truth) about What Happened; Pick Good

Times to Talk.

“We are beyond blessed to live in a community that supports its children,” said Salerno. “One person’s lapses in judgement are not indicative of the behaviors of all employees or students; rather, how we address such allegations—collectively in support of each other—is the true measure of our community. I remain proud to be a Viking, and I hope you are too.”

“The Mount Horeb School District cooperated fully with this investigation,” said the statement issued by police. “We would like to thank them for the speedy reporting and assistance they provided to us throughout this incident. It shows the dedication that they have to the safety and security of the students in the Mount Horeb School District.”

Obituaries

Joyce (Behnke) Wittenwyler

December 6, 1931 – February 7, 2026



MOUNT HOREB - Joyce (Behnke) Wittenwyler, age 94, passed away peacefully on February 7, 2026. She was born on December 6, 1931, and grew up in Brooklyn, Wis. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater and devoted her life to education and family. On December 26, 1953, Joyce married the love of her life, Ken Wittenwyler.

Joyce began her teaching career in Barneveld and went on to serve as an elementary school librarian in Mount Horeb for over 40 years. She touched the lives of countless children through her love of learning and books. Joyce was deeply proud of her work and the students she supported throughout her long career. She also loved to express herself through the art of quilting alongside her quilting group.

She is survived by her children, Scott (Beth) Wittenwyler, Kathy (Lou) Siecinski, Laurie (Tom) Gallmann; John (deceased) (Cathy) Wittenwyler; and her grandchildren, Mat (April) Wittenwyler, Elisa (Shane) Trussoni, Jessica (Mitch) Kroll, Jenny Wittenwyler, Scotty (Danielle) Wittenwyler, Mike (Erin) Gallmann, Tricia (Keegan)

Siebel, Amanda (Tyler) Davies, Samantha (Dan) Gesner and Matthew Siecinski; her brother, Wally (Donna) Behnke; her sister-in-law, Mardelle Behnke; and her brother and sister-in-law, Melody and Steve Bakken. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren, Emily, Joey, Carson, Kylie, Addy, Tyson, Tanner, Mason, Maci, Jordy, Jett, Auria, Haden, Emersen, Arya, Parker, Barrett, Chase, Zoey, Andrew, Gavin and many family and friends.

Joyce was preceded in death by her husband, Ken Wittenwyler; her son, John Wittenwyler; her parents, Burgess and Lucille Behnke; in-laws, Walter and Edith Wittenwyler; her brother, Richard Behnke; her sister, Joanne (Larry) Day; and her brother and sister-in-law, Bruce and Pauline Wittenwyler.

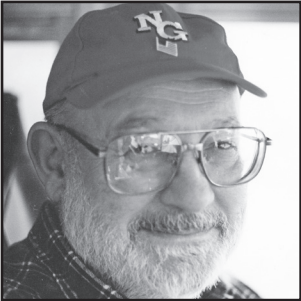
A funeral service will be held at MOUNT HOREB UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 9542 County Highway S, Mount Horeb, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Visitation will be held at the church from 9 a.m. until the time of the service on Tuesday. A luncheon will follow the service. Joyce will be laid to rest at Mount Hope Cemetery in Brooklyn, Wis.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the nurses and staff at BeeHive Homes and Agrace HospiceCare for their compassionate care and support. In lieu of flowers, memorials made in Joyce’s honor will be donated to an organization of the family’s choice. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

Gunderson Camacho Mount Horeb Funeral & Cremation Care 500 N. Eighth St. (608) 437-5077

Kenneth R. “Swede” Schulz

January 12, 1940 - January 30, 2026



NEW GLARUS - Kenneth R. “Swede” Schulz, age 86, of New Glarus, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 30, 2026. He was born on January 12, 1940, in Harvard, Ill., the son of Fred and Helen (DeVries) Schulz.

Kenneth grew up on the family farm near Hebron, Ill., and graduated from Alden-Hebron High School in 1958. He began farming with his parents in 1959 and in 1972 he moved his family to a farm in Kittleson Valley near Mount Horeb. Due to health reasons, he retired from farming in 1987 and began working as a custodian and driving school bus for the Mount Horeb schools. He also drove bus for New Glarus schools for several years.

On September 22, 1987, Kenneth married Marcia Olson. Together they purchased property and built a home in New Glarus and enjoyed camping in their motor home with their RV Club. Ken also had a good time restoring his Studebaker with his good friend, Kevin Orloff.

Kenneth is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Marcia; his children, Kendall (Amy) Schulz, Kathy (Jeff) Hanna and Karol Schulz; his siblings, John Schulz, Jim (Carolyn) Schulz, Russ (Hubertus) Schulz, and MaryBeth (Bill) Peden; his grandchildren, John, Nathan, Jamie, and

Kyle; his great-grandchildren, Kendall and Kaydence; his stepchildren, Jon (Kathleen) Sutter, Carey (Dan) Krohn, Joe (Lynette) Sutter, Mark (Sandi) Sutter, and Tina Sutter; his step grandchildren, Jaimie (Tom) Erickson, Michael (Sara Jean) Sutter, Hunter (Rina) Krohn, Jared (Gina) Sutter, Laura Sutter (fiancé Justin Murphy), Kory (Danielle) Hoffmaster, Kasey Hoffmaster, Ben (Theresa) Bryan, Chris (Leah) Bryan, and Lindsey Bryan; and 19 step great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Helen; his brother, Bill Schulz; his sisters-in-law, Karen and Connie Schulz; his stepchildren, Jeff Sutter, and Elizabeth and Tim Hoffmaster.

The family of Kenneth would like to give a special thanks to Margie and Scott Kazda, Rhonda and Beanie Doescher, Dale and Dana Emmerton, and Kevin, Jamie, Autumn and Anna Orloff.

Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

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John Evans Moreland

John Evans Moreland, age 87, of Hayward, WI, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

John was born on May 28, 1938, in Madison, WI, the son of Ernest and Mary (Waters) Moreland. In his youth, his family moved to

Hayward, WI, where both his parents were originally from.

John attended Hayward public schools for all his education. He was active in sports, and in high school was the starting quarterback for the football team for all four years. He also played basketball and baseball. After graduation, he played summer baseball for the Seeley Loggers. He graduated from Hayward High School in 1956 as Valedictorian.

John attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics education and physical education.

On December 5, 1959, John was joined in marriage to Joyce Aasmundrud in Dubuque, IA. John joined the U.S. Army on July 4, 1960, and served at Fort Huachuca in Arizona for two years as a Military Police Officer. He received the rank of Captain, and after his honorable discharge he served in the Army Reserves.

John worked as a high school math teacher and coach—his two passions—first in Spencer, WI, and later in Mt. Horeb, WI. He also continued his education at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and then for three summers at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA, where he received his master’s in education.

John coached high school basketball, baseball and football. Summers, he also coached Little League and Babe Ruth baseball in Hayward. He was named conference Coach of the Year several times. He always tried to set a good example for his players through his conduct and by never smoking or drinking. He was named “Coach of the Year” several times. He was also proud of his work as a union leader at both the local and state levels.

Upon retirement, John and Joyce returned to Hay-

ward and built a log home on the Namekagon River. John was an active volunteer throughout his life. In Hayward, he helped establish a chapter of Habitat for Humanity and he was active in Lions Club. After skiing in 15 Birkebeiners, served as race chief for all Birkie food stations for many years.

He was an avid sports fan and followed the Milwaukee Brewers, Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin Badgers very closely. From his youth on he loved attending sporting events. He loved his memories of attending Milwaukee Braves as a child, and he was a season ticket holder for many years for the Brewers and Badgers football and basketball.

He was a great father to his two sons and a good example to those he taught and coached. He was a faithful Christian man, and an active member of First Lutheran Church in Hayward.

John is survived by his wife of 66 years, Joyce; two sons: Bart Moreland of Hayward, and Jeff Moreland of West Allis, WI; and two grandchildren, Anna and Eric Moreland.

John was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Diane (Moreland) Martin of Milwaukee.

A memorial service celebrating John’s life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026, at the First Lutheran Church in Hayward with Pastor Joel Bacon officiating. The service can be viewed online at <https://flchaywardwi.org/worship/>. Visitation will be held from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., before the service. Interment will be in the Greenwood Cemetery in Hayward.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Hayward Meals on Wheels program, Northwood Humane Society, or First Lutheran Church.

Online condolences may be left for John’s family at www.bratley-nelsonchapels.com.

Plan commission talks cottages, Karakahl and more

By CATHY SCOTT
Mount Horeb Mail

The Plan Commission met on Wednesday, January 28 to discuss Brookstone Hills Pocket Neighborhood, JT Klein affordable and market rate multi-family housing at 101 Perimeter Rd (location of Karakahl Country Inn), and the exterior lighting ordinance. Commission members Sara Best, Andrew Kidd, Ben Vondra, Desti-

nee Udelhoven, and Peggy Zalucha were present, with Ryan Czyzewski and Jill Remmert-Willis absent. Commissioner Best chaired the meeting. Nic Owen, Village Administrator, and Ber Rohr, Village Planner, were also in attendance.

Public Hearing for Cottages at Brookstone Hill
The meeting opened with a Public Hearing for the

rezoning request for Cottages at Brookstone Hills development from Ag to R3 (multi-family) to Planned Development. One audience member spoke, asking if there will only be one exit from the development, meaning all residents living there will go through the existing neighborhood to Blue Mounds Street. Once the Public Hearing meeting closed, Owen responded

to the question, telling her that yes, there will only be one exit at this time. It did not make sense at this time to have an exit going west as the land is located in the Town of Blue Mounds. Rohr gave a synopsis of the development which will include twenty-one single family condo units, with a private drive and open space in the center of the homes. Since this develop-

ment approval is under the existing zoning codes, Rohr explained the flexibilities, aka exceptions and waivers, required to meet the current code: both the front and rear setbacks are not large enough, the sidewalk is within five feet of the right-of-way, the number of units exceed the lot size, the green space is not for public use and, lastly, the open space is only 40% where it

should be 45% of the impervious surface. However, should the revised zoning code be approved for pocket neighborhoods at the March 4 Village Board meeting, the only flexibility needed for the proposed development is the 2 ft rear yard setback versus the required 10 ft rear yard setback. This flexibility is due to the topography. Commissioner Udelhoven continued on page 7

BOARD

continued from page 1

a lighter color for the siding of the 40-unit senior affordable apartments and larger eaves for the 49-unit market rate apartments. Both changes were made by the developer prior to the Village Board meeting where members were to consider approval of the Specific Implementation Plan (SIP) for the project at 101 Perimeter Road. In addition to these two changes, developer representatives stated they also upgraded the lighting structures to meet the revised lighting standards in the yet to be approved zoning code rewrite. All changes were quickly approved by board members, with a unanimous vote, thanking JT Klein for the upgrades.

Brookstone Hills Pocket Neighborhood

The first item for consideration was the General Development Plan (GDP) rezone from Ag to R-3 Multi-family to Planned Development (PD). The twenty-one single-family homes by Encore Homes will have a condo association, a one-way circular drive, with green space in the center of the development. The only flexibility required after the zoning code rewrite for pocket neighborhoods is approved will be the rear-yard setback. It requires 10 ft and Brookstone Hills will only have a 2 ft setback due to topography, including a water basin.

Trustee Marc Schellpfeffer said, “this is a great example of a unique way to create more housing typology in the Village”.

Trustee Jason Fendrick summarized his thoughts by agreeing with the cottage concept because it is open to all ages, allows for home ownership, and provides yard and snow services that many people do not like to be responsible for.

The second item for consideration was the Certified Survey Map (CSM) to convert the previously approved Out lot to a Standard lot. The board members unanimously approved both items.

The SIP will be presented

later, giving exterior details as well as the pros/cons of including a one-way private drive.

Dr. Evans, a Mount Horeb Pioneer

Barb and Mark Johnson, Vestibule Investments, LLC principles, purchased 108 and 110 E. Main Street buildings years ago which housed Moonhill Mercantile for twelve years and is now Telsaan Tea. The Johnson’s are the first to apply for the Nomination for the Register of Historic Places for Structures, a new program available through the Historic Preservation Commission. Both buildings were upgraded in 2020, keeping as much of the exterior as authentic as possible, having new, but stemming from the past, wood windows and the historic palette, yet assuring the structures were safe for tenants and customers. Behind the building is an old creamery building, built in the 1920s, which has not been restored. The meeting packet for the Board meeting, as well as the Trollway TV broadcast, includes many pictures throughout the years as well as a narrative history of the properties for readers interested in learning more about the buildings as well as Dr. Evans. Johnson repeatedly thanked the Historium staff and others for helping him wade through all the information on the buildings as well as on the Evans family. Johnson’s enthusiastic synopsis of times past for the buildings held the complete attention of the board members.

Johnson said, “Dr. Evans was essential to putting Mount Horeb on the map. He had a vision for Mount Horeb. He was born in Springdale Township, went to medical school and returned to Mount Horeb. He was on the village board, the village president, became a state legislator, and was president of the Mount Horeb bank”.

