



Karls



Rosenbaum

SPRING ELECTION

The Town of Springdale has two contested local races on April 1. Incumbent town chair John Rosenbaum will face challenger Joe Karls. In the race for the Supervisor 1 seat, John Hensey and Kelly Altschul will face one another. The winner will take the seat being vacated by Wayne Hefty. Richard Schwenn is running unopposed for the Supervisor 2 seat. **READ MORE ON PAGES 4-5.**



Altschul



Hensey

Alumni sought for a special honor

The Mount Horeb High School Distinguished Alumni Committee is now accepting applications for the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Mount Horeb High School Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes

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Pawsome Pets

Look inside this issue for our special section showcasing pet-friendly services, products and more for your furry friends and family.



Village board votes down ATV proposal

By **AYNSLEY HOELSCHER**
Mount Horeb Mail

The Village Board of Mount Horeb denied ATV use on public streets in the village. They also approved some financing decisions for

upcoming projects and an extension with new lots on Brookview Trail.

ATV Use denied

The board did not approve ATV use in the village, with only trustee Cathy Scott voting in favor.

The Plan Commission had previously recommended approval but one member recommended denial.

Mount Horeb Police Chief Doug Vierck explained that ATVs and UTVs cannot be given traffic citations, they

could only get municipal ordinance tickets. The violations are not reported to insurance or brought against the violator's driver license.

"Knowing the different nuances there on which applies where and how that

goes, that's where the training is going to have to come in making sure our officers are up to speed on what these different things are," Vierck said, "so that will be time consuming at the start."

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Slow Mow May unveiled



Slow Mow May project members Carolyn White, chair, and Brad and Lorna Brookins (not pictured Larry Kruckman and Mary Hull). Photo contributed.

The Mound Vue Garden Club is excited to announce a new name and renewed focus for its popular "No Mow May" initiative. Entering its third year, the program will now be known as "Slow Mow May," reflect-

ing an evolved understanding of best ways to support pollinators.

Over 150 Mount Horeb homes and businesses have participated in No Mow May, demonstrating a strong community commitment to

environmental stewardship. However, feedback revealed that the "no mow" concept led some to feel discouraged when needing to mow before the end of May.

"The core goals remain the same," explains Caro-

lyn White, Slow Mow May Committee chair. "We want to raise awareness about the vital role of native pollinators and encourage practices that support their declining populations."

Slow Mow May en-

courages a more gradual approach. Participants are asked to delay their first mow, and mow less frequently in May and throughout the entire summer. Research supports

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Artists Wik and Donaldson selected for summer art show

Donaldson and Wik's art show will debut Friday, July 18 and run through Tuesday, August 26.

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society (MHAHS) and Mount Horeb High School (MHHS) Art Department are once again partnering to celebrate the talent of area youth via the sixth annual “Student Spotlight” initiative. This intensive program provides an opportunity for young artists to gain experience producing and promoting a public art exhibition in a professional setting.

The Selection Committee met in February to consider a pool of gifted candidates and unanimously agreed to invite MHHS Senior Josetta (Josie) Donaldson (a December 2024 early graduate) and Junior Anneli Wik to serve as 2025’s featured artists.

Though their work samples revealed distinctly different styles and preferred mediums—Josie submitted a monochromatic selection of finely executed figural pottery, while Anneli included a colorful assortment of cheerful paintings and sketches, the Selection Committee was struck by their shared perception of art as a therapeutic process. Donaldson and Wik’s applications both underscored a longtime love for making art and highlighted the mental and emotional benefits it has provided. Donaldson wrote that “creating art brings [her] joy and contentment.” Similarly, Wik likewise highlighted a positive personal impact, noting “art

can build confidence and help you understand yourself better.”

In addition, the Selection Committee was pleased that both applicants drew a direct connection between the Student Spotlight program and their future goals. Josie, who is already taking a graphic design college course and hopes to become a successful artist, looks forward to the new and relevant skill sets she will acquire while putting together a professional show. As she looks towards medical school, Anneli noted art’s proven role in cognitive development and problem-solving—and is excited to further experiment with the often-overlapping scientific and artistic properties of the human body.

