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 **adsales12@fingerpub.com**

Cleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- Mar. 10, 1886

The residence of Mrs. B.F. Rogers, at East Mount Horeb, caught fire about 4 a.m. on the morning of March 3d, and together with its contents was totally destroyed. The property was covered by a \$1060 policy in the local insurance co. Surrounding residents had some trouble in protecting their property.

A.E. Thompson has ordered a hearse to cost \$300. This is a step, which Mr. T. should be respected for taking, as it is an article much needed in case of the departure of a respected friend.

Messrs. Sorenson & Gjesme have dissolved their bachelor partnership by mutual consent and the senior member of the firm will take up his abode in Bluff.

130 Years Ago- Mar. 5, 1896

Isaac Dahle and Julia Severson are the two graduates from our school this year.

J.E. Colbie has purchased a full set of dental tools. Go ahead, Joe, the road is open.

There has been some talk of another bank at this place. If this would make money more plentiful, bring on the blessing. As for depository accommodations we are well supplied.

By means of the new electric photographic discovery old soldiers and others carrying bullets or shells in their bodies can now have their bodies photographed through and through so that surgeons can without trouble find them and take them out.

K.K. Syverud's is stocking up his farm, he has purchased a fine span of blacks and treated them to a pair of substantial harness from Dahlen's shop yesterday.

A leap-year dance was held at Mt. Vernon Wednesday evening and was well attended. There is no flies on the Mt. Vernon girls.

120 Years Ago- Mar. 8, 1906

August Bierd will be equipped with a telephone in his residence as soon as the telephoning is blue to place the instrument. August is a believer in having things up to the times.

John Bohn left for the mining fields near Cobb last Monday where he intends to operate a drilling machine in company with his brother-in-law Ed. Otis. We wish them success.

A mild case of smallpox at this place. It is an unpleasant reality however. Alfred Peterson came home from Edgerton last Friday and now is under quarantine rule at the home of O.J. Bakken, where every precaution is now taken to prevent the spreading of the disease, and it is reported by the health officer that the patient is not suffering any from the sickness and is but very little broken out.

A telephonist is the man that looks after the lines, 'phones, and switchboard of a telephone exchange and is usually called a trouble man. The word telephonist is pronounced with the accent on the second syllable.

110 Years Ago- Mar. 10, 1916

Brown & Weltzin made a

deal with Otto Loftsgordon where Otto gets a farm in Cross Plains township and Brown & Weltzin becomes the owner of the fine trotting Stallion of Mr. L.

Principal E.W. Harrow of the grades and the eight grade pupils feel highly elated over winning the \$25 phonograph given as a prize by the Madison Board of Commerce.

Leap year, campaign year, big war on, what more do you want to get excited over.

Adry Brattrud came home Saturday from Chicago where he attended an automobile school the past two months.

The program given by the children societies last Sunday afternoon at the Lutheran church was very successful. Worthy of special mention is the song by the mission choir. The offering amounted to \$46.27. The present membership is 196.

100 Years Ago- Mar. 5, 1926

Gottlieb Bigler, Springdale, was a busy man pulling automobiles out of the snowdrifts along by his house.

The A. Hoff Co. is making some changes in their store. The stairway to the basement, which is now located in the clothing department, will be moved over to the grocery department, making it more convenient for the customers to find. One of the cross walls in the basement have also been removed.

The Mount Horeb High School basketball team defeated the Dodgeville High School here last night in a hard fought game, 17-13.

Obert Bergh is now employed as clerk in the local

post office having commenced last Monday.

Adry Brattrud returned home Wednesday from Michigan where he visited his wife who is at a sanatorium at Powers.

Rudy Luder, Vermont, had a load of corn crushed. Monday afternoon at Carl Tollefsons.

Martin Skogen, town of Blue Mounds, was kicked by a horse Tuesday, at the auction sale at the A.J. Rue farm. The cork of the shoe penetrated the flesh above the knee.

90 Years Ago- Mar. 5th, 1936

FURNISHED rooms for students, \$1 a week. 212 So. 6th St.

Q—Our chickens are having difficulty with colds. What is the probable cause and what is the cure? R.D.

A—Colds in chickens may be something like colds in humans, although not caused by the same organism. Your old hens may act as carriers or an infection may live on the premises. To help the flock combat this trouble, feed rations that contain plenty of cod liver oil, alfalfa leaves, and material of that kind. There probably is no real cure for colds in chickens. The thing to do is to build up the resistance of the flock.

Just how smart is Shirley Temple? Speculations and surmises on that question have been rife for more than two years since the tiny, dimpled darling first broke on the horizon of America's consciousness as a sentinel screen star. The Pintner-Cunningmgham test for children of Shirley's age awards an intelligence quotient of

100 to normal children. In the graduated rating of the tests 135 is considered the rating of genius-But Shirley crushed through with the unheard of score of 155!

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Monum have moved into the upper flat of the Olaus Mickelson residence.

At Pricilla Shop: New Spring Dresses! New Spring Cottons, \$1.59, House Dresses, \$1.00, Hooverettes in all colors, \$1.95.

Mrs. Lena Stolen has rented her farm to Paul Hefty, who moved there Monday. Mrs. Stolen has retained four rooms for herself and the renter and family have the best of the house.

70 Years Ago- Mar. 5, 1946

The Mt. Vernon Mill, owned and operated by Fred and Ferdinand Koch since 1908, has been sold to Herbert Hankel, who took possession March 1.

Lyle Johnson, who recently was discharged from the Army, is now back on his job in the Hoff Store, and Gil Aavang, who was with the Navy, is again on his former job as city mail carrier.

Mr. and Mrs. Olaus Martinson and Miss Clara Olson attended the "capping exercises" at Methodist Hospital Nursing' Training School, Madison, Saturday, Miss Phyllis Martinson was among those being capped.

50 Years Ago Mar. 3, 1966

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Baker received the progressive Breeders Award for the third time Monday, Feb. 21, while attending the State Holstein

Breeders Convention in Sheboygan.

Martin Bang, 89, lifelong area resident, passed away Monday (Feb. 28, 1966) at a Madison hospital.

Mrs. Lee S. Vogel will open an art gallery and gift shop at 308 East Main Street, in the property owned by A.B. Grove.

40 Years Ago Mar. 4, 1976

Charter members Matt Eggum, Lloyd Robinson, Roy Tvedt, Dennis Carden and Slim Osterholz were honored at the Mount Horeb Lions Club last week.

A sell-out crowd and more enjoyed about three hours of country-western entertainment at the first Grand Ole Opry here.

Funeral services were held in the United Methodist Church, Mount Horeb, for Mathilda (Mae) Steinhauer, 75, who died Sunday, Feb. 29, at the Dane County Home, Verona, where she had resided since 1967.

10 Years Ago Mar. 9, 2006

Longtime Village of Mount Horeb public servant and businessman Curtis Gordon Witte died on Wednesday, Mar. 1. He was 88.

Six officers will be honored with seven awards as part of the first Mount Horeb Police Awards on March 15.

Jenny and Pat Neumaier of Barneveld are proud to announce the birth of their first daughter, Kennedi Rose Neumaier, on Monday, Feb. 20, 2006 at Upland Hills Health in Dodgeville.

Recreation Notes

Mark your calendars! Our Summer Activity Guide will be sent out on March 20th! It will be posted on our website and emailed to those who have signed up for marketing emails in their CivicPlus account. Don't have your CivicPlus account set up yet? Don't delay; it will make your registration much easier if your account is already created. The link to CivicPlus can be found on our website: mounthorebwi.info/193/Recreation-Department.

- Online registration will begin on March 23rd at 7:15 AM.
- In-person registration will begin on March 24th at 7:15 AM.

New spring class just an-

nounced! Body Wise Yoga for ages 55+ beginning March 16! This 6-week yoga-based functional fitness program is designed for active older adults or anyone seeking slower, more intentional movement. Each class blends gentle motion, balance practice, functional strength, and mindful breathing to help you feel stronger, more stable, and mobile! Chair support and modifications are always available. Classes are Mondays, 12:30 to 1:30 pm, March 16 - April 27 (no class 3/30), in the Mount Horeb Rec Dept Multipurpose room. The class fee is \$60 for residents and \$70 for non-residents. Sign up by March 13!

Help your child explore their creativity in Little Folk Art Classes! These parent and child classes focus on process art, an approach that focuses on the creative experience rather than the final product. Classes include art play and sensory-based creativity stations! Classes take place Saturdays, April 4 - April 18, in the Rec Dept Multipurpose Room. 1.5 to 3 year olds create from 9:30 to 10:15 am and 3 to 5 year olds create from 10:45 to 11:30 am. The class fee is \$120 for residents and \$130 for non-residents, and the registration deadline is March 30.

HOW TO REGISTER: There are multiple ways to register for programs and

activities.

Online (go to <https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mhrcd>)

In-person at 105 N. Grove Street

Place completed registration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment in 24-hour drop box

Email completed registration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment

to mhrec@mounthorebwi.info

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

3/10: Water Exercise Spring Session

3/13: Body Wise Yoga

3/30: Little Folk Art Studio

3/31: Fun with Volleyball (4th & 5th grade)

4/6: Babysitting Class



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Zoning code re-write heads to village board

By **Cathy Scott**
Mount Horeb Mail

After 15 public meetings held over twenty-one months, the 256-page zoning code re-write package will be sent from the Plan Commission (PC) to the Village Board for consideration for approval at its March 4 meeting. The February 25 Plan Commission meeting lasted for three and a half hours, with only two interested residents remaining in the galley until the very end.

Public Hearing

The public hearing for the zoning code heard from two residents, Michelle Kelley and Ellen Myers. Kelley expressed her concern for little to no protection for the historic downtown with the new Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) code, which allows for an overlay of a Plannned Unit Development (PUD). A PUD has few limitations on height or the number of residential units. Myers suggested the Commission flatly vote no on the zoning code re-write.

Before discussion began on six items up for additional discussion, Chair Ryan Czyzewski opined 40 years is entirely too long between zoning code rewrites, suggesting reviews be completed at a minimum of five years to as frequent as two years, noting items among committees and commissions that are problematic should be reviewed and dis-

cussed.

Czyzewski said, “Is our new code perfect? No. Should it be? No. It is a living, breathing document” that can be reviewed and amended as needed.

Six items requiring further discussion

The six items the PC needed to further discuss based on previous reviews by the Village Board (VB), the Community Development Authority (CDA), the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), and Village staff concerned the DMU, except the sixth item. The items are Building Height on Main St., Downtown Building Height off Main St., Downtown Parking Standards, Downtown Side and Read Yard Setback Standards, and Downtown Mixed Use Land Use Standards. The last item concerned the alley setback limit for the Residential Zoning District accessory structure.

1.) The PC voted unanimously to recommend a building height of 40’/3 stories for buildings fronting Main Street, specifying articulation (design) requirements every 40’ to reflect traditional storefront designs.

2.) After much discussion among members, the recommendation for downtown building height off Main Street is 50’/4 stories with no stepback, which was the

recommended standard in the draft plan. The CDA had recommended 60’/5 stories, and the VB was undecided.

3.) The current parking standard for the DMU has no minimum requirement for residential use. The final draft states the minimum standard is 1.2 parking spaces per dwelling unit for residential land uses of ten or more total dwelling units within the same structure. The recommended change from the Village Board was to reduce the threshold of minimum parking to be six or more total dwelling units. Both Commissioners Andrew Kidd and Jill Willis-Remmert voted no. Motion carried.

4.) The side/rear yard setback standard was increased from zero to a range of zero-to-ten-foot maximum setbacks with a maximum of 24’ side yard when needed to accommodate driveway access to parking areas behind the building. Motion carried unanimously.

5.) The most time spent on the meeting was the PC discussion for the downtown mixed use land use standards. The final draft initially included nonresidential land use (commercial) within the first 50’ of the lot from all street right-of-way lines, not including alleys. Upon reviewing, the CDA, VB and Village staff meetings, each recommended various options. The VB offered no specifics,

yet wanted different options to allow for greater flexibility, be more market feasible and yet keep the 1.2 parking spaces minimum. The PC voted unanimously to recommend to the VB there be a 30’ft minimum or 40% of the first floor, whichever is greater, for commercial use while maintaining the 1.2 parking spaces for residential use located above the first floor.

6.) The Village staff recommended a change to the draft policy for accessory structure alley setback. The draft policy stated a minimum of a 5’ setback and Village staff recommended the minimum setback be increased to 10’ due to utility transformers. A compromise motion was proposed, allowing for the 5’ minimum unless the Village Utilities request it be greater for an onsite utility installation. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Code Future Land Use Map change requests

Once the zoning code draft with noted changes was complete, the PC voted on three property owner requests regarding the Future Use Land Use Map (FUL) proposed with the updated zoning code recommendations to the VB. By requesting a change through the zoning code rewrite process, there is no charge for the

property owner.

JP Heres, 301 N. 2nd St. requested the property remain as a two-family resident lot versus the FUL proposed single family resident lot. Motion made and unanimously approved.

Steve Hellwig, 410 N. 4th St., requested the property remain zoned as an A-1 (Ag) rather than the proposed change to a single family on the FUL. Retaining the A-1 allows the property owner to upgrade other property structures currently on the lot. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Grundahl, 130 S. 1st St, includes three structures, currently zoned Light Industrial (LI) based on existing use and zoning, requested the property FUL be zoned Multi-Family 1 to be consistent with the designation of Planned Mixed Use (PMU) in the FUL in the Comp Plan, completed in 2022. Nic Owen, Village Administrator, explained he thought the proposed change was good as we do not want to continue to see light industrial in this part of the Village, we want to see redevelopment and reinvestment.

Chair Czyzewski said, “The purpose of the zoning code FUL is to try and be consistent with the current property use not what the property can be used for, so I have a few concerns with this one.”

Commissioner Destinee

Udelhaven agreed, saying, “I would like to see a plan, have him bring us a plan rather than just giving blanket approval.”

Commissioner Sarah Best confirmed with Ben Rohr, Village Planner, if the property were changed to Planned Mixed Use, the building structure would be limited to 40’/3 stories. Rohr agreed.

The PC unanimously voted to retain the L-1 zoning in FUL with the understanding that the zoning could be adjusted in the zoning map later if the full zoning code change process were followed.

Fruit Trees Conditional Use Permit request

Nicholas Kamas purchased a half-acre triangular lot, zoned R-1, off Hwy 92 between the School District’s ball fields and other single-family homes. He is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to use it for growing fruit, such as apples, raspberries, etc., noting that no commercial equipment or vehicles will be used for harvesting. An R-1 zoning code allows cultivation as one of its usages. A Public Hearing was held, with no comments from the public and the request was unanimously approved by the PC.

Board of education approves referendum bond sale

By **Aynsley Hoelscher**
Mount Horeb Mail

At their meeting February 16, MHASD Board of Education approved a policy update, referendum funding and discussed contractor bids received.

Contractor Bids

The primary center addi-

tion project received bids from 3 general contractors: CD Smith, Findorff and Kramer Brothers.

CD Smith had the lowest bid at about \$25.29 million, Findorff was next at \$25.48 million and Kramer Brothers was the highest at \$25.64 million.

The Board of Education

took action at its February 16 meeting, and the Mount Horeb Area School District (MHASD) is pleased to announce its selection of C.D. Smith Construction as its general contracting partner for the Mount Horeb Elementary School project.