The building was built in 1885 to be a drug store, with a surgical center in the back. He and his wife lived above the store. The building remained a drug store for almost one hundred years, selling it to others,

until it moved in 1962 to what is now Mount Horeb Pharmacy. The creamery was built to set their son up in business. Dr. Evans also built what is now the Edward Jones office as well as what is now the Duluth Trading retail store.

Both the Johnsons’ and the Driftless Historium staff hope other building owners of historic properties apply for the Nomination for Register of Historic Places.

Johnson said, “we hope we are setting the tone for other business owners, and they would come to the table and want to do the same with their building”.

Village board members unanimously approved of the Nomination for Register of Historic Places for Structures, Sites or Entities for 108 and 110 E. Main Street.

Committee Meeting reports

After agenda items for discussion/consideration are completed, board members report on worth mentioning discussions of their respective committee meetings held before a board meeting. Not all committees meet monthly. Nic Owen, Village Administrator, and Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk, also may report on village activities.

Jason Fendrick, Finance & Personnel member, reported on the presentation given by Robert W. Baird & Co. associates of a 2026 Financial Management Plan given earlier in the evening. Financial data was provided by our Finance personnel. The Plan included a complete snapshot of all revenue sources as well as expenditures for 2025, suggesting particular focus should be made on increasing revenues or decreasing expenditures to reach the Village intention of having twenty-five percent of needed operation expenses available in the General Fund. It is not at this level now so further discussions by the Committee will be held to determine possible solutions to reach the goal.

Parks and Rec Chair Fendrick reported on beginning discussions for park sponsorships, specifically the Lukken Park, using a template provided by Owen. Before

reaching out to community residents and corporations for donation considerations for all facets of the park, the Committee will work to formalize the process. Jeff Gorman, Public Services Director, reported there is interest from the Wisconsin Army National Guard that they could be interested in providing grading for the park land in 2027. Although nothing is firm, if this comes to fruition, it will be a great service to the Village as well as provide Guard members with an opportunity either to learn or enhance their required grading experience.

Both Trustee Nate Gauger and Owen reported on the last Public Safety meeting, telling of Chief Vierck’s report (available on the Village website (<https://www.mounthorebwi.info>) on the effect of new developments on traffic, call volume, and speed. The conclusion of the report is that the recent developments have had little effect on public safety. The Committee will continue to monitor results as new developments materialize.

Trustee Tim White, Sustainability and Natural Resources chair, reported the committee reviewed the zoning code rewrite landscape plan for the Plan Commission, received approval of Mount Horeb qualifying as a Bird City, reviewed Bike City requirements and will continue to watch progress on it, and included the Energy Audit in tonight’s package and will suggest all department heads review it for their respective departments to consider making improvements in energy usage. The Committee is continuing its studies on village waste and a compost station as well as a community Styrofoam recycling program.

Utility Commission member Fendrick reported they discussed a Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program from Meat-smith Coop, a local group, who will do meat processing from already harvested animals in the Artemis Provisions buildings on East Main Street. The potential grant is available through the Rural program due to the increased utility usage for

its operation. Heidi Hoff, a Director of Meatsmith Coop (www.meatsmithcoop.com), made the presentation to the Commission. The group has some financing in place so ownership will not be fully leveraged for its operation. Consideration of the application will be discussed at the February 10 meeting.

Czyzewski reported he will be contacting current committee members whose terms are up about extending their volunteer time as well as having Nomination forms published on both the Village website and social media for those interested in joining a committee. Committee assignments are usually made prior to the approval of such at the May Village Board meeting.

Czyzewski also reminded everyone that the current parking lot on First/Front streets will be closed by owner Steve Brown Apartments beginning March 1 as construction begins for the Front Street Station apartment building. He thanked board members for their service, recognizing there are times difficult decisions that need to be made and it is best when they are addressed head-on rather than delaying them for a long period of time.

Owen reported he met with the Chamber to discuss alternative parking areas for art fair vendors, festival attendees, etc. with the loss of the parking lot. He believes they came up with some viable solutions. In addition, the Chamber will review and make updated online parking maps available for tourists.

Owen met with staff from the UniverCity Alliance (UCA). It is a 3-year partnership program that connects local governments with university resources to address sustainability, community-identified challenges, and development goals. The faculty expertise, coupled with student coursework provides actionable recommendations for communities. Although there is a cost associated with it, Owen said it is an available avenue to have students help with various projects the Village is working on now and in the future.

Lastly, he reported the Lukken property RFP for the housing section of the acreage is due February 16th. That will not change; however, the Village ran into some hurdles with the Dane County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This is a program that administers funds from the US Government HUD program. When the CDBG program was presented to the Village Board some time ago by a County representative, it was described as a program to financially assist developers with affordable housing costs. The Village was asked to allow five acres of the seventy-four buildable acreage to be allotted to the program, for no cost to the Village. The Board approved the request. The developer would need to make certain the allotted land met its environmental standards, etc. When checking with the County to find out if the CDBG was approved, answers were not available due to the government shut down. In checking again, Owen learned there are new standards, which now require all acreage to meet the standards. This caveat was not included in the RFP because it was not known. Owen said if this new requirement stands, it will increase the cost of development by a minimum of one third, which is not the direction the Village wants it to go. He will meet with Kristen Fish-Peterson, the Economic Development Consultant, and Dane County staff next week to discuss how to manage the situation.

Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk, reported in-person absentee primary voting started on February 3, with only six votes cast thus far. It will continue daily through Saturday, February 14, 2pm. As required, public testing of our voting equipment will take place on Friday, February 13th, at 4:30pm on the second-floor conference room for the April 7 Spring election.



MOUNT HOREB VETERANS CONTRIBUTED \$1,000 TO HEAT FOR HEROES AT VORTEX ON JANUARY 30

HEAT FOR HEROES IS A CHARITABLE INITIATIVE THAT WAS CREATED TO GIVE EXTRA ASSISTANCE TO THE GROWING POPULATION OF WISCONSIN VETERANS IN NEED.

Pictured left to right: Bjorn Skindrud, relative of several Mt. Horeb veterans, Kamryn Huseh, VFW member, Marny Skindrud, VFW Commander, Noel Ayala, Veterans service advocate Heat for Heroes, Jerry Hook, past Commander of Mt. Horeb American Legion and VFW member, Mike Jennings, American Legion Member, and Marcie Schmidt, Special Events Coordinator, Energy Service Inc.

ISAAC GUNBY WINS AMERICAN LEGION’S ORATORICAL CONTEST



Isaac Gunby won the Frank E. Malone Post 113, Mount Horeb American Legion, High School Oratorical Contest Sunday February 1. The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – A Constitutional Speech Contest has been held at Posts, Counties, Districts, and Departments across the United States since 1938.

The contest encourages high school students to study the U. S. Constitution and hone their speaking skills. The contestants give an eight to ten-minute speech on the U.S. Constitution as a prepared oration. For the second part of the contest, one of the four assigned topics (amendments, or articles of the Constitution) is drawn and the contestants have to speak for three to five minutes.

The volunteers were critical to making this contest possible. Marlene Tilsner, Jim Mavis, and JoAnn Prehn were the judges, Dave York was the Timekeeper, Scott Klassy was the Sergeant at Arms, and Jerry Hook was the Chairman and Emcee for the Contest.

Isaac will compete at the Dane County Oratorical Contest Saturday, February 7.

Pictured above are Isaac Gunby and Jerry Hook.

MOUNT HOREB AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOGNIZES BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK



The Mount Horeb Area School District is proud to recognize Wisconsin School Bus Driver Appreciation Week, taking place February 9–13, 2026. This annual observance honors the dedicated school bus drivers and transportation professionals who play a critical role in keeping students safe each day.

“Our transportation team upholds the highest standards of safety, care, and reliability as they ensure students arrive at school and return home ready to learn. Across Wisconsin, school bus drivers transport hundreds of thousands of students daily—and here in Mount Horeb, the District transportation team’s commitment makes a meaningful difference for students and families,” said a statement issued by the district. “The Mount Horeb Area School District extends its sincere thanks to our entire transportation team for their professionalism, dedication, and daily service. If you see a bus driver, join the District in expressing gratitude for all bus drivers do to support our schools and community.” Pictured above is driver Bev Flint.

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Animal activists’ petition dismissed by judge

On Friday February 6, a state circuit court judge dismissed a habeas corpus petition filed by activists seeking to end health studies and animal research at Ridglan Farms in Blue Mounds.

The beagle breeder and research facility, which has been the target of activists from around the country for years now, issued a statement praising the decision.

“Ridglan Farms applauds this ruling, reaffirming once again in a court of law that habeas corpus petitions only apply to people, not animals,” said the company. “However, as we’ve stated previously, this issue is much larger than Ridglan Farms. If the request for a writ of habeas corpus had been allowed to move forward - granting farm and lab animals the same legal

standing as humans to challenge their confinement - it would have likely posed immense financial and legal challenges for countless farms, universities, research labs and other organizations and businesses across our state that house and care for animals on a daily basis.”

“While we agree with the court’s decision, we also recognize that some individuals opposed to health research in animals remain unwilling to accept the result of the recent settlement between Ridglan Farms and the state of Wisconsin,” they continued. “That settlement concluded an exhaustive, several months long investigation of our facility and resolved all previous legal issues and animal care concerns. It also preserved Ridglan Farms’ ability to continue important research

that primarily benefits our pet animals through new and improved vaccines and treatments that help extend and save animal lives.”

“Finally, we hope state and federal authorities will work to address what will likely be our next major challenge, the threatened mass theft of animals from Ridglan Farms being organized by a California activist convicted of similar acts in the past,” Ridglan Farms continued. “Like the habeas corpus petition, this act does not pertain solely to our small, long-standing local business. These potential thefts also pose major risks to Wisconsin universities, farms and businesses, because this is not a simple one-time event. Animal activists with extremist beliefs have publicly proposed a series of actions involving

trespassing and theft in order to achieve their goals. We encourage law enforcement to take steps to proactively prevent these dangerous actions that if carried out, will endanger Wisconsin residents, law enforcement, animals and activists alike.”

On the other side, attorneys from the Nonhuman Rights Project and the Animal Activist Legal Defense Project “strongly denounced” the dismissal and “vowed to appeal the decision immediately.”

“Ridglan’s breeding facility currently holds approximately 2,000 beagle dogs and puppies,” they said in their own statement. “The lawsuit asked the court to recognize the dogs’ right to habeas corpus to protect them from unlawful cruelty and order that they be protected and potentially re-

leased.”

“Nothing protects the thousands of dogs at Ridglan Farms’ breeding operation between now and when it relinquishes its license this summer,” said Professor Justin Marceau, the director of the Animal Activist Legal Defense Project at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. “Under the agreement with the special prosecutor, Ridglan is free to sell, kill, or house the remaining dogs in abhorrent conditions until then. This violates the dogs’ right to be free from cruelty, and habeas corpus is the remedy. We will immediately file an appeal to protect these dogs.”

“The time for justice for the dogs is now, not 50 years from now,” said Christopher Berry, Executive Director of the Nonhuman Rights Proj-

ect.

Last fall, Ridglan Farms reached an agreement with a special prosecutor to agree to surrender its license to breed and sell dogs by July 1, 2026.

Ridglan Farms said that if approved, the petition would have granted animals the same legal standing as humans, establishing a major legal precedent that would likely jeopardize numerous common activities that involve animals. “These activities include dairy farming and other forms of animal agriculture, biomedical research, hunting and fishing,” they said.

Established in 1966, Ridglan Farms is regularly inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture and is accredited by AAALAC International.

Half Hour History Lecture, ‘Beneath Our Feet: The Past and Present of Cave of the Mounds’



Join the Driftless Historium, 100 S 2nd Street, Mount Horeb, for the next installment of Half-Hour History, “Beneath Our Feet: The Past and Present of Cave of the Mounds” presented by

Cave of the Mounds Assistant General Manager Tate Phillip on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Referred to as the Jewel Box of America’s Caves, this Blue Mounds destination

contains the oldest dated cave formations in the Midwest. Phillip will present the rich, local history of Cave of the Mounds, from its accidental discovery in 1939 to its development into one of



Cave of the Mounds Assistant General Manager Tate Phillip will speak about the cave on Wednesday, February 18.

Wisconsin’s most treasured natural landmarks.

Tate Phillip is the on-site “keeper of the story”

and staff member at Cave of the Mounds. After years of researching at the Driftless Historium and interviewing past tour guides, previous managers, and important people in the history of Cave of the Mounds, she has become one of the site’s dedicated resources, committed to preserving and sharing the remarkable story of Cave of the Mounds.

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society’s *Half-Hour History* program is a once-a-month midday speaker series featuring engaging presentations on local and regional history. Generously supported through a grant from the Mount Horeb Community Foundation, these FREE programs are open to all and

take place at the Driftless Historium at 1:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society operates the Driftless Historium and was founded in 1975 to collect, preserve, and share the stories of southwestern Dane County.