The Student Spotlight artists toured the Driftless Historium Community Gallery (100 S 2nd St, downtown Mount Horeb), the site of their upcoming art show, on February 20. At this time, they also reviewed the project timeline and task list. MHHS Art Educators Anna King and Dana Showers and MHAHS Director Destinee Udelhoven will serve as project mentors, with funding made possible by MHAHS Members and donors. Donaldson and Wik’s art show (title pending) will debut Friday, July 18 and run through Tuesday, August 26. For more information, call 608-437-6486 or email mthorebahs@gmail.com.



MHHS Senior Josetta (Josie) Donaldson (a December 2024 early graduate) and Junior Anneli Wik will be 2025’s featured artists at the Driftless Historium.



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We welcome letters to the editor and want to publish your thoughts and opinions. We are happy to publish your letters about politics, and your endorsements of political candidates. Please submit all letters to the editor via email. You can email your letters to mgeiger@fingerpub.com

All letters must include the author's name, address and phone number. We won't publish your address and number, but we need to be able to verify who you are. Anonymous letters and letters written under pseudonyms will not be considered.

We prefer letters that are fewer than 600 words and take as their starting point an issue that is important to our community and our readers. To write a guest column of more than 600 words, contact the editor first.

Letters are edited for clarity, fact checked and sometimes trimmed to fit the space available in the newspaper. The opinions expressed are always the writer's own. The editor won't try to make you seem more (or less) intelligent than you really are, but may clean up some grammatical issues according to our style guide. We want your opinions, even when we don't agree with them. But this isn't the Internet, so you can't just say anything you want. Try to base your letters on reason and fact. We will not publish claims that are demonstrably false.

For additional information, contact mgeiger@fingerpub.com.

District invites community to meet school board candidates



The forum will take place on March 20 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Middle School Step Room.

The Mount Horeb Area School District invites the community to join them for an exciting opportunity to meet and learn about the candidates running for the Board of Education during the annual School Board Candidate Forum.

The event will take place on March 20, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Middle School Step Room, located at 900 East Garfield St., Mount Horeb, WI 53572.

This longstanding tradition provides an opportunity for students and community members alike to engage with the individuals who help shape the future of our local

schools.

This year’s forum will feature three incumbent candidates: current Board Director Carly Fisher, Board Clerk Leah Lipska, and Board Vice President Adam Mertz. They will share their visions for the District and answer questions created and posed by students of Matt Winiecki, social studies teacher at Mount Horeb High School.

“We’re excited to give our students the chance to engage directly with these leaders in our community,” added Winiecki.

“This forum is not only a great learning opportunity for our stu-

dents but also an important way for them to understand the decisions that impact their education,” he said.

“The School Board Candidate Forum is a wonderful tradition that fosters dialogue between our future leaders and those guiding the direction of our schools,” said Superintendent Dr. Steve Salerno.

“I encourage all members of the Mount Horeb community to attend, as this is a chance to hear directly from the candidates and get a sense of how they would contribute to the continued success of our District,” he added. “We look forward to seeing you there!”

Start of In-Person Absentee Voting, Other Important Dates for Spring Election

A number of key deadlines are approaching for eligible Wisconsin voters seeking to participate in the April 1 Spring Election.

Starting on Tuesday, March 18 – two weeks before Election Day – clerks can begin to issue in-person absentee ballots at the clerk’s office or at other designated locations. The in-person absentee voting (IPAV) process involves a voter both requesting a ballot and completing that ballot on the same trip to the clerk’s office or designated location.

When a voter requests an absentee ballot in their mu-

nicipal clerk’s office, or another designated location, they will complete their ballot immediately, seal the ballot in the proper envelope, and return it to a member of the clerk’s staff. No IPAV ballots may be taken out of the voting site.

Voters need to show an acceptable photo ID before voting an in-person absentee ballot. More information about acceptable photo IDs can be found on the WEC’s Photo ID page.

According to state law, clerks can make in-person absentee voting available through Sunday, March 30. Municipalities are not

required to offer IPAV through March 30, but they cannot offer it beyond that date. Voters should check with their municipal clerk to learn the dates and times for IPAV opportunities in their community.