Disease policy

The board updated a small part of their policy on how and when students with contagious disease may be excluded from school activities.

The update specifies that the district will implement guidelines and procedures in line with federal law in-

cluding the CDC, as well as follow directives of state and local laws.

Referendum bond sale

The board approved borrowing the final portion of funding for the primary center addition.

The borrowing is done via the sale of bonds to inves-

tors, paid back by the community over time. This is what voters approved when they voted on the referendum project.

Recent updates to policy allow the approval of the sale to take place before the actual sale so the district can take advantage of favorable market conditions quickly.

Important facts about your property valuation

Many municipalities in this area have recently had a full revaluation or reassessment of all taxable properties or will be in the near future due to requirements under Wisconsin State Statute 70.055.

What is a revaluation?

A revaluation is an official assessment by a local government to update assessed values of all properties to reflect changes in market conditions to maintain fair and equitable property taxation.

Why is a revaluation happening in my town?

State law requires a taxa-

tion district (municipality) to assess property at full value at least once every five year period. To meet this requirement the total assessed value of each major class must be between 90 percent and 100 percent of full value. State law requires Assessed values to reflect changes in market conditions as often as possible to maintain fair and equitable property taxation. When a municipality is out of compliance they begin to receive notices from the state and if they have not hired an assessor and scheduled a full municipal reevaluation by the third notice the state of Wisconsin

department of revenue will issue an order of supervised assessment and take control of the assessment.

What does an assessor look at when doing a revaluation?

According to Associated Appraisal INC, “Assessors will consider all factors that may affect the value of your property, including size, construction type, age, amenities, location, and condition. They also must consider fair market value (which is what a typical buyer would pay for the property), as well as historical property data, home in-

spection findings and market trends. The best indication of your property’s value is a comparison to similar properties in your area that have been recently sold on the open market.”

How do I know if my property is being assessed or has been assessed?

Most assessors send out a written letter of inspection/information prior to beginning their inspections. The vehicles of the assessors should be clearly marked or labeled with the company logo.

After inspection there will be a door hanger placed on

the main entrance of your property letting you know they were there and how to contact them

Do I have to let the assessor on my property or in my home?

All revaluations include and inspection of each property, including size, construction type, age, amenities, location, and condition. The buildings and property will often be measured and photos taken. A municipality has the option to request an interior inspection. If you do not allow access to the interior the assessor will base the valu-

ation on information available to them from property records, building permits and other documents.

The trespass law in Wisconsin entitles the assessor to enter a property once during an assessment cycle unless the property owner has notified the assessor in advance to deny entry. Additional visits may be authorized by the property owner. Assessors are restricted to the following conditions when entering property:

- The reason for the entry

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Mount Horeb High School Honor Roll

Mount Horeb High School Semester 1 Honor Roll -- 2025 - 2026 School Year

Cum laude - “with honor”;
“with praise” 3.50 – 3.74
Magna cum laude - “with
great honor”; “with great
praise” 3.75 – 3.89
Summa cum laude - “with
highest honor”; “with high-
est praise” 3.90 – 4.00

Summa Cum Laude

Aiden Aeschlimann
Andrew Ahrens
Jackson Alcorn
Trinity Alexander
Hayden Anderson
Miles Anderson
Tyler Angle
Laurel Aquino
Elizabeth Baber
Marit Barsness
Pippa Barsness
Adriana Bartow-Holder
Haylie Becker
Madelyn Becker
Gavin Beglinger
Colton Bell
Ava Bilse
Kira Buttner
Claire Casey
Mia Caygill
Chih Chang
Alexander Chapman
Jamilyn Chapman
Patrick Chappell
Noelia Cheleri
Liam Crolla
Isabella Cross
Elle Dinh
Caleb Dorning
Isaiah Drews
Drew Droessler
Brecken Dudley
Jackson Ellingson
Makayla Fillner
Noah Finkenbinder
Emily Folco
Magali Forlines
Molly Foster
Kyle Frischmann
Ella Gage
Ethan Gage
Delilah Gasch
Zoe Gauger
Hannah Gervasi
Hannah Gibbs
Romain Gilles
Eleanor Guenther
Madeline Haack
Samantha Hanson
Aferdita Hashani
Kaylen Hastings
Layla Havens
Isaac Hefty
Sofia Helland
Elliana Herritz
Noah High
Micah Hiler
Anna Hofmann
Adrienne Hogseth
Elise Hooks
Raniah Hubbard
Elaina Imbus
Samantha Johnson
Quinn Johnston
Norah Jungels
Averi Kalscheur
Veda Kalscheur
Kyle Kasubaski
Laszlo Kelley
Dani Kleman
Anabelle Kolb
Isabella Kolb

Noah Koltz
Barret Kreul
Joshua Kuntz
Eva Larson
Jacinto Lawrence
Lorelei Lawry
Emily Lee
Evelyn Leszczynski
Joshua Manchester
Bostynn Ily Marquis
Abigail Marshaus
Colin McBain
Molly McCue
Elysia McKillips
Jacob McWilliams
Mackenzie Meinholz
Giana Melka
Elizabeth Mesenberg
Lauren Mester
Finley Moore
Addison Motl
Jackson Myers
Lily Nelson
Jacob Nelson
Delaina Nicewander
Grant Niebuhr
Zea Noltnerwyss
Isla Odgers
Matthew Oimoen
Estella Olmsted
Raelynn Olson
Savannah Olson
Olin Olson
Cullen Olson
Lillian Paquette
Mara Parks
Scott Paterson
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Emma Peterson
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Natalie Sheahan
Stella Simmons
Zoe Stack
Brinley Steiner
Emma Strother
Elsie Sutter
Andrew Terfruchte
Sydney Thelen
Aliyah Thompson
Olivia Turk
Kathleen Van Gorden
Brennan Van Pee

Nelson Van Pee
Carter Vesely
Willa Vigliotta
Andrew Vigliotta
Erin Wagner-Leek
Lillian Wahl
Cecelia Watson
Emily Wik
Jack Wilson
Landon Wright
Anne Marie Wyse
Samuel Wyse

Magna Cum Laude

Micah Ammann
Amelia Arrigoni
Amelia Barcheski
Dawson Bell
Andrew Bennin
Camille Benson Bright
Nesta Benzing
Alexander Blake
Zachary Brummund
Eirinn Carr
Connor Casey
Harper Cassens
Jaina Czyzewski
Sebastian Davidson
Jack Davis
Efram Delahaye
The-Phong Dinh
Reese Downs
Ava Dyreson
Norah Egnew
Cole Egnew
Coen Faber
Taylor Ferguson
Macie Finley
Jaxen Finley
Ella Gaitan
Alyssa Garrity
Caleb Gaulke
Ava Gee
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Cameron Goodwin
Raelynn Gough
Cadence Gralapp
Owen Hanson
Rafe Hart-Bell
Henry Healy
Grace Hefty
Connor Heiting
Harper Hendrickson
Lucas High
Nathan Holt
Natalie Hufton
Claire Hurda
Nicholas Ibinger
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Aspen Laesch
Easton Laesch
Geoffrey Lawrence
Eli Leonard
Jackson Loger

Henry Loger
Aidan Lonze
Brady McCue
Connor McCue
Rian McCulley
Kennedy McWilliams
JasaLynn Medina
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Daemon Velez
Gabriella Vesperman
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Liam Ward
Aidan Ward
Addison Watson
Cora Wetzel
Oliver Whitman
Anneli Wik
Mason Williams
Simon Williams
Gabe Wilson

Cum Laude

Cullen Anderson
Maggie Anderson
Samantha Anderson
Jackson Ballew
Nolan Beadle
Joachim Bednarek
Bronte Bethel
Joseph Bluhm
Michael Bogue
Bannon Bradley
Preston Braverman
Tate Braverman
Kayla Bredeson
Cullen Brodbeck
Benjamin Brohn
Wyatt Bush
Riley Bushke
Nora Carroll
Nolan Chancellor
Raehana Chapman
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Ethan Gieseke
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Leland Havens
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Brooks Hendrickson
Finn Herman
Jaiden Hesseling
Isabella Hoffman
McKenzie Holmes
Maddux Hubbard
Mason Hurda
Daniella Husemann
William Isaacson
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thia
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Khaya Kasubaski
Leah Kellesvig
Eve Kellesvig
Jack Koenig
Carter Kolb
Aviana Laeser
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Donovan McClellan
Bella McGuire
Maxwell Meyer
Avery Monroe
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Annika Peterson
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Carlin Ramos
Mae Raykowski
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Hart House Guitars Moves to New Location

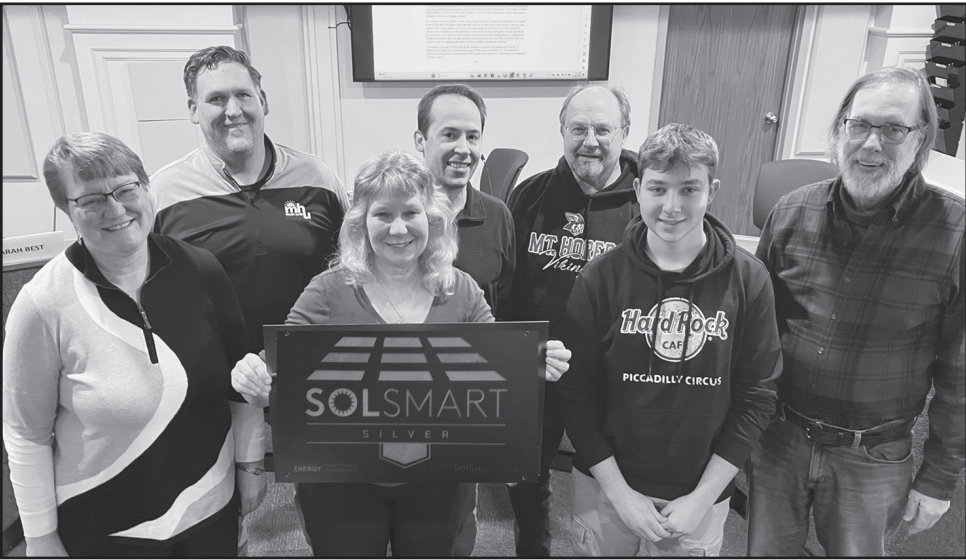


Hart House Guitars, owned and operated by local musician Corey Mathew Hart, has relocated to a new space at the Old Feed Mill at 130 S. 1st Street in Mount Horeb and is continuing to serve the community with a focus on music lessons and instrument repairs.

Hart House Guitars will continue to offer a selection of instruments and accessories for purchase, with an expanded emphasis on lessons and professional repair services. The new space allows Corey to better serve students and musicians looking to develop their skills. Hart House Guitars offers personalized instruction for players of all ages and skill levels, along with repair and maintenance services ranging from basic setups to more detailed instrument work.

For more information about lessons, repairs, or current inventory, contact Hart House Guitars directly or stop by the new location in downtown Mount Horeb.

Hart House Guitars is a member of the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce.



Sustainability work lauded

In a celebration of sustainability, Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change Director Kathy Kuntz, Village Administrator Nic Owen, and members of the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee Kerry Beheler, Scott Roethle, Jack Saltes, Aaron Fendrick, and Chair Tim White, gathered on February 24 to honor Mount Horeb’s impressive achievement of receiving the SolSmart Silver designation. This accolade highlights the Village’s commitment to solar energy and climate resilience. More information on the SolSmart program can be found here: <https://solsmart.org/>

Springdale board members criticize absent town chair

By STEVE MATYAS
Mount Horeb Mail

The Springdale Town Board met on February 23 without Chair John Rosenbaum in attendance. The other board members, Richard Schwenn and Kelly Altschul, took the opportunity to criticize Rosenbaum and his handling of the shop ventilation update which the board has had under discus-

sion for some time. Schwenn, displeased with Rosenbaum’s contact with potential repair firms before obtaining a variance to allow manual operation of exhaust fans rather than being automatically turned on at different times during the day, spoke of Rosenbaum’s alleged tendency to not listen to others and to give people “no chance to speak.”

Altschul concurred, adding that she would not have acted without seeking further input and giving all involved a “heads up.” The purchase of a third Badger Book to use in elections was discussed and approved. Two books, which are designed to provide quicker voter registration, improve polling place flow, require fewer election inspectors, and speed processing of absentee ballots, were used in the recent Spring primary with great success.

Treasurer Lisa Shatravka called for residents to pay fees and taxes as early as possible and to pay as much as possible in their first installments to better facilitate the town’s early payments

of debts and interest. Clerk Jackie Arthur spoke on the switch to Pel-litteri waste disposal, saying the transition has gone smoothly. She also addressed the need for a new refrigerator in the town hall, pointing out the presence of black mold in the current one. The board approved the expenditure of \$698 for a new unit, provided that the cost of delivery and removal of the old one is included. Patrolman Devin Dahlk reported that agreement with the Town of Verona regarding snow removal has been reached. Springdale will be responsible for plowing Paulson Road and Verona for Spring Rose Road. Plows will then turn around and resume their routes, removing the necessity for construction of a new culvert to allow such action. Negotiations for the purchase of property to allow repairs to the town hall bridge continue, with two of the three desired properties having been obtained. The third property owner is expected to meet with the board in the near future.

American Legion Share Day is a success



Culver’s teamed up with the Mount Horeb American Legion for a Share Day on Wednesday, February 25. Pictured from left to right are Brant Bickford, Paul Hodgson, JD (Culver’s Manager), Scott Amen and Laura Mason. The Mount Horeb American Legion would like to thank the management of Culver’s for their continued support of veterans.

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Obituaries

Gerhard “Grunt” Stamm

April 1, 1954 –
February 26, 2026



MOUNT VERNON / VERONA – Gerhard “Grunt” Stamm earned his wings on Thursday, February 26, 2026. He was born on April 1 (yup, April Fool’s Day) in 1954 to Dolores and Garfield Stamm. Grunt grew up on the Stamm farm and was a 1972 graduate of Mount Horeb High School. He was a loyal employee of Cleary Buildings in Verona for 35-plus years before his well-earned retirement.

Grunt loved throttle wide-open snowmobiling and playing softball with his buddies in the Mount Vernon Park Tournament over Labor Day weekend. He and his brother, Greg, were avid bowlers and won many team trophies together. Grunt was a member of the Deer Creek

Sportsman’s Club and was very passionate about fishing and deer hunting, and spent many waking hours by the local creeks.

A faithful Badgers and Packers fan especially when they won on his parley card bet; he loved doing the shake of the day, and playing his favorite slot machines. Grunt’s brothers are Bruce (Vickie), Greg and Rick (Pam); nephews, Aaron, Kyle, Cory and Christopher; great-niece, Avery; and great-nephews, Rylan, Jackson, Cooper, Carter and Brycen.

Even though time began taking away his ability to speak clearly, his life-long friendships and memories with his friends meant everything to him. Thank you to those who continued to visit him throughout his journey. A very, very special thank you to Sylvan Memory Care and Brighton Hospice. You also became his family and we can never ever thank you enough for your compassionate care.

Our Grunt has gone to a place where the fishing is always good, the beer is always cold, and the stories are never questioned.