For more information call 608-437-6486 or email moverland@mthorebhistory.org.

Up next: “The 49th Wisconsin Infantry in 1865” presented by History Educator John Helmenstine with period rifle demonstration by Civil War Historian Paul Zehren on March 18. Visit www.mthorebhistory.org/events to see the full schedule.

PLANNING

continued from page 4

suggested there be less units, freeing up more space to eliminate any needed flexibility. She questioned Chad Wuebben, Encore Homes owner/developer, on the value of each lot and how that would affect the development by removing some of the units. Wuebben said each lot is valued at approximately \$40,000 and each unit elimination would have an approximate increase cost to homebuyers of \$10 - \$15,000. He said he is trying to create a development affordable to buyers and any increase in price can have an effect of lending possibilities to them. Commissioner Zalucha said another effect of unit reduction is the cost of the monthly homeowner association dues as yard and other maintenance costs would be spread among less home owners. Com-

missioners Vondra and Zalucha motioned to approve consideration of the General Development Plan. Motion carried 4-1, with Udelhoven voting nay.

The Certified Survey Map was unanimously approved, changing a previously approved Outlot to a Standard Lot.

A brief concept discussion was held about home elevations, models, colors, etc. will be presented later for the Specific Implementation Plan (SIP). Wuebben assured the PC the homes will have various facades, elevations, colors at the yet to be scheduled SIP meeting.

Karakahl Country Inn redevelopment

Representatives from JT Klein presented the exterior plans for both the Senior Affordable and Market Rate Multi-Family housing developments. There will be 41 and 49 units, respectively. Drawings showed the

colors and building materials for each building, with slight color differences between them to represent a differentiation. The primary materials will be masonry cast stone, pewter, a lighter gray, midnight black as an accent for the windows, and black roofing. They are hoping to begin construction this summer with demolition to begin once WEDA funding is formally approved for the Senior Affordable Housing unit. It, the funding, continues to move positively through the various required processes.

Each building will include EV charging stations as well as bike racks. A shared space between the two buildings will include a grilling area and patio. The dry retention pond will be behind the Senior housing building. JT Klein representatives met with the library staff as both groups were hoping a connection

between the two sites could be made for easy access to one another, but the height differential would make it impossible to create an ADA compliant walkway. Udelhoven, wearing her Director of the Driftless Historium hat, thanked the representatives for allowing she and her staff to walk around the inside of the Karakahl to take pictures, grab an old door and other memorabilia to have for their archives for the once popular and much loved (in its day) Karakahl. Asked about names of the buildings, JT Klein reps said the Senior Housing unit will be called Oak Ridge Mount Horeb, which is a brand name given to its other Senior Housing developments within Dane County. The name for the market rate unit has not yet been determined. All commissioners voted in favor of approving the SIP for recommendation to the Village Board.

Dark Sky ordinance upgrade

The Sustainability and Natural Resources (SNR) Committee recommended to the PC the current exterior lighting ordinance provisions in the zoning code rewrite be reviewed further based on feedback from Scott Lind as well as purchasing the Illuminators Engineering Society Standards book. Lind was in attendance the PC meeting, telling commissioners and Rohr, the changes made to the initial draft of the dark sky standards were vastly improved – not as strict as he would like, but far better. The intent of the changes to both commercial and residential standards is to reduce dark sky lighting as well as be affordable for both to utilize. The draft with updated changes was discussed and approved as written and will be incorporated into the final draft for the Public Hearing

presentation on February 25.

2025 Building Permit recap

Ryan Lindsey, owner of 3C Inspect and our new building inspector, submitted a report to the PC with a synopsis of all permits issued in 2025. This was appreciated by the PC. He also now provides updates on the progress of existing permitting jobs, which they find helpful. Here is the list of permits issued last year:

Total of 334 Permits

- 23 New Single-Family Residential & 1 Two-Family Residential (*Duplex*)
- 3 New Commercial (*Beehive Assisted Living, Surplus Suds, Springdale Apartments*)
- 301 General Permits (*commercial & residential*)
- 5 Zoning (*sidewalk café permits*)
- 1 Demo (*animal hospital*)

Kirk Nichols honored as ‘Outstanding Educator’

Kirk Nichols, a Mount Horeb Area School District kindergarten teacher, was recognized as WEA Member Benefits’ Outstanding Educator at the Jan. 23 UW men’s hockey game. The Outstanding Educator Award was established in 2021 and honors public school educators and support staff who go above and beyond in their roles. WEA Member Benefits awards 10 individuals each season, with award recipients being recognized at a University of Wisconsin athletic event either in the fall or winter, in partnership with Wisconsin Athletics.

“The Outstanding Educator program is our way of honoring public school employees who go above and beyond to support their

students and strengthen their communities,” said Dave Kijek, President and CEO of WEA Member Benefits. “Kirk creates classrooms that are welcoming, safe, and full of fun, spaces where students feel valued, confident, and supported as they learn. By building trust, encouraging risk-taking, and celebrating both effort and growth, he helps students leave his classroom feeling proud of who they are and what they can accomplish.”

“We are thrilled that Kirk has been recognized as an Outstanding Educator,” said Dr. Steve Salerno, Mount Horeb Area School District Superintendent. “His leadership within the classroom and his commitment to our students are invaluable. Kirk’s profound ability to

connect with and engage his students reflects the very best of the Mount Horeb Area School District.”

Nichols said he has been fortunate to have inspiring teachers throughout his own school career, but one stands out among the rest: his kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Landig. Her kind, patient, and caring personality inspired him to become the teacher he is today.

The 2025-2026 school year marks Kirk’s 18th year in education and his 16th year teaching kindergarten. Kirk strives to make his classroom a welcoming, safe, and structured space where kindness, care, and trust are at the center. He builds connections with his students by truly listening to them and taking time to

learn about their lives.

“Kindergarteners are wonderfully honest—they’ll even tell you if you’re having a bad hair day! Their honesty keeps me on my toes every day, and I love that about them.”

No two days in Kirk’s classroom are ever the same. The energy, honesty, and spontaneity of his students make every day full of surprises, joy, and learning opportunities. Always looking to grow, he continues to refine his teaching, whether mastering a new curriculum, adopting new classroom management strategies, or experimenting with new engagement techniques.

What motivates Kirk most are the “lightbulb moments,” when a student suddenly understands a concept

and everything clicks. Seeing that joy never gets old. He takes great pride in the lasting impact he has on students, especially when former students tell him he was their favorite teacher, which is a constant reminder of why he loves what he does.

For Kirk, student success goes beyond academics. It’s when a student feels proud of what they’ve accomplished, through both challenges and achievements. He hopes every student leaves his classroom confident, compassionate, and courageous and equipped not just with knowledge, but with kindness and resilience that will last a lifetime.

When asked about receiving the Outstanding Educator Award, Kirk says. “Teaching is something I

pour my heart into every day, so knowing my work has made an impact was truly humbling. My first thought was of my students, their growth, their challenges, and the joy they bring into the classroom. This recognition felt less like an award for me and more like a celebration of what we’ve accomplished together.”

Outside the classroom, Kirk enjoys spending time at his cabin with his husband, Ben, attending Broadway shows, and cherishing moments with family and friends. Kirk and Ben are also obsessed with their mini Bernedoodle, Stanley, whom they proudly call their “best boy.”

Mount Horeb Student Musicians to Perform in the Annual Festival

On Saturday, February 28, over 450 student musicians from grades 6-12 will participate in the District Solo & Ensemble Festival at Mt. Horeb High School. The festival is the culminating event for this period of year, and most students choose to perform their finished product at the festival. The event is sponsored by the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA), which promotes school music statewide.

Students can participate in various configurations for

their performances; they can choose to play in everything from solos to duets and trios to larger ensembles. Many students participate in more than one event; it is not uncommon for high school students to participate in four or more events.

Students perform their pieces for an adjudicator provided by WSMA; these adjudicators are experienced musicians, many of them current and retired music educators. After students perform, they work with the

adjudicator on a few items and receive written feedback after the festival. Students also receive a rating based on their performance; unlike a competition festival, they receive ratings based on their performance against a set of standards.

For students, the Solo & Ensemble unit is a chance to learn a lot about music, but it is also a favorite for students as they have a lot of freedom to choose what they want to perform and who they want to work with, for example,

students have the opportunity to try out new styles, sing in new languages, or work with a group of friends on a saxophone choir.

For teachers, the Solo & Ensemble unit is the only time of year where students perform more as individual musicians rather than the typical large ensemble settings. Band teacher Kellen Dorner sees this as the time of year when students experience the most growth because each student must be self-reliant and individually

accountable.

“You can’t look at your neighbor and match what they’re doing, since you are the only person playing that specific part in your trio. That kind of independence improves our entire program, and gives students the skills needed to succeed in really amazing large group performances,” says Dorner.

The festival is also popular with the families and friends of the performers, as it is an excellent opportunity to see individuals perform

up close.

This annual event is sponsored by the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA), a leader in providing programs and services that challenge youth to achieve excellence through music. Founded in 1932, WSMA is a non-profit, statewide association serving more than 3,500 music teachers and school administrators in the education of over 100,000 students annually.

Jazz Ensemble to Make Music with Acclaimed Jazz Musicians

The Mt. Horeb High School Tuesday Jazz Ensemble will attend the Sun Prairie Jazz Festival on Saturday, February 21, 2026. The festival is a satellite event for the Essentially Ellington Competition and Festival, a program run by Jazz at Lincoln Center dedicated to preserving and promoting jazz music at the

student level.

The Tuesday Jazz Ensemble will perform for a panel of internationally recognized jazz musicians and guest artists, who will then give feedback and work with the students on their pieces. From there, students listen to other bands perform and hear those same clinicians work with other bands.

In the late morning, students can attend a jam session with students from other schools. In the afternoon, students will attend jazz improvisation workshops taught by clinicians, followed by masterclasses designed to help each student learn more about how jazz works on their particular instrument.

The final event of the day is the evening concert, with each student group pairing with a clinician during their performance. Mt. Horeb students will perform one of their pieces with a master adjudicator for the Jazz at Lincoln Center programs.

The evening concert ends with a jam session between all the guest artists and clinicians, followed by a big band blowout with all the clinicians battling each other in a blues showcase backed by the acclaimed Sun Prairie High School jazz band.

While the festival is local, the reach of the Essentially

Ellington program makes this particular festival a gathering place for some of the best bands in the Midwest; bands travel from all corners of Wisconsin to participate, with some bands traveling from as far away as Indiana for the event.

Mount Horeb music teacher Kellen Dorner, who directs the MHHS Tuesday Jazz Ensemble, said the annual event is a tremendous opportunity for his students to work with exceptional musicians and hear fantastic music.

“Our students have the chance to work with some of the best jazz musicians in the world; they play regularly at New York’s best clubs, and professors from

places like the Juilliard School of Music will work with our musicians. It’s a very unique opportunity.”

The evening concert is available to the public. The concert takes place on Saturday, February 21, at 7 p.m. at the Sun Prairie West Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available at the door.

The mission of Jazz at Lincoln Center is to entertain, enrich, and expand a global community for jazz through performance, education, and advocacy. We believe jazz is a metaphor for Democracy. Because jazz is improvisational, it celebrates personal freedom and encourages individual expression. Because jazz is swinging, it dedicates that freedom to finding and maintaining common ground with others. Because jazz is rooted in the blues, it inspires us to face adversity with persistent optimism.



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OPTIMISTS

continued from page 1

still doing everything they can to help the next generation grow and thrive in an ever-changing world.

2026 is an age when being optimistic is far from fashionable. Nihilism and despair are the phycological fashion of the day, and those who speak of hope and beauty in the world are often dismissed as quixotic fools.

But fashion trends come and go, yet the Optimist Club has stood the test of time.

Its members often point to their creed when asked to explain the group’s philosophy. It states:

- Promise Yourself**
- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.*
 - To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.*
 - To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.*
 - To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.*
 - To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.*
 - To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.*
 - To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.*
 - To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.*
 - To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.*
 - To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.*

Cynthia Jefko, along with her husband, Charlie, was one of the club’s founding members. They had moved to Mount Horeb from Illinois in April of 1995, falling in love with the community after they saw a young child climb off of their bike and replace a flag that had fallen to the ground.

“I got all choked up, and I remember, I said to Charlie, “We need to live in this town,”” she said.

At the time, she had never heard of the Optimist Club, but that was about to change. Jefko, like many of her coworkers at the Intermediate Center, was soon approached by Fenley about founding a club. The Middleton Optimist Club had agreed to be their sponsor, and they simply needed enough members. Jefko ended up being the founding vice president. She had no concept how much the club would do in the coming years.



Above, Cynthia Jefko, Ann Finley and Dianna Fehlen.

“Good grief,” she said. “I never looked ahead 30 years. I just knew it was good from the start.”