Meanwhile, Thursday, March 27 is the last day for most voters to request an absentee ballot for the April 1 Spring Election. In practical terms, though, the deadline results in an unrealistic timeframe for the voter to receive the ballot, complete it, and return it to their clerk by Election Day.

This means registered voters who still wish to re-

On a related topic, the WEC has received recent reports from concerned voters and local election officials regarding unsolicited communications from third-party groups that may provide inaccurate or misleading information about the upcoming election.

In at least one case, an incorrect date was used for the April 1 Spring Election. Voters should be cautious about any unofficial voting-related communications – including text messages, emails, mailers, phone calls, robocalls, postcards, and more – from unfamiliar sources. Sometimes, these misleading communications even appear to mimic communications from an official government source. They often use outdated, incomplete, or simply inaccurate data that they communicate to voters.

When it comes to voting information, Wisconsinites should rely on official sources, such as the WEC’s official [MyVote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) website. There, voters can check their registration status, review their voter history (the voter’s past election participation), find their polling place, review their sample ballot, request an absentee ballot, track that ballot, or learn about in-person absentee voting options.

Voters can also contact their municipal clerk, who can confirm a voter’s registration status and answer any questions a voter might have in advance of the April 1 Spring Election. Voters can find their clerk’s contact information on the [MyVote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) website.

Letter to the Editor

Support for Rosenbaum in Springdale

To the editor,

We support John Rosenbaum to serve another term as Board Chair for the Township of Springdale. John has served the residents of Springdale capably and effectively and will continue to do so if reelected.

John, working with the Board, has been diligent in spending tax dollars wisely and works to keep the tax burden as low as possible. One example of this was the project to upgrade the Town garage to reduce heating costs for the building, saving the Town money in the long run. Another example: John and the board save significant time for residents with building permits or projects under review by

holding Town Board and Planning Commission meetings in the same evening, allowing any deliberations and actions requiring Board approval to be taken up right away.

Development pressures are intense throughout Dane County, and Springdale is no exception. Maintaining the rural character of Springdale is a strong desire of many who live here. Balancing the rights of landowners to subdivide and sell and the desire to maintain the rural character of Springdale to the greatest extent possible is not easy. John has executed this balancing act with care and consideration, using the Town Land Use Plan as a guide.

One last point: there will be a new member of the three-person Board due to retirement. Maintaining the nuts-and-bolts knowledge of running the Town is important for efficiency, and for meeting legal requirements and resident needs. Two experienced Board members and one new one gives Springdale the benefit of new perspectives while maintaining continuity.

John Rosenbaum has served Springdale well, and will continue to do so if reelected. He has our vote.

Ed Eloranta,
Mike Lamberty,
Denise Sullivan,
Lynne Westphal

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(USPS 365-340)

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Springdale Town Chair: John Rosenbaum vs. Joe Karls

Why are you running for office?

Rosenbaum: After living



in Springdale for 41 years, I feel I need to give back to the Township by participating in town government. I believe I have a methodical approach to problem solving and am open to listening to residents with a variety of opinions on Town issues. My years in business help me to approach township income and expenses in a methodical way, which helps to keep our Town taxes as low as possible. Additionally, I want to maintain Springdale's rural character into the future.

Karls: I have always



been interested in the things going on in my community. I previously served on the planning commission for the Town of Brigham and really enjoyed helping people achieve their goals when it came to getting the best use and value out of their property. I believe the Town of Springdale needs some new leadership and direction on many levels, but most importantly, helping people achieve their goals rather than fighting them, specifically with regard to land use.

What are the most important issues the Town of Springdale will face in the coming term?

Rosenbaum: The most important issue facing Springdale is development pressure. Being relatively close to Madison creates pressure from developers and landowners wishing to divide land. In Springdale we are always trying to balance the rights of landowners who wish to divide their land, with the rights of residents who want to maintain the natural beauty of our township, keeping it as rural as possible. This balance is sometimes delicate, but I do my best to follow our documented land use plan and try to treat all residents consistently and fairly when they want to divide their land. Our land use plan is crafted to maintain agricultural land and guide development to areas that are least intrusive to Springdale's rural character.