Grunt’s Celebration of Life gathering will be held at MOUNT VERNON PARK,

1689 Washington St., Mount Vernon, beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2026. A buffet will be catered by Danette Dahlk and refreshments will be provided. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

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Funeral & Cremation Care
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Judith Adonna Temby

November 3, 1942 –
February 21, 2026



MOUNT HOREB - Judith Adonna Temby, age 83, died peacefully on February 21, 2026, in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, her home for many years. Judith was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on November 3, 1942. Her parents were Dr. Gregory Langenfeld and Margaret

Langenfeld (Karn). Judith grew up in Theresa, Wisconsin. She attended Mayville High School and graduated in 1960. Judith graduated with a BA Degree in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1964. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Epsilon Sigma Honorary Sororities, a member of Chi Omega Sorority, Society Editor of the student newspaper, “The Daily Cardinal,” and involved in other student activities.

Judith’s work experience covered a range of areas. For three years she worked as an Adjudicator and Authorization Officer at the U.S. Veterans Administration. After that she worked in the State Executive Office for Governors Patrick J. Lucey and Martin Schreiber. She held a variety of positions. She was the Office Manager; Special Assistant in charge of the Governor’s appointments to commissions, boards, judgeships and other offices; Staff Liaison with Special Committees and Other Groups; Coordinator of Records. She was a real estate broker for a brief period. In June of 1980 she became the Secretary of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, a position she held for 39 years until

her retirement in 2009.

Judith was married on June 18, 1966, to John (Jack) Temby. After some years they felt that their marriage was incomplete without the experience of raising a family. In 1989 Judith and Jack traveled to Colombia, South America, to adopt three sisters, Claudia, aged 9, Sandra, aged 7, and Heydi, aged 1. Judith’s life changed dramatically once the new family started. As is the case with many moms today, Judith had to balance her professional career with being a mom. She did it successfully with endless energy and love.

Judith passed away after her father and mother, Dr. Gregory and Margaret Langenfeld (Karn); and her brother, Dr. Mark Langenfeld. Living members of her family include her sister, Kristin Langenfeld (Douglas Dykman) of Farmington, New Mexico; her brother, Peter Langenfeld (Laurie Sampson) of Poway, California; her husband, Jack; daughters, Claudia, Sandra and Heydi; granddaughter, Cecily Chong; and nephews and nieces.

Judith loved vacationing with her family and touring the Wisconsin countryside. She was happy when gath-

ering with friends. A good debate on issues of the day was something in which she loved to participate. Reading gave her pleasure. There was always a dog or cat in the Temby household as Judith was an avid animal lover.

Judith was a truly kind and understanding person. Her life gave pleasure to all who knew her; Judith’s absence will leave an emptiness in their lives.

A visitation will be held at GUNDERSON CAMACHO MOUNT HOREB FUNERAL AND CREMATION CARE, 500 N. Eighth St., Mount Horeb, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Memorials may be made to UW Carbone Cancer Center, Doctors Without Borders or Iowa County Humane Society.

A special thank you to the medical care providers who took excellent care of Judith.

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

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Jazz Festival Returns to Mount Horeb

Mt. Horeb Middle School jazz band students will join middle school students from four area schools for the 20th annual Southwest Wisconsin Jazz Festival on Saturday, March 7, 2026. The festival is the biggest event of the year for Mt. Horeb Middle School jazz band members.

Students will perform for local professional jazz musicians and teachers, 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 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.

Mount Horeb music teacher Kellen Dorner says this festival is an important milestone in the early development of middle school

students. “For most of our kids, this is the first time they’ve heard really good jazz musicians up close, and interacting with cool musicians who play really well tends to light a few fires for our students.”

Performances run throughout the day; all performances are free and open to the public. Please visit the Mt. Horeb Band website for a complete listing of performances and times.



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SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$59/yr.; \$108/2 yrs.; Out-of-state: \$75/yr.; \$135/2 yrs.

Mount Horeb Launches Village-Wide Historic Resource Survey with March 12 Public Meeting: Citizen Input is Requested!

The public is invited to an information session for the 2026 Village of Mount Horeb Intensive Survey of Historic Resources. This meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building (2nd floor, 108 E Main St).

This community-wide Intensive Survey will seek to identify and document properties that exhibit architectural, historical or archaeological value. This project will update and expand a similar downtown-focused 1997 report, by reviewing all 3,111 parcels within the municipal boundaries—excluding the six individual buildings and the Main Street Historic District that are already listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

This project is being overseen by the Village of Mount Horeb Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). At the March 12 meeting, attendees will meet HPC members, hear how historic surveys aid preservation initiatives and can support economic development, and be given an overview of the Intensive Survey’s objectives and



For more information about this project, call HPC Citizen Member Destinee Udelhoven at 605-840-0037 or email Village Trustee and HPC Chairperson Marc Schellpfeffer at Marc.Schellpfeffer@mounthorebwi.info.

methods from John Hyche and his team from Urbana Preservation and Planning. Urbana, with an office based in Chicago, is the selected contractor for this project. A question-and-answer session will follow.

After the presentation, public input will be gathered regarding Village properties and sites that exhibit potential as cultural assets. Does your property tell a unique Mount Horeb story—or is it part of a larger pattern of residential or business development? We want to hear

about it!

The 2026 Village of Mount Horeb Intensive Survey of Historic Resources has been financed in part by federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior via a Certified Local Government subgrant administered by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Additional financial support has been provided by the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society.

Citizens can apply for village committees

Each Spring, the Village Board reappoints committee and commission members. If you're interested in serving your community, please complete and return the Citizen Committee Member Interest Form for consideration (go to mounthorebwi.info). Appointed committee members generally serve for a term of one to three years. If you have questions, please feel free to submit email inquiries to Village President, Ryan Czyzewski. Completed forms should be submitted via email to citizennominations@mounthorebwi.info, or dropped off at the Village Office, 138 E. Main Street. Please submit forms by March 15.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu Confirmed Locally

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has identified a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a backyard poultry flock in Dane County.

DATCP and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) animal health officials are working together in a joint incident response. The affected premises has been quarantined to restrict movement of poultry and poultry products. Birds on the property have been depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Birds from the flock will not enter the food system.

The H5N1 HPAI virus has continued to circulate in both wild and domestic birds in North America since December 2021. H5N1 HPAI viruses are highly contagious and often fatal to domestic poultry. Caused by influenza type A viruses, the disease varies in severity depending on the strain and species affected. The disease can be spread by contact with infected birds, commingling with wild birds or their droppings, equipment, or clothing worn by anyone working with the animals.

DATCP continues to urge all livestock owners to implement strong biosecurity measures to protect their flocks and herds from the disease. This includes washing hands, disinfecting equipment, restricting access to animals, and separating new additions to the flock or herd for at least 30 days. Poultry owners are asked, when possible, to keep their birds indoors.

The risk to the general public in Wisconsin remains low. Prevention information for farmworkers or others who have close contact with birds, dairy cows, or other relevant animals can be found under <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/occupational-health/farm-health.htm>.

DATCP reminds Wisconsin livestock owners to register their premises. State law requires that all livestock owners register where their animals are kept. Registration helps animal health officials communicate with flock and herd owners during disease outbreaks.

To report increased mortality or signs of illness among domestic birds, dairy cattle, or other animals, contact DATCP at (608) 224-4872 (business hours) or (800) 943-0003 (after hours and weekends). For updates on how the virus is affecting domestic birds in Wisconsin, and to find resources on protecting Wisconsin poultry, visit DATCP's HPAI in Poultry webpage.

H5N1 in Other Species

The HPAI H5N1 virus has continued to circulate in both wild and domestic birds in North America since December 2021. Since that time, the H5N1 virus has also affected other species, including mammalian species. Wisconsin previously identified an H5N1 infection in one dairy herd in the state last year. The quarantine was released for that farm. DATCP continues to work with USDA to conduct testing for H5N1, encourage biosecurity, and provide resources to producers.

For updates on how the virus is affecting dairy cattle across the country, and to find resources on protecting cattle, visit DATCP's H5N1 in Dairy Cattle webpage.

Local students make UW-Madison dean's list

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2025-2026 academic year.; Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

Students from Blue Mounds include: Levi Hellenbrand, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Lena Komar, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Anthony Lange, School of Pharmacy, High Honor Roll; Hayley Smith, School of Pharmacy, High Honor Roll.

Students from Mount Horeb include: Phoebe Aburomia, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Camryn Anderson, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Lukas Bennin, School of Education, Dean's List; Gretta Birkeland, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Kiersten Cassidy, School of Nursing, Dean's Honor List; Carter Coon, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Olivia Dobson, College of Engineering, Dean's Honor List; Caralyn Felcyn, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Ethan Fendrick, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; John Fleck, College of Engineering, Dean's Honor List; Carmen Forbes, School of Education, Dean's List; Nola Gilmore, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Margaret Harvey, School of Nursing, Dean's Honor List; Mary Harvey, School of Nursing, Dean's Honor List; Emma Heisch, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Genevieve Helin, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List; Lizzy Helin, School of Education, Dean's List; Laurel Helland, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Eileen Herrera Carballo, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Lalaina Hesselning, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Len Johnson, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List; Tola Klabough, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List; Mateja Lesar, School of Education, Dean's List; Garrison Lindley, School of Education, Dean's List; Katie Manchester, School of Education, Dean's List; Gwen Motl, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Ava Murphy, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Athena Ouradnik, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List; Anja Rathje, School of Education, Dean's List; Quentin Rosborough, College of Engineering, Dean's Honor List; Isabelle Sieber, School of Business, Dean's List; Zephyr Stanek, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List.

'Disagree Better' program starts MONDAY at the library

In a time when it feels like everyone is divided, the Mount Horeb Public Library invites the community to come together during their new *Disagree Better: Building Connection Across Difference* initiative. Designed to support constructive engagement, foster understanding, and build trust across diverse viewpoints, this multi-part program features guest speakers, discussion moderator training, and deliberation dinners, which combine shared meals with guided conversations about meaningful topics. In partnership with the Village of Mount Horeb and the Mount Horeb Area School District, *Disagree Better* strives to reach across generations, organizations, and perspectives, with the goal of creating spaces where community members can engage with different ideas—and with each other—in a thoughtful way. Rather than avoiding disagreement, the program encourages participants to approach differences with curiosity, respect, and care.

The series begins Monday, March 9, at 6 p.m. at the Library with the program *Communicating Across Political Divides: The Power of Talking Together*. Join guest speaker Amber Wichowsky, Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Leadership at the LaFollette School of Public Affairs, for an evening covering the latest research on civil discourse initiatives, as well as best practices and methods of public engagement. Following the public talk, participants will have the opportunity to brainstorm and discuss ways to apply these insights in our own community. More program dates will be announced soon. For more information, visit www.mhpl.org or call Melissa Roelli at 608-437-5021.



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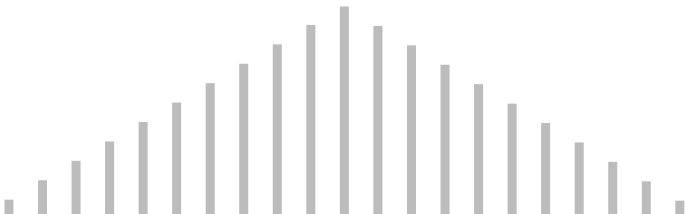
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TOWN

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for Clerk Amanda Burghy, a \$1.50 raise for Patrolman Ross Powers, and a \$1.50 raise as well as payment of four weeks of “vacation owed” for Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Curt Winter. All raises are based on current rates of pay and are effective immediately.

The evening began with the board welcoming newly appointed supervisor, Kevin Depies.

The Public Comments period included resident Bill Holder, regarding the Republic garbage and recycling contract and Primary Election candidate, Nathan McGree. Chair, Richard VanDomelen reminded all attendees that the Public Comments agenda item was not for questions and answers. Holder discussed some concerns regarding the every two-weeks frequency of trash pickup, given the switch over to single bins. VanDomelen noted that, earlier that day, the board received amended contract language. The amended document now includes weekly trash collection and

every other week recycling pickup. Holder mentioned that the board may want to speak with the Town of Springdale, prior to entering into a five-year contract. McGree stated he was running for Dane County Board Supervisor, District 28. McGree encouraged people to vote and mentioned his concerns regarding existing representation and board actions.

Garbage and recycling

Republic Services/Town & Country Sanitation representative, Susan Malmanger, addressed contract questions. Supervisor Mary Ann Bellazzini stated that both she and Burghy had checked with other area services and crunched numbers applying due diligence. Supervisors noted that “cart use” is current industry technology. Following discussion, the board approved the five year 2026-2030 amended contract. Residents will receive new calendars along with one garbage and one recycling cart. Conversion to carts will begin by May 1, 2026. In the future, trash collection will change to weekly while recycling will remain every

other week. First year cost will be \$16.90 per month per residential dwelling. The contract includes a not to exceed 5% increase each of the following four years. Trash and recycling pick up occurs only on Town roads. Republic will drop a set of carts off at the Town office for viewing. As the process moves forward, Burghy will provide more information to residents.

Dane Country Urban County Consortium (UCC) representatives Joanna Cervantes and Baltazar De Anda Santana, presented information on services and eligibility. The Town is a member, at no cost. UCC funds housing and community development programs to support low-to-moderate income households living in consortium communities outside the City of Madison. More information is available from flyers left at the Town office and at <https://cdbg.danecounty.gov/>.

Regarding the \$111,000 Town loan, the board approved \$20,000 semi-annual payments, leaving \$30,000 for other debt service. Loan signatories are the three Town supervisors.

Zoning

The board held a concept meeting for a new single-family residence on Rowley Road. Discussion included building and engineered driveway plans, along with answering questions regarding the Town’s overall approval processes.

Additionally, a Blue Rock Road driveway application, with engineered plan, was approved. The JAR Storage agenda item was again tabled. VanDomelen asked Winter to forward a Town of Chilton storage unit ordinance to other supervisors for review and future consideration.

Supervisors received input and discussed a Good News Lutheran Church’s signage request. They reviewed the sign’s parameters and existing ordinance requirements, they chose not to require conditional use documentation and approved the request as submitted.

In administrative business, both Bellazzini and Depies successfully completed Board of Review training.

Public Works

Patrolman Ross Powers provided his updates, in-

cluding coordination with school garage personnel and other Town patrolmen during snow events. VanDomelen mentioned a Town’s Association document that includes grading of small bridges (6-20 feet) and potential grant access. Bellazzini noted funding being somewhat limited to those bridges graded lowest. She noted applications are due May 1. Discussion involved the Barton Road bridge and what appeared to be a rather high grade. The board suggested getting a second opinion and having Powers attend the grading review.

While there was no motion, the board appointed a group to create an equipment replacement schedule/plan. This decision was based on Depies’ recommendation to assess the Town’s equipment, including conditions and usages. The committee’s plan would include a schedule on replacements, upgrades, and maintenance. It was recognized that this effort could also assist with the Town’s budgeting process. The group is to include Depies, Powers, and resident, Travis Gudgeon. Gudgeon, present at the meeting, agreed to participate.

Following Depies’ board appointment, supervisors spoke of needed membership changes in the Land Use Committee (LUC). Instead of serving as committee chair, Depies will serve as the board’s liaison, replacing VanDomelen. The board is interested in knowing who may be interested in serving on the LUC. Burghy will utilize the email list to gather interest. VanDomelen noted that, in the past, the LUC Chair has been appointed by the Town Chair.

There was no Fire District Report and the board approved January checks and bill payment credits of \$1,411,867.00.