They met on a regular basis, holding events and fundraisers and finding a variety of ways to help people. They offered scholarships to students. They helped with parks and festivals and an assortment of things to make Mount Horeb stronger. They helped with the Giving Tree, they made sure the food pantry had fully stocked shelves. Their key to success was in the very name of the group: they were optimists.

“I don’t think there’s a grouch in the group,” said Jefko.

“We can’t give up that hope,” she added. “That’s it. You have to be positive. If you give in to the negative, it won’t be good.”

The group faced its obstacles. The COVID pandemic was one of the toughest. But local Optimists kept it going, even bolstering their ranks with younger members in recent years.

“Even with all the doom and gloom in the world, it’s important to have hope in your heart,” said Mara Johnson, another of the club’s charter members.

“I was my first year teaching at the IC, and Ann Fin-

ley needed members for the group, so she was working on the staff quite hard,” Johnson recalled with a chuckle. “I didn’t really know anything about it, but Ann was a good leader and I trusted her.”

“The idea has always been to just help people out,” said Johnson. “Especially kids. It’s been a good thing to be part of.”

Ellen Walton is currently in her third term as the Mount Horeb Optimist Club’s president. She’s been a member for 17 years, ever since Charlie Jefko walked up to her and proclaimed: “I think you would make a fantastic Optimist.”

“I’ve always been pas-

sionate about children,” Walton recalled. “I knew the Optimist Club’s focal point was young in the community, and that sealed the deal for me.”

She went to some meetings and found them short, sweet, and effective.

“I always left those meetings with the impression that I had so much fun and they got so much done,” she said. “We stick to an agenda, but a lot of laughs in between. If you are going to contribute to the community, this was the way to do it.”

She also found the organization to be particularly welcoming.

“As a newbie, I did a lot of listening, but when I

talked, I felt validated, like they were really listening,” she said.

Whether it was hosting Santa outdoors during COVID or organizing the “Kiddie Corner” at Norsk’s July 3 Independence Day celebration, members have always been quick to step up.

“We have some really great members who are not afraid to say, yeah, I can help, I can do that,” Walton said. “You never hear crickets. We always have people who are willing to help.”

And while cynicism seems pervasive in pop cul-

ture at the moment, local Optimists feel their particular world view has more allure, and more power, than the alternative.

“I think people crave that. I don’t think people seek out the cynicism; I think it finds them because as soon as you turn on the TV there is bad news,” said Walton. “But if you surround yourself with the right people, there is Optimism. Kids are the future, and Optimists do so much with kids, they tend to feel the future is bright.”

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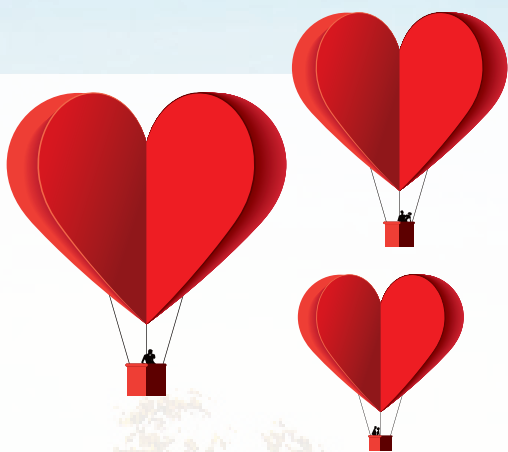
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Where can you get diamond earrings starting at \$24.99?
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Where can you get sea bass with lobster risotto for your Valentine's dinner?
- _____

Who has an event featuring Marisa Balistreri and Stefan Hall?
- _____

Where can you go to fall in love with local meat?
- _____

Where can you go to relax, glow and renew with a facial?
- _____

Who thinks you will love their food and service?
- _____

Who has ice cream, lattes, boba tea, shaved ice and much more for your Valentine needs?
- _____

Where can you go to find a Valentine floral bar?
- _____

Who does pruning and removal and loves trees?
- _____

Who has been showing the community love since 1902?
- _____

Who is your local full-service grocery store?
- _____

Who is a complete auto parts supplier?
- _____

Who is having their annual sale from now until March 1st?
- _____

Who is hoping that you will fall in love with their service and is accepting new clients?
- _____

Which business offers family medicine and urgent care in Mt. Horeb?
- _____

Where can you bid, buy and sell online?
- _____

Where can you find flowers, gifts, candy and more for your Valentine?
- _____

Who loves their readers and offers a discount when you subscribe?
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Who is requesting reservations for their Valentine's dinner?
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Local progressive group gathers for protest against ‘fascism’

On Friday, February 6, more than 50 area residents assembled to call attention to what they say are signs of fascism in America. The event was organized by Southwest Wisconsin Area Progressives (SWWAP). SWWAP is a local Mt. Horeb area democracy-in-action group advocating progressive government policies that work for a sustainable future. The group says it is committed to educating the public, as well as itself, regarding current events. SWWAP believes that such an ongoing education is necessary to participate in a democracy. The group holds education forums, encourages campaign volunteer opportunities for progressive candidates, and works with other progressive groups in southern Wisconsin.



Letters to the Editor

Allegations against fired coach are ‘mere gossip’ until the facts are known

Thank you for the great in depth information concerning issues one might have about the positions of MH village board candidates. Your questions and reporting were thoughtful, informative and educational to all who will be voting. Once again your information was a great help in sorting out positions. Unfortunately the headline article of the 1/5/26 paper was one that left me with anger and frustration. Posting a picture with an article about “allegations of grooming” was in my opinion unprofessional and downright disgusting. “Allegations” by definition is “a claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong WITHOUT PROOF.” In other words, until facts and truth are presented which changes the allegation to fact it is mere gossip, which can totally destroy an individual’s life and leave them completely helpless to defend or correct the allegation. There were no facts, no data, no truth, but a picture of the individual whose reputation and life your article publicly defaced. From my perspective, this was a premature knee jerk action and the harm it has created for a multitude of

persons ripples through this community! I do not know the individual nor the circumstances but I do know what it is like to have your name and person defamed! IF AND WHEN THERE IS FACTUAL INFORMATION to either debunk this “allegation” or move it into a formal factual account, I hope you will give as much attention and due diligence to facts as you did to smear a person based upon allegations!

Mary Jo Brinkmann

Sheriff defends scanning of license plates

In the rural areas of Dane County, public safety hinges on smart, efficient peacekeeping solutions. As the Dane County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO) continues to innovate, license plate readers (LPRs) have emerged as an intelligent resource, enhancing safety while optimizing limited resources. LPRs scan vehicle plates in real-time, alerting deputies to amber alerts, silver alerts or stolen vehicles. This technology maximizes efficiency amid surging demands. In 2025, the DCSO patrol division responded to approximately 40,000 calls for service. By automating initial scans, deputies focus on genuine threats, freeing time for community engagement and proactive service.

The impact is life-saving. In 2025, LPRs have assisted the DCSO solve two homicides, where armed suspects fled the scene in vehicles, providing crucial leads that brought justice and prevented further harm. In an era where criminals leverage apps, drones, scanners, and encrypted communications, DCSO must evolve with tools like LPRs to stay ahead. Critics raise privacy concerns, but safeguards such as data retention limits (30 days) and internal audits ensure responsible use. For Dane County, where response times can stretch due to geography, LPRs aren’t just efficient; they’re essential for safer communities. Supporting this technology means investing in the safety of Dane County’s rural communities.

Sheriff Calvin D. Barrett
Dane County
Sheriff’s Office

Marklein isn’t listening

Dear Editor,
State Senator Howard Marklein has been holding listening sessions throughout District 17 in Southwest Wisconsin. While he politely listens to what constituents have to say, he refuses to answer questions, educate us on what is happening in the legislature or explain his position on issues important to constituents. I would like to know why he supports a

Wisconsin constitutional amendment (AJR 102/109) aimed at ending Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives in public institutions. This amendment will hinder efforts to address systemic inequalities and will put at risk programs designed to assist marginalized communities. I would like to know if he will support an independent redistricting committee that takes the drawing of voting maps completely out of the hands of politicians - regardless of party. I’d like to hear his rationale for expanding private school education with taxpayer dollars to the detriment of our public schools. I would like to know if Is he willing to support SB 644 to require de-masking and identification of arresting agents? Will he vote against SB 57 requiring Wisconsin sheriffs to cooperate with the federal immigration functions, even when we know those functions are being enacted unconstitutionally with illegal warrants, cruelty, disregard for civil rights and no due process? We deserve legislators who will engage respectfully with us, even when we disagree. It is only through dialogue and a willingness to understand one another that we come to reasonable consensus on how best to shape policy, and ultimately, our society.

Myra Enloe
Dodgeville

Sugar River Euchre

Sugar River Euchre – by Stan Hook

There are seven teams within one game of each other more than halfway through the second half of the Sugar River Euchre League season. The game of the week was between the 4 and 0 J&M Bar River Rats and 2 and 2 Kurniki’s Express, and what a match it was. The River Rats started out hot, holding all four engineer couples to 9 or fewer points in the first frame to take a 29 point lead. In the second frame, both teams scored 49 points, keeping the River Rats in front by 29. In the third frame, the Express engineers were able to increase their boiler pressure to an acceptable operating limit and thereby gained 13 points to cut the River Rats lead to 16. With the pressure still ris-

ing, they gained another 2 points in the fourth. In the sixth frame the Express kicked the last of the River Rats off the train and now the Express led by 3 points. Fighting for a place in first class, the River Rats clawed back on the train and by the end of the eighth frame, the league saw its first tie of the season. The tie required a ninth frame to be played. Unfortunately, this did not end well for the River Rats as they gave up 11 points in overtime to fall to 4 and 1. This had to be an exciting match for both teams and a huge disappointment for the River Rats even though they still have a share of first place. The Sportsman’s Bar Cheese Eaters were unable to make cheese and went to hungry after the Norsk Cowboys emptied their milk vats.

All four Cowboy couples dumped over 100 gallons of milk, but it was Marvin Thompson and Diane Erb whose shot emptied the largest vat, containing 113 gallons. This 86 point win by the Cowboys placed them in a tie for first place with the River Rats. Kleeman’s Hay Shakers Al Zimmerman and Jerry Judd led the team by stacking 114 piles of hay in their match against the Norsk Pranksters. Barb Judd and Fred Ryser pitched in another 112 stacks. The Norsk Pranksters held the Hay Shakers to a first-round tie. But by the second round the Hay Shakers had settled down and took a 17 point lead. From that point on the Pranksters gained a little in each frame to close the gap to 2 points in the fifth frame. By the sixth frame,

the Pranksters lost their magic and ended up losing the match by 11 points. The league saw its fourth perfect score of the season. Red Mouse Shufflers Randy Skogen and Dewey Haag had a couple of nail biter frames but held on to record a perfect score of 120 points. Stan Hook and John Nech-kash hung with teammates Randy and Dewey towards that perfect score through the fifth frame but lost in the sixth frame to Red Mouse Uff-das Mary Humphrey and John Baumgartner. Team Uff-da had a terrible night and found themselves down by 118 points after seven frames. In the eighth frame they won three of the four games to pick up 24 points, ending the match 94 points behind the Shufflers. This match saw both this week’s high and low scores.

High score of 120 points went to Shufflers Randy and Dewey, and the low score of 72 belongs to Uff-das Curt Herfel and Lavern “Blinky” Maier. Kurniki’s Pipe Benders had just enough drain cleaner in their warehouse to flush the Viking Trolls down the sewer. Trolls Erika Fors-eth and Dean Epping gave Benders Jerome Krantz and Chris Booth their only loss of the night holding them to 115 points. Trolls Jeff Gassman and Kurt Wedig attempted to counter Chris and Jerome’s score by losing just two games. Both of their losses were to Jerome and Chris. Jeff and Kurt finished the night with 110 points. In the end, the Pipe Benders were able to keep the Trolls 21 points under the bridge.

Standings:
J&M Bar River Rats 4-1
Norsk Cowboys 4-1
Kleeman’s Hay Shakers 3-2
Kurniki’s Express 3-2
Kurniki’s Pipe Benders 3-2
Norsk Pranksters 3-2
Red Mouse Shufflers 3-2
Red Mouse Uff-Da 1-4
Viking Trolls 1-4
Sportsman’s Cheese Eaters 0-5

Schedule for Feb. 12th
Pipe Benders at Express (7:00)
River Rats at Shufflers (7:00)
Cheese Eaters at Trolls (7:00)
Cowboys at Pranksters (7:00)
Uff-da at Hay Shakers (7:00)

Sports Editor
Rob Reischel
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SPORTS

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MH-B wrestlers wear the crown

Vikings produce three champions, win Badger Small Conference title

by DENNIS SEMRAU
Sports Reporter

FORT ATKINSON – There was plenty of motivation for Mount Horeb-Barneveld’s co-op wrestling team as it searched for its first-ever Badger Conference tournament championship last Saturday at Fort Atkinson High School.

MH/B had lost its bid for the Badger Small Conference dual meet title on the fifth tiebreaker when the Vikings tied Reedsburg in their regular season dual match.