Karls: There are many important issues in the coming term. I believe the main issues will be land use and properly funding and budgeting for the many road repairs that have been ignored and continually pushed off. The Town needs to become more "friendly" when it comes to residents wanting to use their land in the ways allowed by our land use plan. We also need to more seriously address the equipment maintenance and replacement plans. Good progress was made by the Town's Capital Planning Committee - now the board must follow through. Kicking the can on these expenses only costs taxpayers more in the long run.

What are some things that town leadership has done well in recent years?

Rosenbaum: A couple of years ago we asked a committee of residents to put

together a strategic plan to replace our major equipment at specific intervals (i.e. plow trucks, loader, tractor, etc.). Importantly, we are now setting aside money each year so that when a piece of equipment needs to be replaced, we do not have to borrow the entire purchase price. Under the leadership of Rebecca Boelhower-Santi, that committee has done a great job, and we are on our way to our goal.

Additionally, a couple of years ago we resolved to save money on propane by updating the 1980 Town Hall/Garage with improved insulation. This led to the discovery of the need to repair rotted and defective trusses in the building, and a non-functional ventilation system in the garage. Most of that work is now complete, and we should save money on heating costs in the future.

Karls: While I haven't always agreed with some of the decisions the board has made and the gauntlet some of the members have put people through, I do respect their willingness to give their time to our community.

In what areas could the board improve?

Rosenbaum: Road maintenance and improvement is obviously a major expense for all municipalities, and Springdale is no exception. The board would like to develop a longer-range plan to improve our Town roads. The challenge is balancing the need for road improvements without undue stress on taxpayers.

Karls: The board could improve on many things! I believe the board needs a much more common-sense approach to working with and helping its residents make the best use of their land. The board could also improve on being more open-minded and less difficult to work with.

Tell us what unique skills and/or attributes you could bring to the board:

Rosenbaum: I grew up on a small farm in rural northeast Iowa and attended Iowa State University. I graduated with a master's degree in human resources in 1976 and worked in Human Resources for manufacturing companies in Nebraska and Michigan before settling in this area in 1981. I then spent 35 years in HR and Purchasing with Springs Window Fashions (formerly Graber Industries) in Middleton and retired in 2017. I feel my years in business helps to inform my work on the Town board. I am a consensus builder but can also hold firm when required. I am married to Vicky Rosenbaum, who taught elementary school for 20 years in Mt. Horeb. We have three grown children who are our pride and joy.

Karls: I have a wide variety of skills in my background that make me well suited for this position. I have 20+ years of experience in home building, farming and land management. I also served on the Town of Brigham planning commission and I work locally within the township, allowing me to be available to people when needed. I greatly enjoy helping people, which I feel would be the most fulfilling part of this role.

Tell us about your long-term vision for the town?

Rosenbaum: My vision is for Springdale to maintain its generally rural character. That means continuing to follow the current land use plan, which is designed to maintain agricultural land, guide the amount of development in the Town, and guide where it occurs. This approach will keep Springdale a great place to live and will maintain our property values.

Karls: My long-term vision for the Town is simple - making Springdale an inviting place to live and work! I envision finding ways to keep property taxes in check, and making it easier for people to navigate the approval processes at both the planning commission and town board levels. We can create a pleasant and timely experience without having to hire an attorney or run through hoop after hoop.

Are you familiar with Robert's Rule of Order and Wisconsin's various open records and open meetings laws?

Rosenbaum: I am very familiar with both and do my best to follow them closely.

Karls: I am familiar with Robert's Rules, as well as the open meetings and records laws. Roberts Rules exist to ensure that the public is treated fairly, and to bolster the public's confidence in the government body. They also exist to ensure meetings run efficiently and smoothly, which is something I feel that the current board could improve on. I believe in full transparency and openness with the public, and that means ensuring the open meetings law is followed at all times when discussing Town business.

ness.

Tell us how you will work collaboratively, including with people you disagree with on certain issues:

Rosenbaum: As often as possible, I open discussions in Town board meetings to any resident who wants to ask a question or offer an opinion. I have also invited those with differing opinions to serve on volunteer committees.

Karls: I will work with people by simply listening to them. I am a very open-minded person and enjoy helping people. As chair, I would consider all points of view to come up with common ground solutions.