Future agenda Items are to include Spring Clean Up Day scheduling and a Wisconsin Town’s Association transportation resolution addressing potential future State of WI funding.

Upcoming is the board’s March 10th meeting, 7:00 pm. The next voting opportunity will be the Spring Election, scheduled for April 07, 2026. Wisconsin voting information is available at myvote.wi.gov.

BLED SOE

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is, in a sense, to read many of the stories the author consumed before they put pen to page. In the case of Bledsoe’s new novel, this book is made partially of an indie comic that inspired him to create this world and the people who inhabit it. In fact, Mount Horeb’s most famous writer dedicated *While the City Never Sleeps* to its creator, Mark Bloodworth, who “single-handedly creat[ed] one of my favorite titles.”

Published by Falstaff Books, Bledsoe’s book is both new and comfortingly familiar stuff from the author of the Tufa novels, the Eddie LaCrosse books and the standalone supernatural thriller, *Dandelion*. He runs readers breathlessly through the lead-up to the climax of a layered story, minute by minute, over the course of three days.

When Shawcross, known as ‘The Dodger,’ a notorious crime boss’s attorney is beheaded by hired killers, it’s clear someone’s sending a message. But Stavros Kefali didn’t get to be top dog by scaring easily, so he sends

his go-to guy, Darren Flaxstone, to learn who’s behind it.

A pair of gritty detectives, Slade and Slaughter, are also on the case, and one of them has a secret source for street info: Lightning Girl, a vigilante fighting crime her way in the city’s poorest neighborhood.

Meanwhile, reporter Rebecca Hutchcraft is determined to unmask Lightning Girl, while rival gangster Harrison Marley thinks this might be the time to take on Kefali’s organization.

Hovering over all this is the upcoming Festival, Kefali’s super-secret once-in-a-lifetime event for the city’s

elites, where all questions may be answered...if anyone survives to ask them.

The book is by turns funny, gruesome and profound. It’s very easy to forget that this dark and complex world, full of shadows upon shadows, was crafted by an unassuming guy who many people around Mount Horeb chat with at their local coffee shop on a regular basis.

On the page, however, he wastes no time in painting a grim scene. In Ratway, rooftops are “as dangerous as streets and alleys.”

“The night air blew chilly this high, even though it was summer, and carried the tang of the polluted ship-

ping channel known as the Smoke River,” he writes. “In the distance, sirens from a variety of city vehicles wailed in a dissonant, quintessentially urban chorus. Below, on the streets, cars streaked from light to light, drivers itching to break free. A young woman, arms folded impatiently, waited for him.”

As the Festival approaches, the story unfolds, twisting and turning through alleys and over rooftops over the course of three breathless days.

At the heart of the book is Lightning Girl, who has many admirable and interesting traits, among them the

ability to escape the scourge of modern media. “At first, he’d tried to get a clear photograph,” reads one passage. “But nothing electronic worked in her vicinity, and no one he knew still used film cameras. So he finally gave up and accepted that he’d know only what she chose to reveal.”

In Ratway, Kefali’s mob runs roughshod, but Lightning Girl works to protect the most vulnerable in the places where little light can reach, save that which she brings with her.

“She’s a woman who can control electricity, and she exclusively protects the worst part of town,” Bledsoe explained. “She’s cranky and bad tempered, which I especially like.”

It’s Bledsoe’s 16th novel, but unlike many it’s – at least for now – a stand-alone story and not part of a series.

“You can definitely be looser,” he said of the creative process. “In the sense that you aren’t bound to anything you’ve already created.”

But after so many adventures in urban fantasy, Bledsoe knows what works, and he knows to trust his literary intuition.

“Each thing is its own thing, but if you are fully invested in the story, if you have the whole story in your head you just know where

it’s going to go next,” he said.

One of the many things for which Bledsoe’s work has received ample praise is the ability to make the unbelievable totally believable.

“You want real. That’s the goal. The trick is to always make sure the emotions are real,” he explained. “If the people in the story are afraid, or in love, or whatever, that’s something the reader can hold onto.”

“And even if you are writing a non-human character, it’s important to remember you are writing them for human readers,” he adds with a chuckle.

Bledsoe’s prior works include The Tufa Series: The Hum and the Shiver, Wisp of a Thing, Long Black Curl, Chapel of Ease, Gather Her Round, The Fairies of Sadieville; The Eddie La-Cross series: The Sword-Edged Blonde, Burn Me Deadly, Dark Jenny, Wake of the Bloody Angel, He Drank, and Saw the Spider; The Zginski novels: Blood Groove and The Girls with Games of Blood; and stand-alone works: Dandelion and Give the People What They Want. While the City Never Sleeps is published by Falstaff Books and is available now wherever good books are sold.

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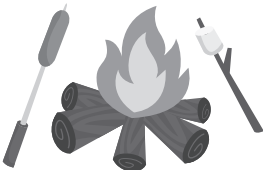
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ASSESSMENT

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must be to make an assessment on behalf of the state or a political subdivision.

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- The assessor’s visit must

not be more than one hour.

- The assessor must not open doors, enter through open doors, or look into windows of structures.
- If the property owner or occupant is not present, the assessor must leave a notice on the principal building providing the owner with information on how to contact them.
- The assessor may not

enter the premises if they have received a notice from the property owner or occupant denying them entry.

- The assessor must leave if the property owner or occupant asks them to leave.

In 2009, Wisconsin Act 68 was enacted to amend Section 70.05(5)(b) Wis. Stats. and to create Section 70.05 (4m), 895, 488, 943.13 (4m)

(d) and 943.15(1m) of the statutes; relating to: partially exempting an assessor and an assessor’s staff from liability for trespassing, creating immunity from civil liability, and changing the notice requirements relating to the revaluation of property by an assessor.

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FORUM

continued from page 1

by Mount Horeb Rotary, the *Mount Horeb Mail* and Cathy Scott, and coordinated with the League of Women Voters.

A total of six candidates – including incumbents Ben Jones and Jason Fendrick as well as Stephen Sopcak, Michelle Kelley, James Brager and Tamiko Clary – filed to run for two seats on the Mount Horeb Village Board this year. Fendrick and Sopcak were eliminated in a February 17 Primary Election, and the remaining four will face off again on Tuesday, April 7.

In the Primary, Michelle Kelley (22 percent), James Brager (22 percent), incumbent Ben Jones (22 percent) and Tamiko Clary (16 percent) all secured enough votes to move on to the final round. Kelley, Brager and Clary had all voiced opposition to the controversial Langhús on Main development proposal, and Jones cast a key vote against rezoning the land for it. Fendrick, who voted in favor of rezoning to allow for Langhús on Main, earned 14 percent of the vote. Stephen Sopcak, who had spoken against it, earned three percent.

But the latest local hot button issue is not the only significant issue, nor will it remain the top one. Other proposals, policies, opportunities and challenges will all come the village’s way in the coming years, and the candidates continue to make their cases for why they believe citizens should entrust them with the responsibility of guiding Mount Horeb into the future.

“I think it seems as though there are a lot of people that are very interested in local politics, and transparency is a big thing right now and knowing where people stand is kind paramount,” said Lance Maerz, one of the forum’s organizers.

Maerz said the recent surge in local engagement with municipal government is an encouraging sign for the community.

“I think it’s amazing,” he said. “I think it’s super en-

couraging and it makes me really excited about the future of Mount Horeb.”

Another of the forum’s organizers, Sondy Pope, a retired state lawmaker, said she is also pleased to see contested races and spirited debates. She acknowledged that the rise in local engagement was largely driven by Langhús but added that she hopes people remain passionate about local politics beyond that single issue.

“I think people woke up and said, ‘This is going to affect me, and I care,’” Pope said.

“I’m actually pretty happy to see there is an issue in this community that has stirred the convictions of people one way or another, because elections have consequences and vote,” Pope continued. “There are consequences for not showing up, and sometimes the people who get elected aren’t elected by the people who show up, but rather they are elected by the people who *don’t* show up.”

The candidates have all offered their perspectives and platforms in the days and weeks running up to the recent Primary, and the upcoming forum will provide them with an opportunity to further explain and bolster their views in a live setting.

Tamiko (Tammy) Clary has lived in Mount Horeb for more than 45 years and seen many changes, she said.

“I have an accounting degree and spent my career working in the insurance industry in auditing, compliance, operations and finance,” Clary continued. “The recent building proposal is my first opportu-

nity to become involved with the Village of Mount Horeb government and I do see opportunity where I could make a difference as a Trustee.”

“I would like to help drive our community to success with consistency as we navigate the housing crisis, high property taxes and adding businesses,” she added.

Ben Jones was born and raised in Dane County before moving to attend Saint Louis University and then the University of Minnesota Law School. Convinced it “was the best place to raise his family,” he moved to Mount Horeb in 2021. He lives in the Village with his wife, Traci, and their four young children.

Jones has worked as an attorney for several government agencies and currently serves as an Administrative Law Judge with the Wisconsin Division of Hearings and Appeals. Long committed to public service, he has served on numerous governmental and nonprofit boards since 2017. Jones was elected to the Mount Horeb Village Board in 2023 and currently chairs three village committees and serves as a village representative with Mount Horeb Area Fire District.

Jones said he is running for re-election to the board “to continue supporting responsible economic growth while preserving what makes Mount Horeb special. Additionally, I hope to lead us in meeting increasing demand for village services in a cost-effective and responsible manner to maximize the long-term health of the Village.”

James Brager grew up

in the village. “I lived here from early childhood until I graduated from Mount Horeb High School,” he said. “I then matriculated to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to study political science, and moved to Madison.”

“During college, I continued to work for my father’s business, Brager Heating and Cooling,” he said. “During that time, I also worked for the Wisconsin State Senate. In 2013 I bought Brager Heating and Cooling from my father and continue to run it to this day.”

“My wife Lacey and I moved back to Mount Horeb once we started our family, and we now have three strapping young boys as future Vikings!” Brager said. “I am running for Village Trustee because our village has lost its way. I want to help our Village Board represent the villagers better by listening to them, and not private interest.”

“The Village Board’s extreme thirst for ‘economic development’ is out of control, and the village needs to slow down and move more thoughtfully,” Brager continued. “I for one, would like to see our village remain small. We should not be in the business of giving countless exemptions of the zoning code to developers. We should also refrain from changing our zoning code until after the election and more public input can be sought. I want to help Mount

Horeb remain the charming and financially responsible place it is.”

Michelle Kelley lives in Mount Horeb with her husband, Mikel. “We have owned our home on South 4th Street for 25 years, where Mikel runs his ceramics studio and where we raised two beautiful daughters, Maggie and Erin, both of whom live in Madison now,” she said.

“I was raised on a dairy and hog farm in Pine Bluff, with my twin brother and I being the youngest of our large Irish Catholic family,” she continued. “My siblings and I are blessed with the most wonderful parents anyone could ask for, Bob and Rosie Farrell.”

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UW-Madison and a Master of Science in Organizational Behavior from Edgewood University. Kelley has worked in higher education administration for her entire career, primarily in Offices of the Registrar at three different institutions in the area. About a year and a half ago, she was ready for a change and now works as a Business Analyst for UW System.

“I am running for Village Trustee because I love this community and want to be actively involved in shaping its future. I strongly support preserving our historic downtown — keeping it both small and historic — while revitalizing it for

today’s world,” Kelley said. “I love hearing people respond with, ‘Oh, you’re from Mount Horeb? I love that place!’ when I say where I’m from. I want that sentiment to continue and grow, as capitalizing on our uniqueness and small-town feel benefits our community in countless ways.”

She said there “are thousands of possibilities for our downtown district that would allow us to preserve its character while thoughtfully bringing it into the 21st century. It will take creativity and collaboration, but that is what meaningful change is all about.”

“Beyond the historic downtown, I am eager to learn more about ways to responsibly increase our tax base and bring new businesses and housing to the community,” Kelley said. “Housing is a critical concern — we need more of it. I am particularly interested in approaches that would create affordable opportunities for those just starting out and wanting to start and raise families here. Creating ways to make Mount Horeb home for these folks would strengthen our community and our schools. I know firsthand that Mount Horeb is an incredible place to raise children and would love to be a part of providing that opportunity to others.”

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Johnson to lead ‘artistic exploration’ March 29

Marin Johnson is inviting the community to a free performance that will serve as an “artistic exploration” and a showcase that is part of a thesis project in her Master of Fine Arts in Choreography degree program from Jacksonville University. Johnson, co-owner of Forte Studios in Mount Horeb, began the program in June of 2024 and is on track to graduate on May 2 of this year.

“I’m exploring the importance of multigenerational exchange with a focus on the value of older dancers - go figure right! I’m an older dancer, haha!” she said.

The cast consists of eight dancers, including Johnson, ranging in age from pre-teen to their 70s. All of them have collaborated and contributed to the choreography.

“My hope is for the audience to have an experience that is reflective, entertaining, and showcases the value that we all have and

the importance of spending time with and learning from people of different generations, whether they are older or younger,” said Johnson. “Audiences will be invited to write on note cards and share a short story or lesson they have learned from someone of a different generation. They can post their cards on a bulletin board to share with others. Four of the cards will be chosen by the dancers to be read as part of the performance. This is one way we are including the audience in the experience.”

Performances will take place Sunday, March 29 at noon and 2:30 p.m. Each will last roughly 30 minutes with an optional Q and A afterward. The show is recommended for ages six and up. It is free and walk-ins are welcome, but organizers are hoping for reservations for planning purposes.

Johnson has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Dance from Point Park Univer-

sity in Pittsburgh, PA. She has studied with former Radio City Rockette, Jean Kettell, as well as with Nashville School of Ballet, Gary Harrison, TN Dance Theater, Royal Academy of Dance, TN Association of Dance, and Lou Conte Studios. She is a certified member of Dance Masters of Wisconsin and had earned certifications in Progressing Ballet Technique and Acrobatic Arts.

Johnson has enjoyed being a professional dancer, choreographer and dance educator throughout the United States and abroad since 1992. She has shared the stage with artists such as Brenda Lee, Wynonna Judd, Lee Greenwood, Pam Tillis, Steve Winwood and more. Her television credits include videos and specials for CBS, CMT, TNN, TBN, VH-1 and an array of local networks.

Johnson has also choreographed several large scale

productions for companies such as Radio Shack, Office Depot, Information Technologies and Redken, as well as for main stage shows such as Tribute in Concert, Superstars Live in Concert, and Country Tonight Theatre in Pigeon Forge, TN. Additional choreography credits include Music Theatre of Madison’s “Floyd Collins”, “Held”, “Parade”, “The Yellow Wallpaper”, “Ten Days in a Madhouse”, and “Who’s Your Baghdaddy?”; Celebrity Cruise Lines (Assistant Choreographer); Jigsaw Entertainment’s “Calling All Classics”; WSB Promotions; and several college and high school show choirs and dance teams.

At Forte, she has worked with all ages and skill levels from three-year-old beginners to adult working professionals. Before coming to Mount Horeb, she and her husband Wes successfully owned and operated A Step Ahead School of Performing Arts



Marin Johnson will lead a pair of free performances Sunday, March 29 at noon and 2:30 p.m. They will take place at Forte Studios, 102 South Grove Street, Mount Horeb. Scan the code at left to RSVP.

in Laverne, TN, just outside of Nashville. The pair also directed, taught and wrote shows for Cannon

County Arts Center’s summer intensive workshops.