At the conference meet, though, MH-B placed nine wrestlers in the top six, including crowning three champions — senior Hunter Stevens at 150 pounds, junior Eli Maier at 175 and senior Eli Leonard at 190 — as the Vikings cruised to the Badger Conference tournament team championship.

“There is a huge expectation in the room,” Leonard said. “Every day you show up, you compete. Our coach expects nothing short of greatness for our team.”

For third year head coach Tim Sarbacker, it was a dream come true.

“Right now, I’m absorbing it,” Sarbacker said. “I always knew the potential was in this group. We have some high level kids. But a lot of people don’t look at the roster.”

“We have eight freshmen and sophomores on this team. I know they’re super young. It just means the world to me because I know how hard they work and it took a lot to get them to believe. I think we’re just getting started.”

MH-B recorded eight top-four finishes and totaled 212.5 team points, while Waunakee was the runner-

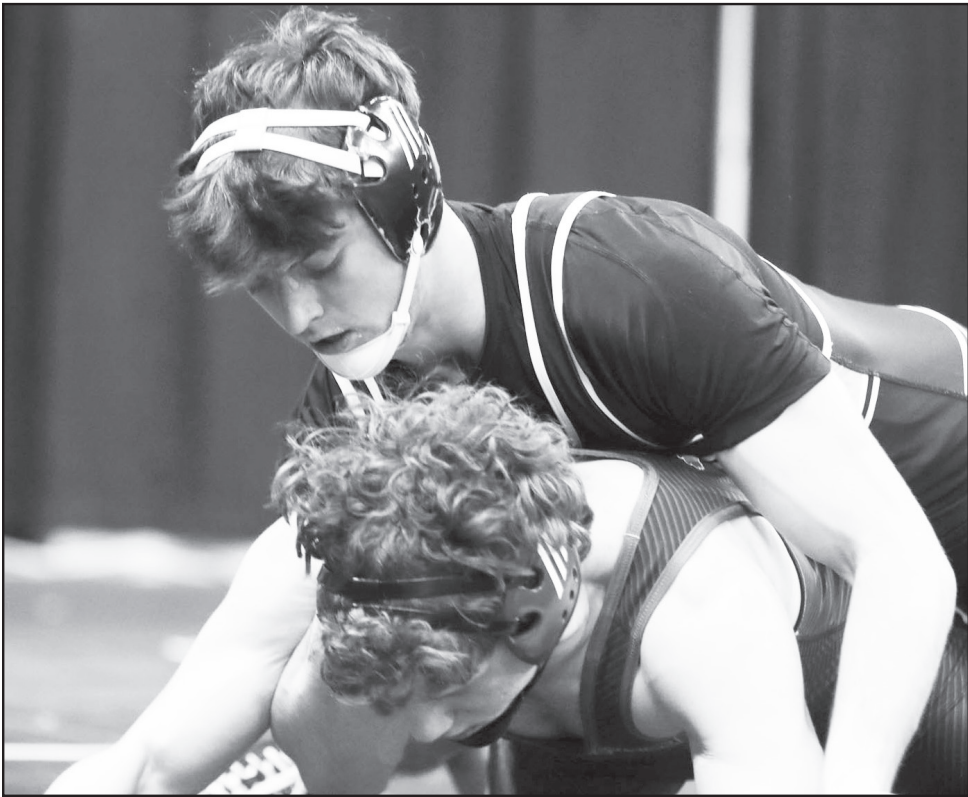
up with 185 points. Watertown was third with 176.5 points, while Reedsburg and Oregon (171 points apiece) rounded out the top five.

In the final Badger Small Conference rankings, MH-B and Reedsburg shared the overall league championship with 12 points apiece. That combined the dual meet standings, where the Vikings were second with a 5-1 record, and their finish in the conference tournament.

“I’m just proud of the effort these guys put in,” Sarbacker said. “I just want them to have success and believe that they can have it. They proved it today.”

Stevens (44-2) was the first of the three champions for MH-B, which also recorded one runner-up finish, three third-place showings and a fourth-place finish.

After a first-round bye, Stevens pinned Mitch



Mount Horeb-Barneveld’s Eli Leonard took first place at 190 pounds at the Badger Small Conference meet last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Ziegler of Sauk Prairie/Wisconsin Heights in 54 seconds in the quarterfinals. Stevens then pinned DeForest’s Michael Pertzborn in 3:01 in the semifinals and

Oregon’s Caden Schwartz in 1:34 in the finals.

Stevens, who began his prep career at Iowa-Grant, was making his first appearance at the Badger Con-

ference Tournament after sitting out last season due to the transfer rule.

“It was worth the wait,” Stevens said. “During the

continued on page 16

WELCOME BACK

Manchester returns as Mount Horeb tops Stoughton

by DAN LARSON
Sports Reporter

STOUGHTON — Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team went seven games without Josh Manchester — the third-leading scorer in the state — and somehow the Vikings weathered the storm.

In fact, the Vikings went 6-1 with their all-state guard sidelined due to a shoulder injury.

“It sucked having Josh out,” Mount Horeb senior forward Hayden Anderson said. “But we needed to learn how to play without him a little bit.”

Fast forward to Feb. 6 against rival Stoughton and Manchester was back — in a big way.

Manchester poured in a game-high 33 points and Anderson chipped in 16 as visiting Mount Horeb rolled to a 63-49 Badger Small Conference victory.

Junior Evan Leibfried

continued on page 19



Mount Horeb’s Josh Manchester returned from a shoulder injury and scored 33 points in a win over Stoughton last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo school board fires Chancellor

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb is looking for a new track and field head coach, as well as a cross country coach.

The Mount Horeb School Board voted to fire former coach Dave Chancellor at its Feb. 2 meeting.

Chancellor had been placed on administrative leave after allegations of “grooming-like behavior.”

Chancellor was then arrested Monday for stalking and fourth degree sexual assault. The Mount Horeb Police Department said the arrest stemmed from “communications and acts committed with a former athlete.”

Track teams across the state can begin practicing as early as March 9. Mount Horeb’s first meet of the season is April 4.

Mount Horeb athletic director Chris Carr said he could name an interim coach if a head coach can’t be found in the next few weeks.

“It’s an extremely difficult

time for everybody involved,” Carr said. “I’m hoping we have people on staff who can help right the ship.”

Chancellor oversaw both the boys and girls programs, but Carr said he might seek one coach for the boys and another for the girls.

“That’s a distinct possibility,” Carr said.

Chancellor, a 2002 graduate of Mount Horeb High, was hired as the Vikings’ cross country coach in July, 2023. He later became the head track and field coach, as well.

Mount Horeb’s girls cross country team won the WIAA Division 2 state championship in Nov., 2025, the school’s first title since 1995. The Vikings also finished in third place at the WIAA Division 2 state meet in 2024.

Mount Horeb’s boys track and field team finished in seventh place at the 2025 Division 2 state meet. The Vikings’ girls track team finished 13th overall in Division 1 in 2024 and tied for 31st in Division 2 last season.

Vikings' girls notch two big wins

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

The WIAA will announce postseason seeds on Sunday. And Mount Horeb's girls basketball team took a big step toward landing an impressive seed last week.

The Vikings defeated host Sun Prairie West, 39-32, on Feb. 2. Mount Horeb also defeated Reedsburg, 44-29, on Feb. 5.

The Vikings are now 11-9 overall and tied for second in the Badger Small Conference at 8-3.

Here's a recap of Mount Horeb's games.

- **Mount Horeb 39, Sun Prairie 32** — The Vikings were remarkably short-handed due to injuries and illness, so the JV game had to be cancelled. That allowed the players who fluctuate between varsity and JV to be available for both halves of the varsity game. Despite those huge hurdles, Mount Horeb pulled off a quality win against the Division 1 Wolves. "I'm super proud of how we battled a D1 team on the road with some really good athletes," Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said. "It wasn't the prettiest game as we had a season high in

turnovers with 22, but we battled and got a win without three regular starters."

Jami Chapman led the Vikings with 13 points and made 7-of-9 free throws in the last 2:30 of the game.

Courtney Monroe also had a terrific all-around game.

"Courtney Monroe was a super calm leader and that presence allowed our young kids to play better," Leibfried said.

The Vikings also got impressive games from Sammy Johnson and Aubrey Rockow, and quality bench minutes from Emily Wittenwyler, Rae Olson and Isla Odgers — who all played a season high in minutes.

Mount Horeb trailed, 15-14, at halftime, but outscored the Wolves, 25-17, in the second half.

"It was our lowest scoring half of the season," Leibfried said of the first half. "But we had to slow the pace to make sure we didn't wear ourselves out with so many kids sick."

- **Mount Horeb 44, Reedsburg 29** — The Vikings rolled past the Beavers (4-15) on Senior Night. Mount Horeb also paid tribute to Nalia Craven, its lone senior, who then went

and scored a season-high 14 points and added six rebounds.

"Nalia has been in the program for four years," Leibfried said. "Super happy for her."

"When Nalia makes shots we are a much better team offensively. Down the stretch we really need Nalia's offensive output to be good."

Courtney Monroe added 11 points, five steals and six deflections. The Vikings also got back junior guard Julia Straka and sophomore guard Lauren Mester, who had missed the Sun Prairie West game.

The Vikings forced 26 Reedsburg turnovers, turning several of those into transition baskets as they built a 22-point second half lead before going deep into the bench.

"Once again our defense was very solid," Leibfried said.

- **On deck:** The Vikings hosted Sauk Prairie Tuesday, then are at Portage Friday at 7:15 p.m. "Big game with Sauk," Leibfried said. "If we want to remain in second place and have a chance at a (No.) 3 seed this is a must win for us."



Mount Horeb's Nalia Craven scored 14 points on Senior Night and helped power the Vikings past Reedsburg. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo gymnasts fall to Waunakee/DeForest

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

It had been eight years since Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team lost a dual meet.

Unfortunately for the Vikings, that good thing came to an end on Feb. 3 when the co-op team of Waunakee/DeForest defeated Mount Horeb, 140.15-137.175.

"We knew our meet at Waunakee would be a tough challenge, and it proved to be just that," Vikings coach Martha Koller Faust said.

"Waunakee/DeForest co-op is a talented team and they put together strong performances on all four events.

"We didn't hit our routines on all four events and had mistakes here and there. It was a valuable learning experience and an opportunity to grow in handling pressure."

The good news for Mount Horeb is a Badger Conference title is still within its grasp.

While W/D currently leads the Badger, the Vi-

kings could claim at least a share of the league title with a win at the conference meet on Feb. 21.

"The conference title remains within reach," Koller Faust said. "A win at the conference invitational would put us in position to at least tie for the conference championship as co-champions, and that goal is still very much in sight."

- **On deck:** Mount Horeb travels to Platteville for a nine-team varsity invitational Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.

Here's how the Vikings fared in their dual meet against Waunakee/DeForest.

Waunakee/DeForest	140.15,	Mount Horeb	137.175
VAULT (34.325)			
3rd place — Harper Hendrickson, 8.75			
4th — Sylviah Seeliger, 8.725			
5th — Carmen Oglesby, 8.50			
Elise Hooks, 8.35			

BARS (33.425)	
1st place — Macie Finley, 8.90	
3rd — Sylviah Seeliger, 8.525	
4th — Averi Kalschur, 8.25	
Harper Hendrickson, 7.75	
BEAM (34.375)	
3rd place — Sylviah Seeliger, 9.125	
4th — Harper Hendrickson, 8.95	
Avena Meyers — 8.20	
Averi Kalschur — 8.10	
FLOOR (35.05)	
2nd place — Harper Hendrickson, 9.25	
4th — Averi Kalschur, 8.70	
5th — Carmen Oglesby, 8.65	
Avena Meyers and Sylviah Seeliger, 8.45	
ALL-AROUND	
3rd place — Sylviah Seeliger, 34.825	
4th — Harper Hendrickson, 34.70	

Volleyball tournaments move to electronic seeding

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control approved the recommendation for volleyball to move to electronic seeding for the Tournament Series beginning in 2026. The seeds will be determined by all match scores entered throughout the season into the WIAA Score Center.

An initial electronic seeding report will be released the Monday of Week 15 on the WIAA calendar followed by a coaches' appeal meeting. The official brackets will be released on Friday of Week 15. The seeding criteria will include a team's own winning percentage, opponent's winning percentage, opponents' opponent winning percentage; and head-to-head results across all consecutive seeds.

The Board approved the lone soccer coaches' recommendation, adding language stating that the accumulation of yellow cards (three within the Tournament Series or two in the State semifinal game) does not affect a participant's eligibility to attend or participate in the State championship awards ceremony.

A boys and girls tennis rule change will impact Tournament Procedures beginning in the 2026-27 season, with all players seeded at the subsectional level of the Tournament Series.