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SPORTS

Fab Four

MH-B's Leonard, Stevens win state wrestling championships, while Kammerud and Maier take second

by DENNIS SEMRAU
Sports Reporter

MADISON — Seniors Eli Leonard and Hunter Stevens arrived at the Kohl Center on Thursday afternoon with one thought in mind.

Leave no doubt.

The dynamic duo made history becoming the first pair of Mount Horeb/Barneveld wrestlers to secure individual state championships in the same season when they dominated the field at the 83rd annual WIAA Division 2 individual state championship last Saturday evening.

“My goal obviously was to win,” said Leonard, who went a perfect 57-0 this season after pinning previously unbeaten Sawyer Dailley (48-1) of Plymouth in 1 minute, 48 seconds in their 190-pound title match.

“But my goal was also to dominate. I didn’t want to win by points, decision, or a major (decision). I wanted a tech fall or a pin.”

Leonard, a University of Wisconsin recruit, was the top-ranked 190-pound wrestler in Division 2, according to Wisconsin Grappler. He

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Mount Horeb-Barneveld’s Eli Leonard won a WIAA Division 2 state championship at 190 pounds last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

They are the champions

Mount Horeb tops Fort, wins share of Badger

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

FORT ATKINSON — The 101 days between practice No. 1 and the regular season finale had brought countless challenges and obstacles.

A surprising, early-season, three-game losing streak. Injuries to standouts Josh Manchester and Alex Chapman. And finding a way to make the impressive puzzle pieces somehow fit.

So as Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team joyously ran to the visiting locker room last Thursday night — now proud owners of a second straight Badger Small Conference title — there was only one suitable reaction.

A ‘Rebel Yell’ that would make Billy Idol proud.

The Vikings wrapped up a share of the league title with a 66-58 win at Fort Atkinson, then celebrated with a team-wide scream that might have shaken the windows of countless neighboring homes.

“I mean, this is special,” Mount Horeb senior guard Josh Manchester said.

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CHAMPS!

Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team was all smiles after winning a share of the Badger Small Conference title — then cutting down the nets on Feb. 26. Photo submitted

Mount Horeb poised for a playoff run

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

FORT ATKINSON — Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team is a stellar 81-24 during the four year, Josh Manchester-era.

The Vikings have won a pair of Badger Small Conference championships during that time, reached sectionals twice and were one game away from state a year ago.

So when Manchester makes the following statement, you listen.

“I’d say this is the most dangerous team I’ve ever played on in high school,” said Manchester, a senior guard. “I think we’re peaking.”

It certainly seems that way.

Mount Horeb downed Fort Atkinson, 66-58, on Feb. 26 and captured its second straight conference title. The Vikings tied for the league crown with McFarland and Sauk Prairie.

Mount Horeb, which has overcome injuries to Manchester and junior guard Alex Chapman, won its sixth straight game and is 11-1 in its last 12 contests.

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Vikings rally past Sauk Prairie

Mount Horeb reaches first regional final in 28 years

by **DAN LARSON**
Sports Reporter

No matter the outcome against Madison Edgewood last Saturday night, Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team had already reached a big milestone in program history.

The fourth-seeded Vikings accomplished that a night earlier, overcoming a sluggish start to notch a 50-42 win over fifth-seeded Sauk Prairie in a WIAA Division 2 regional semifinal.

For the first time in 28 years — since the 1997-98 season — the Vikings advanced to a regional championship game.

“So it’s been a long time,” Vikings coach Bart Leibfried said.

No kidding. And early on, it looked like the drought might last another year.

Mount Horeb (15-10) managed only 11 points over the first 14 minutes of the game before freshman Jami Chapman jump started the offense with a traditional three point play that got the Vikings within 20-14 with 3 minutes, 40 seconds to go in the half.

A 3-pointer by junior Courtney Monroe made it 20-17, and the Vikings trailed 22-17 at halftime.

They woke up just in time to stay within striking distance of the Eagles (13-12) at the break.

“I think we were just jittery because now we’re in the playoffs,” Monroe said. “Normally we don’t play like that. We were in our heads.”

Mount Horeb has only one senior on the roster — Nalia Craven — so the general lack of experience may have played a part, too.

“We’re really young,” Leibfried said. “We’re putting freshmen and sophomores and juniors out there, and we just played too fast. Our feet were moving a thousand miles an hour, and our head was going a thousand miles an hour. We took some 3s that we’ve never taken all year, from 25 feet.”

Leibfried needed his team to collect itself.

“I said, ‘Slow down!’ I think a thousand times tonight,” he said. “And ‘Calm down.’”

Finally, the Vikings listened.

But the Eagles still had the lead. And they had that lead thanks in large part to their defense.

“Just flying around and



communication,” Eagles coach Seth Kostroski said of Sauk Prairie’s stellar defense. “We were jumping to the ball, a little bit of ball pressure, communicating on screens — fighting around screens. We played well on defense in the first half.”

The Eagles also handled Mount Horeb’s full-court pressure much better than they did in the previous two meetings, a 51-33 win for the visiting Vikings on Jan. 8 and a 46-21 home victory on Feb. 10.

“Handling their pressure was our No. 1 point of emphasis the entire week. It was priority number one: Can we take care of the ball? Can we limit our turnovers?” Kostroski said. “The last two times we played them, we combined for 50-ish turnovers. That’s too many turnovers to win.”

After two lopsided losses against the Vikings, the Eagles chose to mix things up and break Mount Horeb’s press a little differently in the third go-round.

“They had (6-footer) Mallory (Hartwig) up front. She’s a little bigger and can see over the top of the traps,” Leibfried said of Hartwig. “She made better passes. They made that adjustment, which was smart of them to do.”

The Eagles also struck first in the second half, a 3-pointer from the right wing by junior guard Audrey Brickl that made it 25-17.

But the Vikings responded by going on a 21-6 run over the next 10 minutes and surged to a 38-31 lead with 6:52 remaining.

The ringleader of Mount Horeb’s momentous surge was Monroe, who had just three points before halftime, but erupted for 16 in the second half — with 14 of those



On top, Mount Horeb’s Lauren Mester (1) and Courtney Monroe (22) trap Sauk Prairie’s Haylie Bader during a WIAA Division 2 regional semifinal last Friday. Above, the Vikings’ Magali Forlines (4) looks to drive on the Eagles’ Mallory Hartwig. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

coming during the decisive run.

“I just knew I needed to pick it up,” Monroe said. “I wasn’t playing very good in the first half, and I knew I needed to pick it up.”

Monroe got going in the second half by getting to the free throw line, making 1-of-2 attempts.

Then she sandwiched four 3-pointers around a high-low feed from Lauren Mester to Chapman.

The first three of those triples all came courtesy of flare screens.

“One thing everyone on our team does super well is when someone’s hot we always try to get the ball in their hands so they can keep shooting,” said Mester, who had 12 points in the game.

The last of Monroe’s four triples during that run was a bit more adventurous.

She collected a skip pass from the opposite wing and drained a triple to make it 38-31.

“I’m not sure about the skip pass,” Leibfried said with an eyebrow raised. “But it got there. And she knocked it down, so ...”

Kostroski said his team lost containment of Monroe during that stretch, attributing a substitution and subsequent miscommunication as one of the reasons and being caught off guard by the skip pass as another.

But ultimately, he said Monroe just found a way to get open.

“She played really well,” Kostroski said of Monroe.

The Eagles answered Mount Horeb’s big run with a mini surge of their own, scoring five straight points — on a backdoor cut by Mallory Hartwig, a free

throw by Haylie Bader and a cut to the hoop by Kenzi Kleist — to close within 38-36 with 3:39 remaining.

Later, Kleist got to the line and made a pair of free throws to keep the Eagles’ deficit at two at 42-40 with 2:24 left.

But that’s when Sauk Prairie ran out of steam, allowing Mount Horeb to advance to the regional finals.

Defense proved crucial for the Vikings after half-time, not just during their big run, but in the clutch as well.

In those two stretches, lasting 10 minutes and then 2:30 to close out the game, respectively, Mount Horeb limited Sauk Prairie to a combined eight points.

“We started turning up the heat,” Mester said. “We started putting more pressure on them and giving

more effort.

“We pride ourselves on defense,” added Monroe. “When we play good defense, our offense will come off of that.”

A big key to the second-half defense for Mount Horeb was not allowing Sauk Prairie to get into rhythm.

“We did a better job of pressuring their guards, and not letting them get into the lane,” Leibfried said.

Monroe led the Vikings with 19 points, while Lester (12) and Chapman (10) each scored in double figures, as well. Craven (five) and Julia Straka (four) also chipped in.

“Our whole team is able to score, and we know that,” Monroe said. “In the first half, we struggled because we were playing individually. In the second half, we knew we had to play more as a team. That’s part of the reason we were able to get better passes.”

Sauk Prairie was also balanced. Junior Savannah Liegel led the way with 10 points, but five others also scored at least four points and seven girls scored in all.

Among the seven scorers, four were juniors. Seniors Hartwig (nine points), Brooklyn Kaufman (six) and Haylie Bader (one) combined for 16 points, meaning the other 26 points were scored by players who will be back next season.

A lot of the 2025-26 campaign was a learning experience for the Eagles, who were under the guidance of a first year head coach and should also benefit from continuity on the coaching staff.

“I think the atmosphere and the intensity and the focus and our preparation was so important,” Kostroski said. “Hopefully next year, before it gets to a regional game, we can focus on the little details so we have more games like this, and the level we were locked in.

“This game was by far our most focused and intense. Everyone was locked in.”

MOUNT HOREB 50, SAUK PRAIRIE 42
Sauk Prairie 22 20 -- 42
Mount Horeb 17 33 -- 50
SAUK PRAIRIE -- (fgm ftn-fts pts) Savannah Liegel 4 2-2 10, Kenzi Kleist 1 2-2 4, Sophia Hanson 2 0-0 5, Audrey Brickl 2 2-2 7, Mallory Hartwig 3 2-2 9, Brooklyn Kaufman 4 2-2 6, Haylie Bader 0 1-2 1. Totals: 14 11-12 42.
MOUNT HOREB -- Lauren Mester 3 4-4 12, Julia Straka 2 0-0 4, Nalia Craven 1 2-2 5, Courtney Monroe 5 4-6 19, Jami Chapman 3 3-3 10. Totals: 14 13-15 50.
3-pointers: SP 3 (Hanson 1, Brickl 1, Hartwig 1), MH 9 (Mester 2, Craven 1, Monroe 5, Chapman 1). **Total fouls:** SP 15, MH 16. Fouled out: Kaufman.



Sammy Johnson (2), head coach Bart Leibfried (right) and Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team reached the regional finals before losing to Madison Edgewood last Saturday. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



Edgewood ends Vikings’ season

Mount Horeb’s offense goes silent in loss to Crusaders
by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

It didn’t end the way they had hoped. Precious few teams have their season end with a win, though. Still, it was a memorable year for Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team. The Vikings fell to host Madison Edgewood, 59-21, in a WIAA Division 2 regional final last Saturday. And that marked the first time in 28 years — since the 1997-98 season — that the Vikings had reached the regional finals. “That was a positive,” Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said. “How we played was another story, but at this point I am happy with the steps forward our program is taking.” Mount Horeb, which was the No. 4 seed in its half of the sectional, finished the year 15-11 overall. The Vikings also went 11-3 in the Badger Small Conference, which was good for second place. Top-seeded Edgewood, the state runner-up last season and this year’s Badger Small Conference champs, improved to 20-6. The Crusaders, gunning for their third straight trip to state, advanced to the sectional semifinals where they’ll face second-seeded

Milton Thursday at 7 p.m. at Oregon High School. Mount Horeb hung around early, and trailed, 24-14, coming out of a timeout with 6:42 left in the first half. “I told our assistant coaches that this was going to be the most critical six minutes of our season,” Leibfried said. “It was, but not in the way we wanted.” That’s for sure. Edgewood closed the first half on a 17-0 run and sprinted to a 41-14 half-time lead. Crusaders’ standouts Anna Miller, a junior guard and a University of Wisconsin recruit, and junior guard Beanie Thompson combined for 33 of Edgewood’s 41 first half points. “Great players who just play the game right on both

ends of the floor and it was very clear why they are Division 1 college players,” Leibfried said of Miller and Thompson. “Anna took Courtney Monroe out of the game defensively and did not let her get any great looks after the first possession where she knocked down her only 3-pointer of the game.” The Vikings went ice cold and scored just 10 points in the last 30 minutes of the game. “We really struggled handling the ball against their aggressive half court man-to-man and when we did get a good look just could not make any shots,” Leibfried said. “We took a season low volume of shots and shot a season low percentage which is

not an equation for success against a team as good as Edgewood.” Despite the loss, things are certainly looking up for the Vikings. Mount Horeb loses just one senior, forward Nalia Craven. And with several key cogs expected back, the Vikings could take an even bigger leap next season. “We have a great group of kids who are fun to be around,” Leibfried said. “It makes a long season so much more fun when you enjoy being around and working with your team. “The future is bright with returning players and our numbers will be better with a nice group of eighth graders entering the program next season. “We have a lot to work

on this offseason and I have no doubt they will put the time in to come back better next season.”

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MoHo gymnasts headed back to state

Vikings make record setting 39th trip to the state meet

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

— “Nothing is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty.”

The great Teddy Roosevelt, who makes up one fourth of Mount Rushmore, delivered that memorable quote more than a century ago.

Even today, that line rings true.

Just ask Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team.

The Vikings were assigned to the WIAA Division 2 Dodgeville Sectional — one of the toughest in the state. But Mount Horeb shined, held off a gifted field of challengers, and qualified for the state tournament for a record setting 39th time.

Dodgeville’s co-op won last Saturday’s sectional with a 141.40 team score, while Mount Horeb was second at 141.125. Monona Grove (137.70), Southwestern (135.25) and Watertown (132.075) rounded out the top five at the eight team sectional.

The top two teams advanced to the state meet, which will be held Friday at Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School beginning at noon.

“Despite facing some very talented competition, our team rose to the challenge and battled from start to finish,” Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. “There were moments when we had to dig deep — and these Viking gymnasts did just that.

“Through grit, determination and an unwavering commitment to one another, our girls fought for every tenth (of a point). They encouraged each other and competed with heart.”

Mount Horeb also had a bevy of gymnasts qualify for the individual state tournament, which will be held Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.

The top five finishers in each event at sectionals earn a trip to individual state, and Mount Horeb will be extremely well represented there.

Harper Hendrickson was fourth in the all-around competition with a 35.425, while Sylvia Seeliger was fifth (35.325).

Carmen Oglesby was third on the balance beam (9.15) and Hendrickson was fifth (9.075).

Hendrickson was fourth



on the floor exercise (9.05) and Oglesby was fifth on the vault (9.10).

“Having four individual qualifiers this year is incredibly exciting,” Koller Faust said. “As my mom and dad used to say, ‘Getting to state as an individual is the icing on the cake,’ and that truly rings true. I’m so excited to see how Carmen, Sylvia, Harper and Averi perform in their events this weekend.”

Of course, the first goal is always the state team tournament, and Mount Horeb is making its annual pilgrimage to Wisconsin Rapids.

In the Vikings’ 38 trips to state, they’ve produced six state championships, which ranks fourth in state history. Mount Horeb also has 12 second place finishes and eight third place finishes.

The Vikings will take aim at another top-end finish after a terrific performance at sectionals.