In 2026-27, the boys' and girls' golf regulations will include two changes to the adaptations of USGA rules. The first allows a player, within USGA limitations, to take a one-time free relief by placing the ball within one club-length of its original spot, not closer to the hole, in the "general area" that is cut to fairway height or less. The player may clean the ball when lifted and following normal procedures for placing it. The second adaptation change requires season scores to be entered into the tournament management software, which will use each team's best six scores to determine divisional rankings for regional groupings. Lineup changes during the Tournament Series may be made until tee times are posted.

Two of the three boys and girls swimming & diving changes impact the Tournament Procedures in the 2026-27 sports seasons. The first splits schools sponsoring the sport evenly between two divisions. The winner of each event at each sectional qualifies for the State Meet. In addition, the next 19 fastest individuals and relay teams across all sectionals combined, excluding sectional winners, also qualify. The other alteration to the Tournament Procedures changes language to mandate swimming sectionals to start no later than 1 p.m.

The third modification affects the Season Regulations by allowing the use of backstroke ledges, and if used in competition, the host team must provide identical ledges for all lanes. It is also noted that swimmers are not required to use the ledges.

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Good things in small packages

Mount Horeb’s small — but scrappy — boys swimming team had a terrific performance at the Badger Small Conference meet last Saturday. The Vikings, who have just four swimmers on the team, finished in sixth place at the seven-team meet. McFarland won the team title with 525 points, while Sauk Prairie-Wisconsin Heights was second with 515 points. Mount Horeb finished with 75 points. The Vikings’ 200-yard freestyle relay team of Aidan Mulhern, Gavin Beglinger (top), Julien Moriera and Jackson Ballew (above) finished in eighth place. Ballew (top) was fifth in the 50-yard freestyle and Mulhern was 11th. Ballew was also fifth in the 100-yard freestyle, while Moreira was 16th and Beglinger was 21st. Mulhern was ninth in the 100-yard breaststroke, while Moreira was 12th. Beglinger was also 13th in the 200-yard freestyle. Mount Horeb will now head to the McFarland Sectional Saturday beginning at 1 p.m. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

WRESTLE

continued from page 14

break, I was wrestling college opens. It really improved my wrestling.

“In high school, a lot of kids get a takedown and kind of stay on top. In college, you really have to go into the next move. You have to constantly be wrestling, constantly applying pressure. That really helped me.”

Although Stevens had planned to wrestle at the University of Wisconsin next year, he admitted there had been a change in plans, “I decommitted last Thursday,” he said. “I don’t have a plan yet. I’m still trying to figure that out. I have some schools reaching out. We’ll see where I end up.”

Stevens was pleased to end up on the top of the podium after recording his three pins on the day.

“I love it so much,” Stevens said of wrestling. “I could have ended some matches a little earlier, but I’m just trying to get more mat time. I love the sport.”

Sarbacker said Stevens is “on fire right now.”

“He is just performing real consistent right now,” Sarbacker said. “He is real, dialed in and focused to win a state title.”

Maier (43-3) repeated as a conference champion, recording a pair of pins and a technical fall. Maier had a first-round bye and then pinned Stoughton’s Carter Wubben in 47 seconds in the quarterfinals.

“All the matches today, I was thinking more about executing the position I was in than in winning,” Maier said. “Win each position. It was about being consistent. My motto is the same as it’s been all year. I try to take each match to a new level, and I think I did that today.”

After pinning Portage’s Tristan Brunt in 1:18 in the semifinals, Maier went the distance in dominating De-Forest’s Nolan Kemp, 15-0, in the finals.

Sarbacker said Maier, a standout running back and linebacker in football, brings a unique physicality to his work on the mat.

“With us upping the schedule this year, we’ve had some real tough tournaments, like the Cheesehead and the Bi-State, obviously a good one,” Sarbacker said. “We travel out of state to Cascade, Iowa and then up to Rochester, Minn. and wrestled the No. 2 team in the state.

“After his Cheesehead performance, Eli Maier has really taken a step up. He’s as good as (Eli) Leonard. He’s as good as (Hunter) Stevens. His confidence has gone through the roof. I just keep pushing him to keep going. He can get better. I think he could move on to the next level if he wanted because that’s the level he is at right now.”

Rounding out the Vikings’ list of champions was Leonard (45-0), a three-time conference champion, who has committed to compete in wrestling at Wisconsin next year.

“My goal is always to get on the mat and get off as soon as possible, especially in the postseason,” Leonard said.

Mission accomplished.

After a first-round bye, Leonard pinned Baraboo’s Ethan Huelsemann in 54 seconds and Waunakee’s Sawyer Ellis in 50 seconds before earning a victory in the championship round by a medical forfeit over Beaver Dam’s Landen Grow.

“Coach (Sarbacker) always has us ready,” Leonard said. “Every week he tells us to treat every match the same. No matter what tournament we wrestle in, it’s always the same.”

Sarbacker said Leonard, like his fellow champions, is poised for a great post-season run.

“Eli’s been steady. He gets better every time he goes out there, more confident,” Sarbacker said. “He’s on pace where he should be. We expect him to lead and do his job. He had another great day.”

Freshman Maxton Stevens (31-16), Hunter’s younger brother, made a successful debut at 132 pounds and finished second. After a first-round bye, Stevens pinned Reedsburg’s Taven Johnson in 3:54 and recorded a 13-7 decision over Oregon’s Evan Fahey.

But Stevens was pinned by Watertown’s Bryson Busler in 4:26 in the finals.

“Max had a breakthrough tournament,” Sarbacker said. “Evan Fahey is one of the top kids in Division 1. He has only two losses, and Max wrestled a great match against him.

“People might look at his record, but that has a lot to do with our schedule. Max has lost to some really, tough kids. He really stepped up today and just about got it done in the first round.”

continued on page 17

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB REQUEST FOR BIDS MOWING AND TRIMMING SPRINGDALE STREET RIGHT OF WAY

The Village of Mount Horeb Public Services Department is seeking bids for a two-year contract (2026 and 2027) with optional two-year extension for mowing and trimming of public land along the Springdale Street corridor between Perimeter Rd. and Hwy. 18-151.

For details, maps and more information, contact Jeff Gorman, Public Services Director, at (608) 437-3351 or jeff.gorman@mounthorebwi.info.

Bids are due at noon, Friday, March 6, 2026.

Publish: 2/12/26 WNAXL

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB, WISCONSIN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mount Horeb Plan Commission will be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Village Hall (138 E. Main Street Mount Horeb, WI) to hear public comment regarding the Final Draft Zoning Map and Final Draft Zoning Ordinance. This is the culmination of an 18-month process the Village has undertaken to rewrite the Zoning Ordinance and complete a new Zoning Map. The new Ordinance is an implementation component of the Village’s Comprehensive Plan that reflects modernized standards, increases user-friendliness, improves ordinance administration and application, brings the ordinance into compliance with state and federal law, advances community housing, economic development, and sustainability objectives, and provides opportunities for reinvestment, redevelopment, and new development. The new Zoning Map provides consistency with the new Zoning Ordinance and most closely aligns to the Village’s existing and desired future land use pattern.

Complete copies of the Final Draft Zoning Ordinance and Map are available at Village Hall or on the Village’s website: www.mounthorebwi.info/280/Zoning-Code-Re-Write-Update-Nov-12-2025

All Village of Mount Horeb residents and property owners are invited to attend this hearing. Individuals wishing to submit comments to the Plan Commission may do so up to the day of the public hearing. Any individual wishing to address the Plan Commission will be asked to register with the Chairman at the start of the hearing. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, to submit a comment, or to request this service, contact Nic Owen, Village Administrator at (608) 437-9409 or Nic.owen@mounthorebwi.info.

Publish: 2/5/26, 2/12/26 WNAXL

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 25, 2026

The Plan Commission of the Village of Mount Horeb will hold a public hearing on the above date at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a Conditional Use Permit Application from Nicolas Kamas to allow cultivation of fruit trees in R-1 Single-Family Residential zoning on Parcel 0606-131-2000-4.

The Plan Commission will hear all persons concerning all matters and/or objections written or oral pertaining thereto at that time.

Publish: 2/5/26, 2/12/26 WNAXL

TOWN OF PRIMROSE NOTICE OF LOCATION AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACE

At the primary to be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Town of Primrose, the following polling locations will be used for the wards indicated:

Location	Wards
8468 County Road A, Verona, WI	1

All polling places will open at 7:00 A.M. and will close at 8:00 P.M. All polling places are accessible to elderly and voters with disabilities.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.

Matthew Waite
clerk@townofprimrose.com
608-571-2988
by appointment

Notice of Meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors at each polling place will convene as the Local Canvassing Board for the purpose of conducting the local canvass pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 7.51. This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Notice of Meeting of MBOC to Process Rehabilitated Provisional Ballots

If provisional ballots have been issued and are subsequently cured by the voter before 4:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election, the MBOC must meet no later than the following Monday at 9:00 a.m. to process the cured provisional ballots. This is a public meeting and requires applicable notice.

Publish: 2/12/26 WNAXL

TOWN OF PRIMROSE REQUEST FOR BIDS ROAD WORK

The Town of Primrose is requesting bids for approximately 1.5 miles of pavement overlay on Primrose Center Rd south of Ridge Dr. towards Miller Dr. THIS IS AN TRI/LRIP PROJECT.

Each road must be bid separately. Please contact the town clerk for more information regarding the limit of work. Bids can be submitted by mail to the Clerk at Town of Primrose, 8468 County Road A, Verona WI 53593 or by email to clerk@townofprimrose.com. The deadline for bids is 5:00pm on Friday, February 27th, 2026. Bids will be opened at the regularly scheduled town board public meeting on Monday, March 2nd, 2026 beginning at 7:30pm at the Town Hall, and the accepted bid awarded at that time. The Town of Primrose reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, as deemed to be most advantageous to the town.

Publish: 2/12/26, 2/19/26 WNAXL

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB RESIDENTS LOCATION AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACE

The following polling place locations will be used for the wards indicated, at the Spring Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 in the Village of Mount Horeb:

Mount Horeb Public Library	105 Perimeter Road
Wards 1 – 5, & 12	
Mount Horeb Senior Center	107 N Grove Street
Wards 6 - 11	

Both polling places will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. The polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

Wisconsin law requires voters to be a resident of the Village of Mount Horeb for at least 28 days before the election to vote in the village. You can find your polling place on the My Vote Wisconsin website at <https://myvote.wi.gov/>. If you have any questions concerning your polling place or voting requirements, please contact Village Clerk Alyssa Gaffney at 138 E Main Street or call 437-9404.

Publish: 2/12/26 WNAXL

WRESTLE

continued from page 16

nals. He’s probably the next in line who stood out today and took another big jump.”

The MH-B freshman trio of Bryce Madden (37-11) at 106 pounds, Easton Kammerud (16-2) at 165, and Leland Harris (35-6) at 215 all recorded third-place finishes.

Senior Timmy Kruse (23-15) also placed fourth at 144 pounds for the Vikings,

Sarbacker said the Vikings won’t have much time to celebrate their championship with sectionals on deck this week.

“It doesn’t get any easier,” Sarbacker said said. “Mount Horeb has never been to team state. We’re confident we’re going to be in the top six at sectionals. So, we’re gearing up and planning for it.

“But first step, we want to win the sectional tournament for seeding for the sectional team dual. We’ve got some work to do. Only two (individuals) go on, so our main goal is to get individuals to the state tournament.”

• **On deck:** MH-B will compete in a WIAA Division 2 sectional at Richland Center on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. The top two individual finishers at each weight class advance to the individual state meet at the Kohl Center. The top six teams advance for team sectional competition.

BADGER CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT TEAM SCORES

1, Mount Horeb/Barneveld, 212.5; 2, Wau-
nakee, 185; 3, Watertown, 176.5; 4, Reedsburg and Oregon, 171; 6, Stoughton, 148; 7, Milton and Monona Grove/McFarland, 142; 9, Sauk Prairie, 139; 10, De-
Forest, 116.5; 11, Beaver Dam, 77; 12, Baraboo, 62.5;

13, Portage, 54; 14, Fort At-
kinson, 44.5.

BADGER SMALL DUAL STANDINGS

1, Reedsburg (6-0); 2, Mount Horeb/Barneveld (5-1); 3, Stoughton (4-2); 4, Sauk Prairie/Wisconsin Heights (3-3); 5, Portage (2-4); 6, Baraboo (1-5); 7, Fort Atkinson 90-6).

BADGER SMALL OVERALL STANDINGS

1, tie, Mount Horeb/Barneveld and Reedsburg, 12 points; 3, Stoughton (9 points); 4, Sauk Prairie/Wisconsin Heights, 7 points; 5, tie, Baraboo and Portage (4 points); 7, For Atkinson (1 point).

MOUNT HOREB/ BARNEVELD INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

106: Bryce Madden (37-11), third place, 21 points. Champ. Rd of 16 – bye; Quarters: maj. dec. over Branson Burwitz, BD, 12-2; Semis: lost by pin to Max Schroeder SP/WH, 1:55; Cons. Semis: pinned Joey Savaske, St., 2:09; 3rd Place Match: pinned Tayden Ringstad, D, 2:58.