In addition to Mount Horeb’s individual state qualifiers, here’s how the other Vikings fared at sectionals.

• **Vault** — Harper Hendrickson was sixth with a 9.05, Seeliger was 10th (8.65) and Avena Meyers was 15th (8.45).

• **Uneven bars** — Tessa Soppe was eighth (8.30) and Hendrickson was ninth (8.25).

• **Beam** — Kalscheur was sixth (9.025) and Seeliger was eighth (8.95).

• **Floor** — Kalscheur was sixth (9.0), Seeliger was



Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team (top) qualified for this weekend’s WIAA Division 2 state meet. Photo submitted

Above, Harper Hendrickson qualified for state in the all-around competition. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

ninth (8.95) and Oglesby was 14th (8.75).

“We earned our spot at the state meet — not just because of talent, but because of the toughness, trust and belief this team has built all season long,” Koller Faust said. “Through persever-

ance and heart, we reached our main goal of qualifying for the team state meet — an accomplishment that reflects not just talent, but toughness and team unity.

“I couldn’t be more proud of how this team competed. They proved that the higher

the goal, the higher they rise.”

Now, the Vikings hope to have another memorable performance at state this weekend.

“As we prep for the state meet, our goal is simple: stay sharp, stay positive and trust

the work that got us here,” Koller Faust said. “We’re incredibly excited for the opportunity, and above all, we want our gymnasts to soak in the experience and enjoy every moment.

“No matter the outcome, simply earning a spot at the state meet is an outstanding accomplishment. They’ve already achieved something special and that’s something to be proud of.”

Feb. 28 WIAA Division 2 Dodgeville Sectional

Team scores: Dodgeville 141.40, Mount Horeb 141.125, Monona Grove 137.70, Southwestern 135.25, Watertown 132.075, Platteville co-op 130.70, River Valley co-op 107.875.

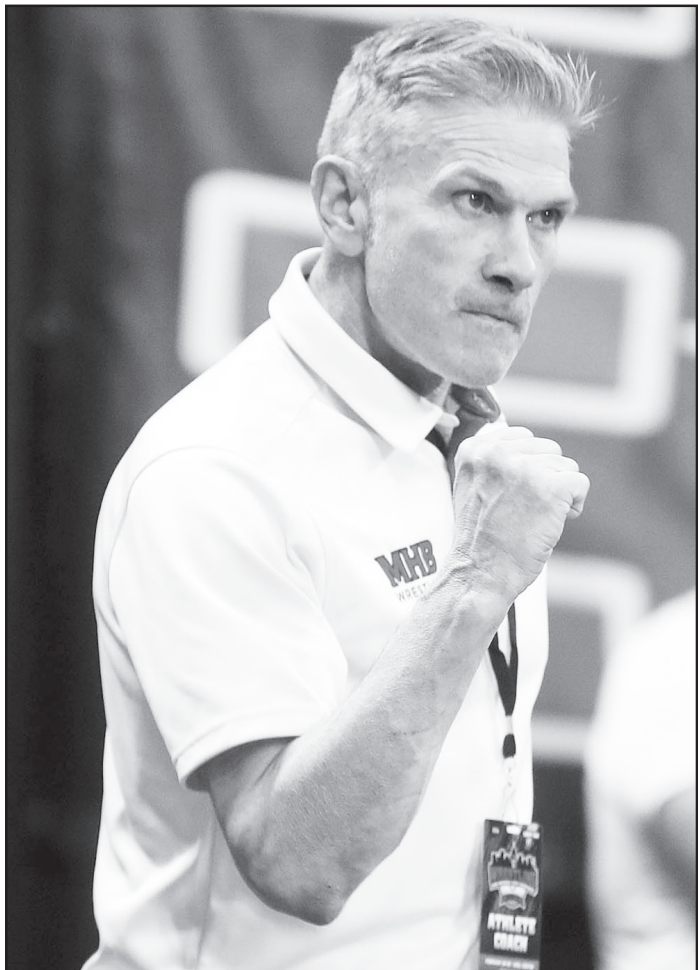
Mount Horeb scores (top 5 finishers qualify for individual state):

Vault — 5. Carmen Oglesby, 9.10; 6. Harper Hendrickson, 9.05; 10. Sylvia Seeliger 8.65; 15. Avena Meyers 8.45.

Uneven bars — 3. Sylvia Seeliger, 8.775; 5. Averi Kalscheur 8.60; 8. Tessa Soppe, 8.30; 9. Harper Hendrickson, 8.25.

Beam — 3. Carmen Oglesby, 9.15; 5. Harper Hendrickson, 9.075; 6. Averi Kalscheur, 9.025; 8. Sylvia Seeliger, 8.95.

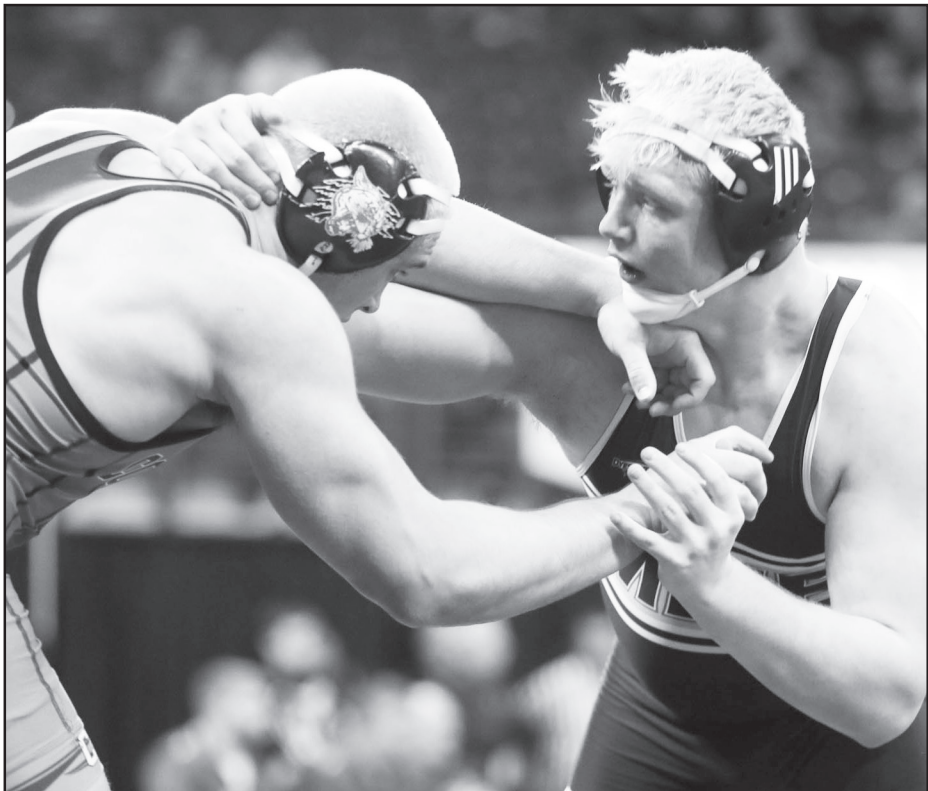
Floor — 4. Harper Hendrickson, 35.425; 6. Averi Kalscheur, 9.0; 9. Sylvia Seeliger, 8.95; 14. Carmen Oglesby, 8.75.

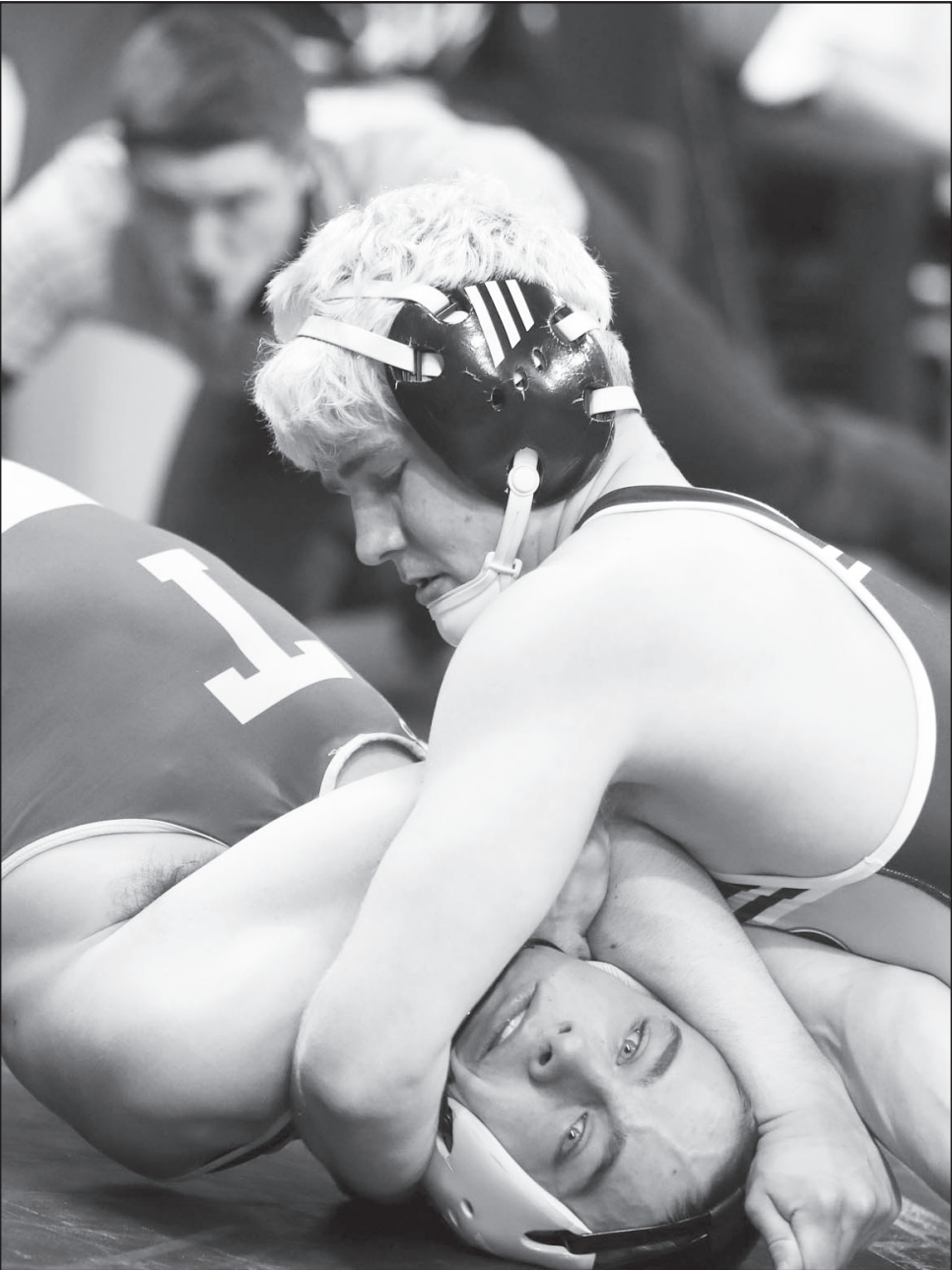


Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

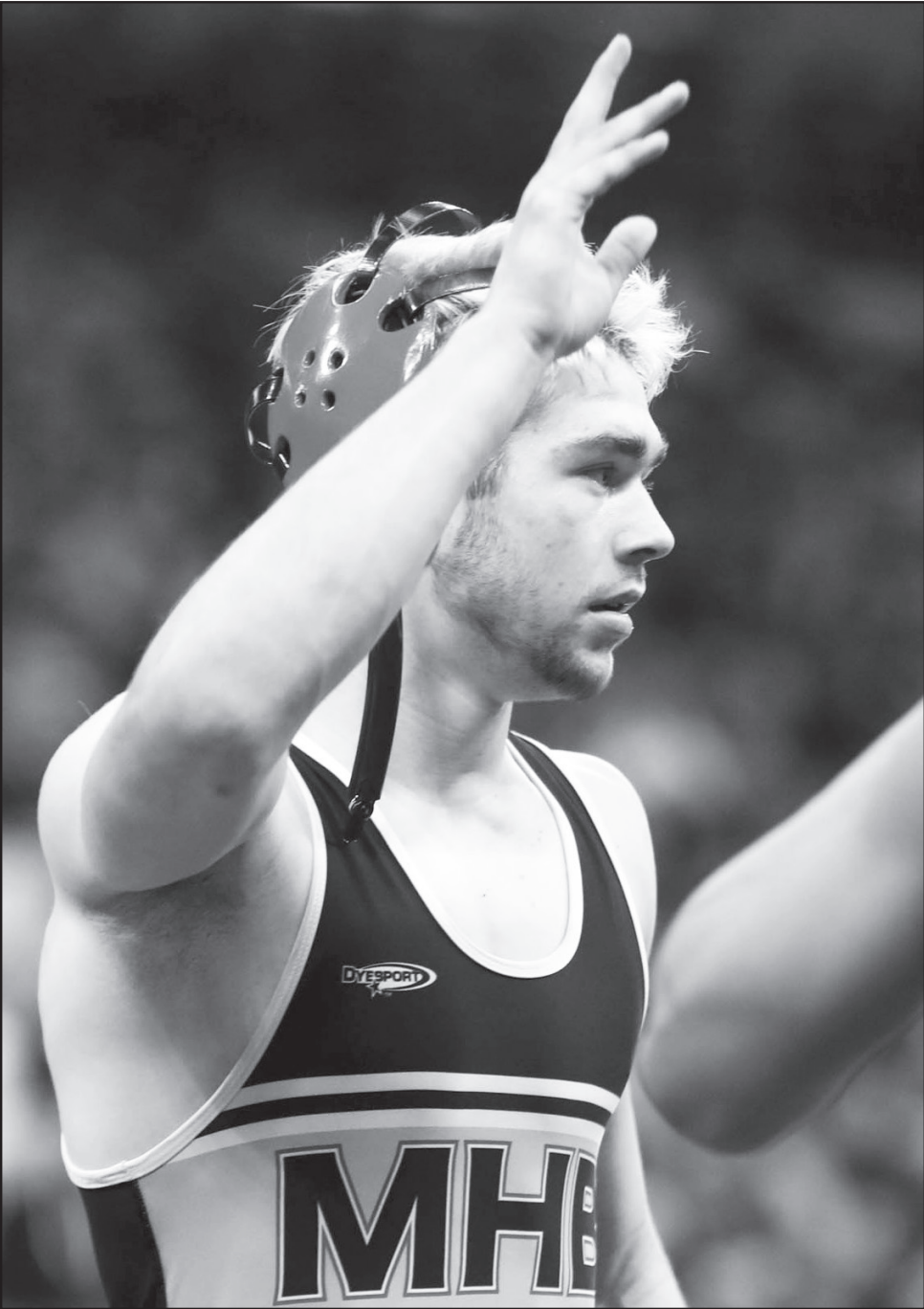
What a weekend!
Mount Horeb-Barneveld sent seven wrestlers to the WIAA Division 2 state meet. Clockwise from top:

- MH-B coach Tim Sarbacker had a lot to be fired up about during the Vikings' memorable weekend.
- Freshman Bryce Madden qualified for state at 106 pounds.
- MH-B sophomore Amelia Soltis finished fifth in the 165-pound division.
- Freshman Maxton Stevens went 2-2 at state in the 132-pound division.
- MH-B's Leland Havens finished in fifth place in the heavyweight division.