120: Drew Droessler (21-17) sixth place, 11 points. Champ. Rd of 16: pinned Jacob LaFever, D, 0:36; Quarters: lost by tech fall to Jayden Vanderhoof, R, 16-1 (3:12); Cons. Quarters: Maj. dec. over Keaton Chard, FA, 10-0; Cons. Sub-Semis: won by maj. dec over Liam Cirfus, BD, 19-9; Cons. Semis: lost by dec. to Charlie Peterson, MG/M, 11-10; 5th Place Match: lost by dec. to Colton Bishop, Mil., 8-3.

126: RJ Emanneul (15-17) DNP, 3 points. Champ. Rd of 16: lost by pin to Samuel Strutz,3:02; Cons. Sub-Quarters: pinned Dalton Hensley, BD,2:24; Cons. Quarters: lost by tech fall to

Anthony Ballweg, MG/M, 23-6 (3:39).

132: Maxton Stevens (31-16) second place, 22 points. Champ. Rd of 16: bye; Quarters: pinned Taven Johnson, R, 3:54; Semis: won by dec. over Evan Fahey, O, 13-7; 1st Place Match: lost by pin to Bryson Busler, Wat., 4:26.

138: Dawson Bell (8-11) DNP, 0 points. Mat 3 - Bout 19 - Champ. Rd of 16: lost by pin to Hank Schell, SP/WH, 3:00; Cons. Sub-Quarters: bye; Cons. Quarters: lost by pin to Jack Metzler, Wau., 2:51.

144: Timmy Kruse (23-15) fourth place, 17 points. Champ. Rd of 16: bye; Quarters: pinned Gibson Guralski, Wau., 5:24; Semis: lost by dec. to Harrison Cyvas, St., 15-12; Cons. Semis: won by maj. dec. over Marshall Howard, SP/WH, 12-0; 3rd Place Match: lost by dec. to Bradley Rupnow, Wat., 12-5.

150: Hunter Stevens (44-2) first place, 30 points. Bout - Champ. Rd of 16: bye; Quarters: pinned Mitch Ziegler, SP/WH, 0:54; Semis: pinned Michael Pertzborn, D, 3:01; 1st Place Match: pinned Caden Schwartz, O, 1:34.

157: Landon Kahl (19-16) DNP, 4 points. Champ. Rd of 16: pinned Bobby Clark, Mil., 2:31; Quarters: lost by pin to Michael Kowalski, Po., 2:57; Cons. Quarters: lost by pin to Nathan Rocolo, Wat., 4:39.

165: Easton Kammerud (16-2) third place, 23 points. Champ. Rd of 16: pinned Jaxson Potter, D, 0:29; Quarters: lost by



Mount Horeb-Barneveld’s Eli Maier took first place at 175 pounds at the Badger Small Conference meet. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

dec. to Gage Gross, Mil., 6-5; Cons. Quarters: pinned Aiden Dennison, St., 2:09; Cons. Sub-Semis: pinned Conway Knox, SP/WH, 0:37; Cons. Semis: won by tech fall over Luke Redner, R, 17-1 (2:52); 3rd Place Match: won by tech fall over Dominic Manno, Wau., 17-2 (4:12).

175: Eli Maier (43-3) first place, 29.5 points. Champ. Rd of 16: bye; Quarters: pinned Carter Wubben, St., 0:47; Semis: pinned Tristan Brunt, Po, 1:18; 1st Place Match: won by tech fall over Nolan Kemp, D, 15-0 (6:00).

190: Eli Leonard (45-0) first place, 30 points. Champ. Rd of 16: bye;

Quarters: pinned Ethan Hulsemann, B, 0:54; Semis: pinned Sawyer Ellis, Wau., 0:50; 1st Place Match: won by medical forfeit over Landen Grow, BD.

215: Leland Havens (35-6) third place, 22 points. Champ. Rd of 16: bye; Quarters: pinned Ian Powell, R, 0:30; Semis: lost by dec, to McCoy Smith, Wau., 4-3; Cons. Semis: pinned Kadin Marz, B, 1:00; 3rd Place Match: pinned Bryan Breunig, SP/WH, 0:41.

285: Gavin Reynolds (10-11) DNP, 0 points. Champ. Rd of 16: lost by pin to TJ Dutcher, D, 3:19; Cons.

Sub-Quarters: bye; Cons. Quarters: lost by dec. to Josef Stephan, Mil., 6-3.

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB PUBLIC TESTING OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

Testing of the electronic voting equipment for the FEBRUARY 17TH, 2026 SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION will be held on Friday, February 13th, 2026. The test will take place at 4:30pm at the Municipal Building in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. This test is open to the public.

Alyssa Gaffney
Village Clerk
Posted: February 4th, 2026

Publish: 2/12/26 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PERRY TOWN BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 7:30 PM
Perry Town Hall, 10084 County Highway A
Teleconference - 425-585-6272 access - 394-722-206 #

1. Call to order. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Announcements.
3. Comments by Town residents – non-agenda items.
4. Land Use: a. John Willborn, Jr., 10833 CTH A – zoning changes – 3 ac. to RR-2; 5 ac. to FP-1; 0.7 ac. to HAM-R; site plan for residence, driveway.
b. Steve and Gamze Ligler, 75 Hwy. 78 – replace accessory bldg. permit.
5. Roads, Equipment, Facilities – a. Recycling Center operations – Trex bench, .
b. Sale of Western Star truck update.
c. Assistant Patrolman position update.
d. Set Road Tour date, bids due date, contract award date.
e. Town Hall phone service options.
6. Liability insurance renewal terms.
7. Treasurer’s Report.
8. Friends of the Parks of Perry report.
9. Parks and Open Space Committee report.
10. Dane Co. Towns Association and Wisconsin Towns Association discussions.
11. Community meeting / correspondence to elected representatives update.
12. Town Hall Renovations committee report.
13. Minutes of Previous Meetings – January 13, January 21, 2026
14. Pay Bills due.
15. Closed Session. Dane Co. Circuit Court case 15CV0065 DSG; Hauge Historic District Park easement negotiations: convene a closed session under WI § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel concerning strategy and WI §19.85(1)(b) and (c) personnel.
16. Adjournment.
Action might be taken on any agenda item shown above. Public comment might be invited on any agenda item presented.

Mary L. Price, Town Clerk
www.perry-wi.gov
Posted and published: February 12, 2026
Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville Sign Post, Town website

Publish: 2/12/26
WNAXLP

VILLAGE OF BLUE MOUNDS LOCATION AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACE

At the spring primary to be held on February 17, 2026, in the Village of Blue Mounds, the following polling place locations will be used for the wards indicated:

Location	Wards
Blue Mounds Village Hall 11011 Brigham Avenue	1

ALL POLLING PLACES WILL OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.

Mary Jo Michek
11011 Brigham Avenue
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
608.437.5197 ext. 1
Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday, February 13, 2026 – 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

Notice of Meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors at each polling place will convene as the Local Canvassing Board for the purpose of conducting the local canvass pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 7.51. This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Notice of Meeting of MBOC to Process Rehabilitated Provisional Ballots

If provisional ballots have been issued and are subsequently cured by the voter before 4:30 p.m. on the Friday after the election, the MBOC must meet no later than the following Monday at 9:00 a.m. to process the cured provisional ballots. This is a public meeting and requires applicable notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Village of Blue Mounds Residents, that the Public Test of the electronic voting equipment to be used at the Village of Blue Mounds Spring Primary Election will be conducted on February 10, 2026, at noon. The testing will be held at the Village Office, located at 11011 Brigham Avenue, Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, 53517.

Publish: 2/12/26 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF BLUE MOUNDS NOTICE OF LOCATION AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACES

The **2026 Spring Primary** will be held on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**. The polling location for the Town of Blue Mounds is the Town Garage at 10566 Blue Vista Road, Blue Mounds, WI 53517. The **polling location will open at 7:00 am and will close at 8:00 pm**. If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.

Amanda Burghy
608-437-8722
townofbluemounds@gmail.com

The Town of Blue Mounds polling place is accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

Notice of Meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors will convene as a joint meeting of the Local Board of for the purpose of conducting the local and municipal canvases pursuant to Wis. Stat. §7.51. This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING FOR THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, SPRING PRIMARY:

The Town Hall will be open, and the Clerk or Deputy Clerk will be available for absentee voting February 3rd-5th, and February 9th-13th from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or by appointment.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Test of the Express Vote and Automatic Tabulating Equipment to be used for the Spring Election will be conducted at the Town of Blue Mounds Town Hall located at 10566 Blue Vista Rd, Blue Mounds, WI, 53517 at **10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2026**. This test is open to the public.

Amanda Burghy-Clerk
February 12, 2026

Publish: 2/12/26 **WNAXLP**

Vikings grind out win over DeForest

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

High scoring. Low scoring. Up tempo. Slower pace. Through the years, we’ve learned one thing about Todd Nesheim’s boys basketball teams at Mount Horeb. No matter the style, Nesheim & Co. find a way to win.

The Vikings’ 47-44 victory over DeForest on Feb. 3 was the latest evidence of that.

Mount Horeb was without standout guard Josh Manchester (shoulder) and wing Alex Chapman (wrist) — a dynamic duo that averages a combined 50.5 points per game. So the Vikings made it a half-court game, played sensational defense and notched a tremendous win.

“I really am proud of this team and this effort,” Nesheim said. “We have won games in the 80’s with a full roster, had to win games in the 50’s without Josh, and we’re now winning games in the 40’s without Josh and Alex.”

Mount Horeb improved to 14-5, while the Norskies fell to 10-9.

The Vikings played their seventh game without Manchester (35.5 points per game) and improved to 6-1 in those contests. Mount

Horeb also played its first game without Chapman (15.0), who suffered a wrist injury against Sauk Prairie on Jan. 29 and is likely out until early March.

Mount Horeb averaged 71.2 points per game before Manchester’s injury on Jan. 15 and went 8-3 in those contests.

The Vikings have averaged 57.1 points per game, but have picked up their defense, changed their style of play and have gone 6-1 in those contests.

Mount Horeb trailed, 44-43, late when senior post Hayden Anderson scored over a pair of DeForest defenders to give the Vikings a 45-44 lead with 45 seconds left.

After a DeForest miss, Anderson was fouled with 16 seconds left and calmly drained both free throws as the Vikings’ pushed their lead to 47-44. Mount Horeb had two fouls to give and used them, then DeForest’s leading scorer Brooks Ohmen (16.9 ppg) missed a 3-pointer and the Vikings prevailed.

Anderson led Mount Horeb with 14 points, while junior center Evan Leibfried added 13. Ohmen led all

scorers with 19 points.

Nesheim told his team beforehand there were three keys to winning:

1. Stop DeForest’s transition game.

Mount Horeb did just that and held the Norskies 18 points below their season average.

“They will be play the fastest of any team we see this year,” Nesheim said of DeForest. “If we can eliminate their easy baskets, we felt we had a chance to win.”

2. Rebound.

The Vikings did that, as well, outrebounding DeForest, 24-12.

“We have been outstanding (rebounding) all year and needed to keep that a thing,” Nesheim said. “Turned out we dominated that part of the game.”

3. Win a game in the 40’s.

“We have talked about running better, more patient offense and not trying to get things on the first pass — or no passes,” Nesheim said. “We felt if we could be patient, run some clock we would get good looks and also limit their transition opportunities.”

Mount Horeb got the start it wanted, jumping to a 13-9 lead midway through the

first half. Five different Vikings scored in that stretch as Mount Horeb discovered it could hang with a quality opponent even with Manchester and Chapman in street clothes.

By halftime, the Vikings pushed their lead to 25-18 thanks to stellar defense and a pace of play that frustrated DeForest.

“I thought our defense was really good in this half,” Nesheim said. “The kids played this to perfection for the most part.”

The Norskies made a mini-run to open the second half. But Leibfried knocked down three 3-pointers in the first nine minutes of the second half and Mount Horeb maintained a 39-35 lead.

DeForest took a 44-43 lead — its first since the 15-minute mark of the first half — with just 1:13 remaining. Down the stretch, though, Anderson came up big on the offensive end, while the Vikings’ defense remained sublime.

“That’s a statement to this program to pull things like this off,” Nesheim said. “Our defense continues to improve and we continue to win.”

Hockey team wins a pair

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

It’s been a rough year for Stoughton’s hockey team.

But the Vikings — who have players from Mount Horeb — enjoyed their best week of the season.

Stoughton won a pair of games and improved to 3-20 on the year. The Vikings defeated Monroe, 6-2, on Feb. 3 and downed Cedarburg, 5-1, on Feb. 4.

Here’s a recap of the Vikings’ week.

• **Stoughton 6, Monroe 2** — Paxton Nelson and Pete Heinecke both had two goals to lift the Vikings past the Cheese-makers.

Givon Storkson and Silas Sawicki both added goals, while Wyatt Klein, Cy Inderrieden, Nelson and Sawicki all had assists.