Mount Horeb-Barneveld’s Hunter Stevens (above) won a state championship at 150 pounds, while Eli Maier (right) was second at 175. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



WRESTLE

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became the first Vikings’ wrestler to win a state championship since Matt Blome earned the 182-pound title in 2016.

“That was my goal last year,” said Leonard, who finished with a career mark of 195-12. “But I knew it was going to happen this year.”

A four-time state place winner in four different weights, Leonard got a measure of revenge after losing in the Division 1 state finals at 175 pounds a year ago to Liam Cook of Kaukauna.

“I knew I had the ability to finish it off, but executing is another thing,” said Leonard, who was fifth at 132 pounds as a freshman and fourth at 165 before last year’s runner-up finish. “I executed my game plan.

“I just tried to keep everything the same. From day one, that’s what the coaches preached. I did that the entire day and got the job done.”

Just like Leonard, Stevens had to wait a year longer for his first state title.

Stevens, who began his prep career at Iowa-Grant where he was a two-time state place winner, had to sit out last year after transferring. He then made his only varsity season for the Vikings one to remember.

The fifth-seeded Stevens (55-2) pummeled seventh-

seeded Jacob Lootans (49-7) of Regis/Altoona 15-0 and won by technical fall in 2:36 in the 150-pound championship match.

“I was going out knowing I didn’t get the seed I wanted, knowing I’m the best and working to prove everybody wrong,” said Stevens, who knocked off No. 1 seed Westin Ingham of Amery and fourth-seeded Max Gonzalez of East Troy on his way to the title

“I didn’t look down at (Lootans) in the finals. I knew he was in the finals for a reason but I was going in to win the battle. I went in, gave it all I had. It was my last high school match, let’s go.”

While Stevens couldn’t compete for the Vikings a year ago, he competed in college opens to hone his skills. But he was glad to be back at state for one last shot at a championship.

“It was well worth the wait,” he said. “I got back on the mat out there for the first session on Thursday. My adrenaline was up. It felt so good to be in this big of an arena and compete in front of all these people and compete against some great wrestlers. I was so grateful to be back.”

Mount Horeb/Barneveld brought nine wrestlers — seven boys and two girls — and left with six podium finishes.

Third-year head coach Tim Sarbacker said he couldn’t have asked for any-

thing more out of his dream team, which won the unofficial coaches team championship not only for Division 2, but for all divisions.

“If they’re getting bonus points and giving it all they’ve got, you can’t ask for anything more,” Sarbacker said. “That’s how you win team championships. Everybody’s got good kids. It’s balanced.

“What separates you is working hard enough in the match to score eight or more points or get pins. That’s what they’re doing. The results speak for themselves.”

Not only did Leonard and Hunter Stevens end a 10-year championship drought for the Vikings, but they had plenty of company on the award stands with four other podium finishers.

Junior Eli Maier took second at the opening weight of 175 pounds, while freshman Easton Kammerud was second at 165 pounds.

Freshman Leland Havens made his mark with a fifth-place finish at 215 pounds, while in the girls’ competition, junior Amelia Soltis made her second straight appearance a success with a fifth-place finish at 165 pounds.

“We have eight freshmen and sophomores on our team and three of the freshmen placed,” Sarbacker said. “I know how hard they work and it took a lot to get them to believe. I think we’re just getting started.”

Maier (53-5) lost an 11-6

decision to third-seeded Thomas Heiser (50-1) of Evansville in that title match.

A third-place finisher at 165 pounds at state last year, Maier was looking for revenge against Heiser, who defeated him in the sectional finals.

“He finally got through to the finals,” Sarbacker said of Maier. “They’re never easy. We had, I thought, a pretty good game plan. He had a lead on him, but you’ve got to wrestle all three periods. He came back and scored on us, and we couldn’t quite get over the hump.

“It’s like splitting hairs. We were super close, but you’ve got to finish the match. Tonight wasn’t our night.

“Eli’s a competitor. He’ll be working really hard to come back. We’ll get him next time. He’ll bounce back. He’ll be the first one in the (wrestling) room tomorrow after a tough loss like that.”

Leonard agreed.

“It’s unfortunate. He worked too hard not to get the goal he wanted,” Leonard said of Maier. “He’ll be back next year. It will be his turn.”

Kammerud (24-5) had an even tougher test in the finals when he faced three-time defending state champion senior Haakon Peterson of Dodgeville, who entered the tournament field with a career mark of 170-0.

Peterson (50-0) prevailed with a 15-4 major decision over Kammerud (24-5).

“Another freshman, Easton’s had a heck of a season,” Sarbacker said. “He had a knee infection, so he spent most of January out. It’s hard to train and do anything.

“The week of conference is when he came back. He lost to Gage Gross at conference, who won the Division 1 title. He also lost to Hudson’s J.D. Minder-Broeck, who was in the Division 1 finals.

“Easton’s a phenomenal talent, especially at 165 for a freshman. He’s young for his weight class. He also lost to Peterson in the sectional final, who is ranked number four in the nation and is going to the University of Michigan, but he wrestled him tough. To be in the finals at that weight as a freshman is impressive.”

After losing a tough match in the semifinals, Havens rebounded with a vengeance with a pin and two major decisions in the consolation rounds He earned a fifth-place finish with an 11-3 major decision over Osceola’s Elliot Havlish.

“He got two big wins to finish fifth to keep us in the top place in the overall team standings,” Sarbacker said of Havens. “As a freshman to get on the stands at that weight class is a big deal.”

Havens said the best is yet to come.

“That was my main goal, to get on the podium,” Havens said. “Obviously, it wasn’t what we wanted. We wanted to be in the finals match. My goal was to place, so we got my goal done.”

Havens said when he was in the stands as a fan a year ago, he envisioned himself getting an opportunity to make his mark at state.

Mission accomplished.

“Coach (Sarbacker) made sure we had the right mindset going into matches, to make sure we were ready to go with a winning mindset,” Havens said. “Last year, I was here watching. I was thinking I was going to be down here next year.

“I knew it was going to be tough, and I kind of doubted myself. I didn’t know if I was going to place or not, but I knew today I was going to place. That was my goal, and I got it.”

For the girls, Soltis also finished strong after getting pinned in the quarterfinals. She recorded a major decision and a pin in the consolation rounds before pinning Shiocton’s Shealyn Anday, in 2:03 in their fifth-place match.

“It was the first time (on the podium) for Amelia. She lost in the blood rounds last year,” Sarbacker said. “She’s climbing the ladder and won her medal match. She’s super pumped. She’s going to be a threat to win

continued on page 17

WRESTLE

continued from page 16

a title. She’s getting in the mix. I’m really proud of her.”

Soltis said she was proud to accomplish her goal of getting on the medal stand.

“But we’re going for gold next year,” she added. “I really appreciate being here. I understand the work that it takes to get here.

“I try to put in perspective on how hard work can pay off. What you put in, you get out. It’s really an amazing experience to look up and see the stands full of people. It’s kind of scary, but it’s a good scary.”

Freshman Maxton Stevens, Hunter’s younger brother, came up one match short of the medal round when he lost 6-4 in the consolation semifinals to Adam Kautzer (47-10) of Neillsville/Greenwood.

“It was a really, close match,” Sarbacker said. “That was a heartbreaker, but he’s had a whale of a season. He wrestled so many top kids who are on the podium. He’s super close. Only a freshman, he had a hell of a tournament.”

Sarbacker agreed that overall, it was a historic season for a program with a bright future.

“We peaked at the right time,” Sarbacker said. “This was the best time to do it. Getting six of nine on the stands and two state champions backs that up.”

Mount Horeb/Barneveld individual results
BOYS

106: Bryce Madden (43-14), Did not place, 0 points. Champ. Rd of 16: lost by dec. to Hunter Seefeldt (32-13), Coleman, 10-3; Cons. Sub-Quarters: received bye; Cons. Quarters: pinned by Michael Sirek (39-6), Rice Lake, 2:04.

132: Maxton Stevens (37-21) DNP, 6 points. Champ. Rd of 16: lost by maj. dec. to Michael Ciancio (36-4), Coleman, 16-4; pinned Rhett Welsing (31-21), Denmark, 3:00; Cons. Quarters: pinned Caleb Horwath (22-13), Fort Atkinson, 0:58; Cons. Semis: lost by dec. to Adam Kautzer (47-10), Neillsville/Greenwood, 6-4.

150: Hunter Stevens (55-2) first place, 27.5 points. Champ. Rd of 16: pinned Wyatt Bennett (35-12), Turner, 1:25; Quarters: pinned Max Gonzalez (20-1), East Troy, 5:46; Semis: won by dec. over Westin Ingham (45-3), Amery, 2-1; 1st Place Match: won by tech fall over Jacob Lootans Jr. (49-7), Regia/Altoona, 15-0 (2:36).

165: Easton Kammerud (44-11) second place, 21.5

points. Champ. Rd of 16: won by tech fall over David Aguilar (44-10), Arcadia, 17-0 (4:49); Quarters: on by dec. over Adam Haas (24-3), Shoreland Lutheran, 11-4; Semis: pinned Nolan Larsen (46-9), Denmark, 3:24. 1st Place Match: lost by maj. dec. to Haakon Peterson (50-0), Dodgeville, 15-4.

175: Eli Maier (53-5) second place, 19.5 points. Champ. Rd of 16: won by tech fall over Benacee Jacker (39-18), Little Chute, 16-0 (3:29); Quarters: won by dec. over Steven Kiel-pikowski (48-5), Denmark, 7-0; Semis: won by dec. over Spencer Madsen (49-2), Sturgeon Bay/Sevastopol, 7-2; 1st Place Match: lost by dec. to Thomas Heiser (50-1), Evansville, 11-6.

190: Eli Leonard (57-0) first place, 29.5. Champ. Rd of 16: Received bye. Quarters: won by tech. fall over Caden Anderson (49-9), West Salem/Bangor, 1601 (2:13); Semis: wo by medical forfeit over Aaron Duni-gan (46-4), G-E-T; 1st Place Match: pinned Sawyer Dai-ley (48-1) Plymouth, 1:48.

215: Leland Havens (46-8) fifth place, 13 points. Champ. Rd of 16: won by dec. over Bryce Seefeldt

(41-6) Coleman, 4-2; lost by dec. to Max Matthias (31-0) Sr., Two Rivers, 4-1; Mat 1 - Bout 2245 - Cons. Quarters: pinned Jakob So-back (29-12), Spenser.Co-lumbus/Granton, 2:19; won by maj. dec. over Jaren Han-sen (45-13), Mauston/Nece-dah, 11; 5th Place Match: won by maj. dec. over Elliot Havlish (53-5), Osceola, 11-3.

GIRLS

100: Bronte Bethel (34-14) DNP, 3 points. Champ. Rd of 16: pinned by Aini Anderson (45-2) Holmen, 0:21; Cons. Sub-Quarters: pinned E’Mariah Watts (29-7) Kenosha Bradford, 3:47; Cons. Quarters: pinned by Ellie Hultman (52-8) Bay Port, 1:52.

165: Amelia Soltis (47-4) fifth place, 16 points. Champ. Rd of 16: pinned Serenity Salas (45-6) West-osha Central, 1:23; Quar-ters: pinned by Alisha Berg (53-5) Bonduel, 1:12; Cons. Quarters: won by maj. dec. over Britney Petsche (40-10) Prairie du Chien, 17-3; Cons. Semis: pinned Ari-anna Niemojuski (27-6) Kewaunee, 3:07; 5th Place Match: pinned Shealyn Anday (49-8), Shiocton, 2:03.



Mount Horeb-Barneveld’s Easton Kammerud finished second at state at 165 pounds. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT
APRIL 7, 2026 SPRING ELECTION
VILLAGES OF
MOUNT HOREB & BLUE MOUNDS
TOWNS OF SPRINGDALE, PERRY,
BLUE MOUNDS, CROSS PLAINS,
PRIMROSE & VERMONT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on **Tuesday, April 7, 2026** for the Spring Election may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. Citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on election day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot.

TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT,
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MUNICIPAL
CLERK, OR GO TO MYVOTE.WI.GOV

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the Spring Election. You may also request an absentee ballot by letter, email, or fax. Your written request must list your voting (registered) address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, your name, and your signature (if by letter or fax). Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, overseas, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, please contact your municipal clerk. You can also personally go to the clerk’s office, complete a written certification, and vote an absentee ballot in-person. YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR PHOTO ID TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT.

The deadline for making application to vote absentee by mail is 5:00 P.M., on the Thursday before the election – April 2, 2026. Dates and times for absentee voting in the Clerk’s office are determined by each municipality, but no earlier than Tuesday, March 24, 2026 and no later than Sunday, April 5, 2026. The times set by each municipality for the spring election are listed below.

All voted ballots must be returned to the municipal clerk **by the voter** by mail, in-person, or via drop box, so the ballots can be delivered to the proper polling place before the polls close on April 7, 2026, the day of the election. **Ballots will not be counted if they are received after 8:00pm on election day. Ballots must be delivered by the person who voted the ballot, with the exception of voters with disabilities. They have the right to assistance in returning their absentee ballot.**

To obtain an absentee ballot send a written request to:

Village of Mount Horeb
Alyssa Gaffney, Clerk

138 E. Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Email: alyssa.gaffney@mounthorebwi.info
Phone: 608-437-9404
Office hours: 7a-4:30p Mon-Thurs
7am-12:00pm Fridays
Absentee Voting hours: Weekdays
March 24th-April 3rd 9am-3pm and
Sat, April 4th 10am-2pm

Town of Blue Mounds
Amanda Burghy, Clerk
10566 Blue Vista Rd
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
Absentee Voting hours: Mar 24th-26th and
Mar 30th-Apr 3rd 9am-1pm, or by Appt.
Tel: 608-437-8722

Town of Vermont
Katie Zelle, Clerk
4017 County Road JJ
Black Earth, WI 53515
Absentee Voting by Appointment
Tel: 608-767-2457

Village of Blue Mounds
Mary Jo Michek, Clerk/Treasurer
PO Box 189, 11011 Brigham Avenue
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
Office hours: Mon-Thurs 8am-4:30pm
Absentee Voting hours: Mar 24th-26th
and Mar 30th-Apr 2nd 8am-4:30pm and
Fri Apr 3rd 8am-2pm
Tel: 608-437-5197 ext. 1

Town of Cross Plains
Jennifer Broberg, Clerk
3734 County Road P
Cross Plains, WI 53528
Absentee Voting hours: Mar 24th-26th, 31st, and
Apr 1st & 3rd 5:30-7pm
and Mar 30th and Apr 2nd 5-6:30pm
Tel: 608-798-0189

Town of Primrose
Matthew Waite, Clerk
8468 County Road A
Verona, WI 53593
Absentee Voting by Appointment
Tel: 608-571-2988

Town of Springdale
Jackie Arthur, Clerk
2379 Town Hall Road
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Absentee Voting by Appointment from 1-6pm
on Mar 24th, 30th, and 31st
Tel: 608-437-6230

Town of Perry
Mary Price, Clerk
1004 State Hwy 78
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Absentee Voting by Appointment
Tel: 608-437-4553
mlprice@mhtc.net

Publish: 3/5/26 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF SPRINGDALE
COMMERCIAL HVAC REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Town of Springdale in Dane County is requesting bids for a new commercial ventilation system for its Town shop/garage. Interested contractors may contact Chair John Rosenbaum at chair@springdalewi.gov for technical plans. Contact Devin Dahlk at 608-444-5707 to view the building. Bids are due no later than 5 pm on April 17. Bids will be opened at the April 21st town board meeting. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Submit bids to: Town of Springdale, 2379 Town Hall Road, Mount Horeb, WI 52572 or adminclerk@springdalewi.gov

Publish: 3/5/26, 3/12/26 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PERRY
TOWN BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 7:30 PM
Perry Town Hall, 10084 County Highway A

1. Call to order. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Announcements.
3. Comments by Town residents – non-agenda items.
4. Land Use: a. Michelle Thode, 10864 CTH A – land division, zoning changes, site plan, and driveway for residence.
5. Roads, Equipment, Facilities –
 - a. Recycling Center operations –
 - b. Sale of Western Star truck update.
 - c. Road salt contract – 2026-2027.
 - d. Bridge Inspection options.
6. Mt. Horeb Area School District updates – Dr. Steve Salerno, Superintendent.
7. New Glarus Fire Dept. – financing new truck; Town parcels served by Dept.
8. Liability insurance renewal terms.
9. Treasurer’s Report.
10. Friends of the Parks of Perry report.
11. Parks and Open Space Committee report.
12. Dane Co. Towns Association and Wisconsin Towns Association discussions.
13. Community meeting / correspondence to elected representatives update.
14. Minutes of Previous Meetings – February 19, 2026
15. Pay Bills due.
16. Succession planning.
17. 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.
18. 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: March 5, 2026 Town Hall, Town Garage,
Daleyville Sign Post, Town website.