• **Stoughton 5, Cedarburg 1** — The Vikings struck for three third period goals to break open what had been a close game.

Pete Heinecke had a terrific game with four goals and an assist, while Jacob Gardiner had a goal and two assists.

Cy Inderrieden added two assists, while Paxton Nelson and Silas Sawicki had assists.

• **On deck:** Stoughton finishes the regular season Friday by hosting Medford at 7:15 p.m.

TOWN OF PERRY
NOTICE OF ELECTION
February 17, 2026

Notice is hereby given of a Primary Election to be held in the Town of Perry on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Polls will be open at the Perry Town Hall, 10084 CTH A, from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Mary L. Price, Clerk
Posted: 2/12/26

Publish: 2/12/26 **WNAXLP**

CLASSIFIED
NETWORK
OF WISCONSIN

MISCELLANEOUS

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OFFICE OF THE DANE COUNTY CLERK
NOTICE OF SPRING PRIMARY AND SAMPLE BALLOTS
February 17, 2026

Office of the Dane County Clerk
To the voters of Dane County:
Notice is hereby given of a spring primary election to be held in Dane County on February 17, 2026, at which the officers named below shall be chosen. The names of the candidates for each office, whose nominations have been certified to or filed in this office, are given under the title of the office, each in its proper column, together with the questions submitted to a vote, for a referendum, if any, in the sample ballot below.

Information to Voters
Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, a voter shall:

- state their name and address
- show an acceptable form of photo identification*
- sign the poll book**

***If a voter does not have acceptable photo identification, the voter may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.**

****If the voter is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word “exempt.”**

If a voter is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the voter provides proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to voters, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.

Upon being permitted to vote, the voter shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the voter in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

A voter who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the voter’s minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the voter of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting

A voter may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the voter declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the voter’s employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter.

Where Optical Scan Voting is Used

The voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which he or she intends to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote and fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the write-in line. On referendum questions, the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to “yes” if in favor of the question, or the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to “no” if opposed to the question.

When using an *electronic ballot marking device (“ExpressVote”)* to mark an **optical scan ballot**, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote. On referendum questions, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select “yes” if in favor of the question, or the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select “no” if opposed to the question.

Spoiled Ballots

If a voter spoils an **optical scan** ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one voter. If the ballot has not been initialed by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the voter shall return it to the election official, who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.

After Voting the Ballot
After an official **optical scan ballot** is marked, it may be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The voter shall insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. If a central count system is used, the voter shall insert the ballot in the ballot box and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

The following is a sample of the official ballot:

11

Official Primary Ballot
Nonpartisan Office
February 17, 2026

7

Notice to voters: If you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by 2 election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials. (See end of ballot for initials.)

21

General Instructions

If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help. (Absentee voters: Contact your municipal clerk.)

To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●

To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●

40

Judicial

Circuit Court Judge
Branch 1
Vote for 1

41

☐ Huma Ahsan

42

☐ Nathan Wagner

43

☐ Ben Jones

44

☐ write-in:

Municipal

Village Trustee
Vote for not more than 2

45

☐ Stephen Sopcak

46

☐ Michelle Kelley

47

☐ James W. Brager

48

☐ Ben Jones

49

☐ Jason Fendrick

50

☐ Tammy Clary

51

☐ write-in:

52

☐ write-in:

Official Primary Ballot
Nonpartisan Office
February 17, 2026

for

Municipality and ward number(s)

Ballot Issued by

Initials of election inspectors

Absentee ballot issued by

Initials of municipal clerk or deputy clerk

Certification of Voter Assistance

I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.

Signature of assistor

For Official Use Only

Inspectors: Identify ballots required to be remade.

☐ Overvoted

☐ Damaged

☐ Other

If this is the Original Ballot, write the serial number here:

If this is the Duplicate Ballot, write the serial number here:

Initials of inspectors who remade ballot

Scott McDonell, Dane County Clerk

Publish: 2/12/26 **WNAXLP**

BOYS BB

continued from page 14

added eight second half points as Mount Horeb improved to 15-5 overall and 7-3 in the Badger Small Conference. Stoughton fell to 8-10, 5-5.

“The goal was to look more like the team that we’ve been the last three weeks than the team we were with Josh beforehand, quite frankly,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “And what I mean by that is just more balance. All five guys that are on the floor are able to contribute on both ends of the floor instead of Josh trying to do it all himself.”

Mission accomplished. Manchester was raring and ready to go.

“I’d say my adrenaline was running a little bit higher. I was a little bit more excited than any other game,” Manchester said. “To be able to get the opportunity to play again with these guys means the world.”

Manchester didn’t wait long to make his impact felt, pouring in 18 first-half points to lead Mount Horeb to a 32-15 lead at the break.

When Manchester suffered the injury he wasn’t sure how long he’d be out — or if he’d be back at all.

But unlike in last year’s regional finals, when he suffered a similar injury to the same shoulder, there wasn’t as much pain this time.

“This time, it was just sore and I needed to strengthen all the muscles around it again,” Manchester said. “I feel like I took the right time off.”

“Last week I was like, ‘OK, I’m starting to trust it again and feel like I can help the team again.’ ”

Manchester was back a little sooner than he initially thought.

And in the second half, with Stoughton desperately trying to rally from a 17-point halftime deficit, the strides Mount Horeb made in his absence were evident.

Anderson, who had eight points in the first half, scored Mount Horeb’s first four points of the second half on a reverse lay-up and a drive to the hoop to keep the lead in double-digits at 36-24.

Stoughton was gaining steam, though, and with 10:51 remaining Holden Ackerman drained a 3-pointer from the right

corner to get his team within 43-37. Ackerman had five points at halftime but scored 14 during Stoughton’s 22-11 surge over the first 7-plus minutes of the second half.

Ackerman was picking up the slack for Jacob Hibner, Stoughton’s leading scorer who is currently sidelined.

“They are in a position we were in,” Nesheim said of how Mount Horeb had to adapt without Manchester. “They’re going to grind out offensive possessions. I didn’t think we did a really good job of playing defense on those grinding, offensive possessions.”

But Mount Horeb did enough to prevent Stoughton from fully seizing momentum.

Anderson answered Ackerman’s right-corner 3-pointer with a basket inside to make it 45-37, then Leibfried’s traditional three-point play pushed the advantage back to double digits at 48-37.

Later, after Devin Rogers converted a fastbreak lay-up to get Stoughton within 53-46, Manchester answered with a steal that he turned into a breakaway two-hand dunk — albeit about as delicate a dunk as there is — to make it 55-46.

Andy Perkins’ fadeaway jumper pulled Stoughton within 55-48 with 4:32 left, but Manchester responded by driving to the hoop for a basket to make it 57-48. And with 2:56 to go, Leibfried corralled a missed free throw by Anderson — the front end of a bonus opportunity — and put back the miss to push Mount Horeb’s lead to 59-48.

Mount Horeb held Stoughton without a field goal the rest of the way, sending the home team to its fifth straight loss.

“Every game we play Stoughton, it’s going to be close,” Manchester said. “Having Jacob out — he’s a great player, but I knew guys were going to step up for them and they were going to make it a game. We just had to take the punch and try to get a spark to get us on the (right) side of momentum.”

It was an important win for Mount Horeb for a number of reasons, first and foremost because of Manchester’s seamless return to action.

But a week earlier Mount Horeb also lost Alex Chapman to an injury that will keep him out for most of February, at a minimum.



Hayden Anderson and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team won a pair of games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb is 2-0 without Chapman, though, another example of its ability to endure adversity.

Mount Horeb was able to hold off Stoughton in the second half thanks in large part to balance on offense.

Manchester had 15 points after halftime while Anderson and Leibfried chipped in with eight apiece.

“That’s going to win you a lot of games right there, when you get that kind of balance,” Nesheim said. “That’s a pretty good recipe for success.”

“And then with the size that we bring to the table, teams have to respect that. With Josh, you’ve got to guard (out to the perimeter) and we’re hoping that opens up the lane for Hayden and Evan.”

It wasn’t just balance, though. It was timing.

“There were a couple moments where (the lead) got down to 7 or 8 and we were like, ‘We really need a bucket,’ ” Nesheim said. “And we got them, to the kids’ credit.”

“I didn’t think we played terribly well tonight, especially on the defensive end. But we did just enough.”

In so doing, Mount Horeb made sure that Manchester’s return was a victorious one.

And actually, Manchester or no Manchester, Mount Horeb has now won 11 of its last 13 games following a 72-67 loss to Stevens Point in the Sentry Classic at UW-Stevens Point over Christmas break on Dec. 28.

It would be 12 of the last 14, too, if Mount Horeb had been able to preserve a double-digit lead in the second half of that loss to Point.

But that setback provided an important lesson that helped fuel Mount Horeb’s winning ways in January and now February.

“Learning to grind out ofensive possessions when we need to,” Nesheim said of that lesson. “We had one possession longer than three passes, we had three possessions of three passes, and then the rest of the possessions were either no passes, one pass or two passes.”

“That’s how you lose a lead. We weren’t running offense. We went to the gym the very next morning before we played Oshkosh West and we talked about offense — going side-to-side. When you’re not in a hurry to score, why are you

in a hurry to score? I think that will be our biggest lesson of the year.”

It’s paying off — up to and including Mount Horeb’s win over Stoughton.

“It really wears on the defense. It creates open shots,” Anderson said of his team being more patient over the second half of the season.

Manchester agreed.

“Now, we’re at a point where we can run a possession for a minute and get an easy look, where I feel like we all got — including me — got a little too eager,” he said. “We’d all take some bad shots, including me. Now I feel like every shot we take is a high percentage look.”

And that means Mount Horeb could have a world of fun the next month.

The WIAA released a Mid-Season Seeding Report on Feb. 6 and Mount Horeb was the No. 2 seed in its half of the sectional behind only McFarland. If that holds, Mount Horeb’s postseason could be memorable.

“We’re still where we were before Josh went out,” Anderson said. “We can

compete with anyone.”

If and when Mount Horeb gets Chapman back, it could mean trouble for anyone on the Vikings’ schedule.

“We’re still not at full strength,” Manchester said. “Once we get Alex back — he was playing the best basketball I think I’ve ever seen him play — it’s going to be lethal.”

“We just have to try and (scratch) out some wins while he’s gone, and then when he’s back it’s going to be great.”

Feb. 6
Mount Horeb 63, Stoughton 49
Mount Horeb 32 31 — 63
Stoughton 15 34 — 49

MOUNT HOREB — (fgm ftm-fta pts) — Kam Nesheim 0 2-2 2, Josh Manchester 11 6-6 33, Kyle Freitag 1 0-0 2, Hayden Anderson 7 1-3 16, Evan Leibfried 2 4-5 8, Nick Ibinger 1 0-0 2. Totals: 22 13-16 63.

STOUGHTON — Holden Ackerman 9 1-1 24, Andy Perkins 1 3-4 5, Devin Rogers 4 1-2 10, Quinn Poole 4 0-2 8, Liam Borroughs 1 0-0 2. Totals: 18 5-9 49.

3-pointers: MH 6 (Manchester 5, Anderson 1), ST 6 (Ackerman 5, Rogers 1). **Total fouls:** MH 14, ST 14. **Fouled out:** None.



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Pastor Jonathan Bauer
Thursday Worship: 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
Sunday School and Bible Study: 10:15 am
608-437-4646
GoodNewsLC.org

Immanuel Lutheran- ELCA

310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb
608-437-8733
10am Sunday Worship
www.immanuelmh.org/
1st Steps Childcare
608-218-4425

Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church – ELCA

315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012
www.elcmthoreb.org
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9 am Sunday Worship

Mt. Horeb United Methodist

Corner of Hwy. S & Hwy. 78
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umcmh.org
Celebrating God's Inclusive Love

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ

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608-832-6677
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Bible Study 9am-10am
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New Hope Evangelical Free Church

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Phone: 608-437-3273
www.newhopeefc.org
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Perry Lutheran Church ELCA

1057 Hwy 78 S, Mt. Horeb
608-437-5294
Sunday Worship 9:00 am
www.perrylutheranchurchelca.org

Springdale Lutheran Church

2752 Town Hall Rd.
608-437-3493
Pastor Jim Ranney
Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th
Sundays of the month at 10am
twosteeple.org

St. Michael The Archangel Parish

~St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Thurs-Friday, 8:00 am;
Sat. 5:00 pm
~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am

Vermont Lutheran Church- ELCA

9886 Vermont Church Road
Black Earth, WI 53515
www.vermontlutheran.org
608-767-3312 (office)
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church

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- Learn to operate the sludge removal process and learn laboratory practices.

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- Strong work ethic and willingness to learn.
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- Wastewater lab experience.

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Application Process: To apply for this position, please submit your resumé, cover letter, and any relevant certifications or licenses to Jeff Moyer, Wastewater Superintendent, at daneiwawwtf@gmail.com. Interviews will be scheduled beginning the week of March 16.

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