Publish: 3/5/26 **WNAXLP**

CHAMPS

continued from page 11

Senior post Hayden Anderson agreed.

“Coming together and being able to win a conference championship is really impressive,” Anderson said. “I’m really proud of the team.”

Mount Horeb, Sauk Prairie and McFarland all tied for the conference title with 11-3 records. The Vikings also won their sixth straight game, 11th in 12 contests and improved to 19-5 overall.

Manchester led the way with 27 points, five steals and five assists. Junior wing Alex Chapman had 17 points and four steals, while Anderson had 13 points and seven rebounds.

Mount Horeb, which lost Manchester for seven games to a separated shoulder and Chapman for five contests with a broken wrist, was two games behind both the Eagles and Spartans in mid-February.

The Vikings caught fire down the stretch, though, while Sauk Prairie and McFarland both slumped to the finish line. The Spartans suffered back-to-back late-season losses to Fort Atkinson and Mount Horeb, while the Eagles dropped two of three, including a surprising loss at Reedsburg.

That opened the door for Mount Horeb to gain a share of the league title. And once that door was cracked, the Vikings barreled right through.

“It’s awesome,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said of winning the conference title. “I’ve said this before, and every coach says this, but it’s true — winning is hard. And it doesn’t matter who you’re playing.

“There’s a lot of people that are responsible for this. It starts at home, right, with each of us and our spouses and our families, and it goes from there. And, you know, coaches sit in the gym all summer long, all spring and all fall, nobody gives a (darn). So, you start thinking about all that goes into it. So, yeah, just extremely proud.”

In a season where very little came easy, it was only fitting that this win was another grinder.

Mount Horeb built a 33-14 halftime lead and looked like it would cruise to a share of the conference title. Instead, a young and improving Fort (12-12, 8-6) team battled back within 48-44 with 5 minutes left.

The Vikings answered, though, with an 8-0 run of their own, pushed the lead back to as many as 13 and

cruised home.

“A lot of people were saying we got lucky and we got bailed out that we won conference,” Manchester said. “But I think we’re the most deserving team after everything we’ve been through this year.

“Like, I missed four conference games and we lost two of them. Alex missed three conference games. So, I mean, I feel like we’ve worked hard enough all year, and even with all the setbacks we’ve had, I feel like this one means a lot more.”

The Blackhawks hung around early and trailed, 14-12, midway through the first half. The Vikings then went on a 15-0 run and surged to a 29-12 lead with 3 ½ minutes left in the first half.

Mount Horeb scored on seven of eight possessions in that stretch, getting five points from Chapman and four from both Anderson and Manchester. On the flip side, Fort went eight consecutive possessions without scoring, as the Blackhawks went 0-for-4 from the floor, and both Chapman and Manchester had two steals in that burst.

“We were getting the shots we wanted and we were knocking them down,” Chapman said. “Our defense was phenomenal. We executed our game plan, and then I guess (15-0) kind of happens.”

Manchester started the run with a pair of free throws to make it 16-12, then took his first breather of the night. With Manchester out, the Vikings ripped off seven straight points — a spinning 5-footer from Anderson, an attacking lay-up from senior forward Cal Odgers and a left-wing 3-pointer from Chapman to give Mount Horeb a 23-12 lead.

“I felt like we were sharing it at that point a little bit better,” Nesheim said. “That helped us get rolling.”

Manchester returned and drilled a 15-footer, then had a steal, pushed the ball down the right side and fed Anderson for a lay-up. Chapman then had a steal of his own and went uncontested for a left-handed lay-up that gave the Vikings a 29-12 lead.

“I think the end of the first half just shows how nasty we can be on defense,” Manchester said. “Like me and Alex each had fast break, wide open layups, and those are momentum killers and just great for us.”

By halftime, Mount Horeb’s advantage was 33-14 as the Vikings played one of their most



Josh Manchester (3) and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team captured a share of the Badger Small Conference title last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

complete halves of the season. Mount Horeb shot a sizzling 56.0% (14-of-25) in the first half and held the Blackhawks to 26.3% shooting (5-of-19).

Mount Horeb also had six first half steals — four by Manchester — and forced nine turnovers. Conversely, the Vikings didn’t have a single turnover.

“That whole half, we all came together and just played solid ‘D’ and got good shots on offense,” Anderson said. “That was great.”

Nesheim told his team at halftime not to relax. That the Blackhawks were more than capable of making a run.

Despite that warning, Mount Horeb was disjointed on both ends as Fort opened the second half on a 16-4 surge and quickly closed within 37-30 with 11 ½ minutes left. The Blackhawks made their first six shots of the second half, while the Vikings managed just one field goal in their first nine possessions.

“Coach told us to just win the first couple of minutes of the (second) half and we’ll be fine,” Anderson said. “But we didn’t do that. I mean, obviously we’ve got to play better coming out of half.”

The Vikings briefly stopped the bleeding as Manchester had nifty assists to both Chapman and junior post Evan Leibfried and Mount Horeb extended its lead to 44-32 with 8:45 remaining.

Fort Atkinson — which made 15-of-22 second half shots (68.2%) and eight 3-pointers after intermission — answered back, though, by scoring on five straight possessions, embarking on a 12-4 run and clawing back within 48-44 with 5 minutes left.

“They’re a good team, they’re going to make a run,” Manchester said. “So you knew it wasn’t going to be a 30-point blowout. So, you’ve just got to bring the team back together and just talk through like, ‘Hey, this is fine. Like, we’ve been here before.’

“You just keep playing, and you know shots are going to fall. We work hard enough where things are going to go our way. We have good enough players where guys are going to make plays, winning plays, and it’ll work out down the stretch.”

It certainly did, as the Vikings punched back with an 8-0 burst of their own to put the pesky Blackhawks away.

First, Anderson got loose for a nifty, spinning lay-up.

“That was off a set call,” Nesheim said. “We called a set for him to not necessarily spin, but for him to keep it off a fake hand off. So that was really good. Hayden did a nice job of getting to the rim and scoring and putting it back to six.”

Chapman then had his fourth steal of the night, raced the other way, used a nifty pump fake to send a defender flying by, and finished a right handed lay-up that pushed Mount Horeb’s lead to 52-44 with 4:05 left.

“Feeling pretty good at that point,” Nesheim said. “Not like it’s over, but yeah, back to eight with four minutes left. You can survive a couple mistakes at that point.”

The Vikings didn’t make any.

Manchester poked the ball loose for his fifth steal of the night into the waiting arms of Anderson, who was underneath the Blackhawks’ basket. Anderson, a pitcher during baseball season, then fired a strike to the streaking Manchester, who scored to make it 54-44.

“I think that just sealed the game,” Anderson said. “Just getting ahead by 10 with that much time left, it’s hard to come back. So I think it was just a good

play by Josh and a good play by the team.”

After a Fort Atkinson turnover, Odgers buried a pair of free throws to make it 56-44 with 2 minutes left. Moments later, the Vikings were celebrating.

“There was never a doubt in my mind,” Chapman said. “It’s a game of runs, so it’s how you deal with those runs. And I think we did a great job.”

Which led to a celebration in Fort Atkinson, and an even bigger party after the Vikings returned home to cut down the nets in their own gymnasium.

“This group’s been through a lot, but they’ve accomplished some great things and we’re not done yet,” Nesheim said. “But this is pretty awesome.”

Feb. 26
Mount Horeb 33 33 — 66
Fort Atkinson ... 14 44 — 58
MOUNT HOREB — (fgm ftm- fta pts) — Kam Nesheim 0 0-0 0, Josh Manchester 9 8-8 27, Hayden Anderson 5 2-4 13, Cal Odgers 1 2-2 4, Alex Chapman 6 4-4 17, Evan Leibfried 1 2-4 4, Max Grundahl 0 1-2 1. Totals: 22 19-24 66.
FORT ATKINSON — Ryley Kloster 1 0-3 2, Graeson Geiger 5 4-8 17, Nolan Quamme 2 0-0 6, Carter Klopce 7 2-2 20, Oliver Evans 3 1-5 7, Dontae Samuels 2 0-0 6. Totals: 20 7-18 58.
Three-pointers: MH 3 (Chapman 1, Anderson 1, Manchester 1); FA 11 (Klopce 4, Geiger 3, Samuels 2, Quamme 2).

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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.

EOE

PLAYOFFS

continued from page 11

Mount Horeb, the No. 2 seed in its half of a WIAA Division 2 sectional, now hosts either seventh-seeded Fort Atkinson or 10th-seeded Elkhorn in a regional semifinal Friday at 7 p.m. Those two teams met in a regional quarterfinal Tuesday.

“We’ve got size, we’ve got shooters, we’ll have a great game plan,” Chapman said. “We’ll go into it expecting to play as well as we can and hopefully we’ll execute.”

If the Vikings win their playoff opener, and seeds hold, they’d host third-seeded Monroe in a regional final Saturday at 7 p.m.

The sectional semifinals are March 12 and the sectional finals would be March 14 at sites yet to be determined. McFarland is the top-seed on Mount Horeb’s half of the sectional bracket, while New Berlin West is the No. 1 seed on the other half.

“I mean, we’re playing our best basketball at this time of the year and that’s the best thing we can do,” said senior post Hayden Anderson. “And, I mean, we’re just going to keep it going through playoffs.”

Chapman agreed.

“I think we’ve definitely grown as a team,” Chapman said. “We’ve had to battle through some adversity and that’s helped us in the long run. But we’re willing to play together.

We’re hitting each other. We’re playing hard. We’re playing well right now.”

Mount Horeb was at somewhat of a crossroads just three days after Christmas when it dropped a 72-67 decision to Stevens Point at the Sentry Classic and fell to 4-3. The Vikings led the Division 1 Pointers, 38-27, at halftime and by 17 early in the second half, but couldn’t close the deal.

That night, Mount Horeb had far too many quick possessions and didn’t share the ball as the Pointers rallied back. The next day, the Vikings had their ‘come to Jesus moment.’

“The Stevens Point game, with the big lead that we had up there, was kind of the turning point for us,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “We went to the gym the next morning and talked about grinding out some possessions.

“I think the second half of the Stevens Point game, with a big lead, we went no passes, one pass and we had three possessions of three passes. That was it.

“So we were trying to do stuff way too early and too fast. And I will go to my deathbed saying that was the turning point of the season, looking at a loss and figuring that out, then coming out of that better for it.”

The Vikings did just that — despite facing a bevy of unexpected challenges.

Manchester, who averages 30.1 points per game and now has 2,440 career points, suffered a separated shoulder on Jan. 15

and missed seven games. Chapman, the Vikings’ second-leading scorer (12.7), then missed five games with a broken wrist.

Amazingly, the Vikings went 6-1 without Manchester and 4-1 with Chapman sidelined.

“The first part of the season was kind of figuring out how to utilize Josh with everybody, and we weren’t great at it,” Nesheim said. “Then we lose Josh, so you’re figuring that piece out. And then you lose Alex, and you’re figuring that piece out.

“So now, it’s kind of putting it all back together, but we’re good right now. We’re good.”

Boy, are they ever.

Mount Horeb has allowed just 51.0 points per game during its six game winning streak. And after the Vikings’ injuries hit, several others stepped up.

First, Chapman showed he could be option No. 1 after Manchester went down. Then after Chapman was hurt, players like the 6-foot-6 Anderson and 6-8 junior post Evan Leibfried took on expanded roles.

In fact, Nesheim has played Anderson and Leibfried together more and more with terrific results.

“I mean, it’s crazy. I love that lineup out there,” said the 6-foot-3 Manchester. “When I’m the second shortest or shortest player out there, I mean, that’s a good sign.

“Hayden and Ev, they bring so much to the table — defense, rebounding, scoring. They can both



Kam Nesheim (1) and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team open the postseason Friday at 7 p.m. when they host a regional semifinal. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

go out there and shoot it, knock down an open three, which is huge, because otherwise they would just sink on me and I wouldn’t be able to score at the rim, at all. So just to be able for them to space the floor is huge, not only for me, but for the team.”

Others like senior guard Kam Nesheim and senior wing Cal Odgers have excelled in their roles, as well.

“Cal does what he needs to do. Kam does what

he needs to do,” Todd Nesheim said. “Those two aren’t going to wow you with statistics, but they do all the little things you need.

“But you know our top six, and then even Mason Williams coming off the bench, I trust him to play ‘D’ and do some things with the ball. So I feel pretty good about where we’re at.”

So does Manchester, who’s seen virtually everything during his stellar

Mount Horeb career.

About the only thing Manchester hasn’t experienced is a trip to the state tournament, which these Vikings could be poised to change.

“Last year and this year, I mean, it’s kind of the same feeling, like we’re playing our best basketball at the end, which is great,” Manchester said. “We feel like we can go up against anyone and if we play our best, we’re not going to lose.”

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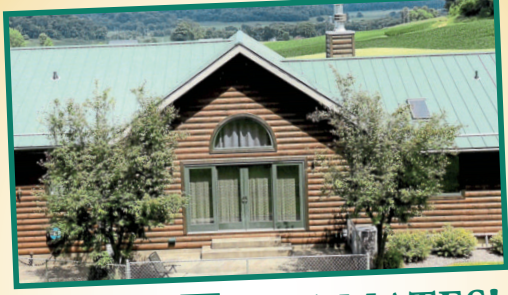
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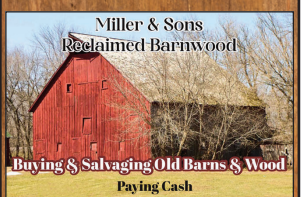
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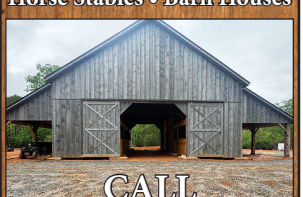
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