What is your favorite thing about living in Springdale?

Rosenbaum: The mix of farmland, woods, and residential properties lends itself to lots of scenic vistas. It is an ideal place to raise a family, with great schools in Mount Horeb and Verona. These qualities, in addition to our proximity to Madison, means our property values are maintained and increase steadily.

Karls: The Town of Springdale has many wonderful things to offer, such as the Mt. Vernon Park 4th of July chicken BBQ and their annual car show. We also have many natural attractions such as Donald Park, the Military Ridge Trail and even a Rustic Road. I feel honored to live here in the Town of Springdale.

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Flushing. This will run from April 1st through May 2nd.

NOTE: Should your water become discolored, let your tap run for approximately 5 to 10 minutes and it should clear up. Try to do your laundry in the evening hours if possible. With the new garbage collection dates please put your garbage and recycling behind the curbs. It takes us a lot of time to move the cans back. If we move the cans and they are moved back to the street after we moved them, your cans will be flushed away and it will be home owner of the cans responsibility to collect the cans and the garbage. The water utility thanks you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely, Brian Schult
Water Superintendent

Springdale Supervisor (Seat 1): Kelly Altschul vs. John J. Hensey

Why are you running for office?

Altschul: I decided to



run for Town Board when Wayne Hefty, a longstanding board member, announced that he would not run for re-election. I've worked with Wayne quite a bit as a member of the Town's Plan Commission and have learned a lot from him. I am running as the candidate that will continue upholding our existing land use plan, for the sake of the natural beauty and rural landscape of Springdale, and to keep our property taxes as low as possible.

Hensey: We all have some



degree of civic duty to help ensure the long-term success of our democratic republic. Some examples of this include staying informed about federal, state and local politics, attending meetings, serving on committees, writing letters to the editor, and voting. Few people run for or hold public office due to the significant time commitment and disclosure of your private opinions on public record. Following my own sense of civic duty, and believing I have something to contribute, I am running to serve as a Town Board Supervisor. I have perspective as an 18-year homeowner in the Town of Springdale and was previously a City of Verona homeowner for 20 years. I will serve as a common-sense, small-government, citizen-advocate for all Town residents.

What are the most important issues the Town of Springdale will face in the coming term?

Altschul: Two words: Development and Taxes. I have seen firsthand the pressures that exist to develop portions of Springdale and allow higher density residential housing tracts. I've seen inquiries and proposals to develop residential sub-

divisions and create commercial properties. As Dane County's population grows these pressures to develop portions of Springdale will increase. How our Town Board responds to these pressures will determine the future of Springdale.

Our current land use plan allows for development that maintains the rural character and rural scale of services provided by the Town. The scope of residential and limited commercial development permitted by the land use plan preserves the natural resources and agricultural land in our town.

I believe that our property tax bills are an incredibly important issue for all of us. Finding new, creative ways to work with and around budget shortfalls and levy limits will be incredibly important in the upcoming years.

In 2024 the Town's total annual tax levy was less than \$725,000.00, which amounts to less than 10% of the total annual property tax levy for which each of us pays a portion. More than 90% of the property taxes we pay do not stay in the Town. They pay the School District levies, the County Levy, and the tech school levy for Madison College. We cannot opt out of these expenses as Dane County residents, nor can the Town Board control them. The only thing the Town Board can do to stabilize our property taxes is to keep its budget as small as possible to control that 9.7% of the total levy that is ours.

The Town's levy must cover all services provided by the Town, including the cost of all of its infrastructure. Data shows that increased numbers of commercial businesses and higher and denser populations creates the need for new and expanded services and infrastructures. It also increases wear and tear on existing infrastructure. All of this is expensive. Not

just once, but consistently, year after year.

I do not believe that allowing large scale residential or commercial development is a solution to controlling our property taxes or dealing with budget shortfalls. I believe the solution is to support planned, rural development in the Town that does not create pressures to expand services and infrastructures beyond the current levels provided.

Hensey: The Town has a perpetual problem with underfunding; paying for new and continuing costs

is an ongoing struggle. We seem to need more property tax revenue and/or shared revenue to ensure appropriate compensation of staff, payment for fire and rescue services, and funding of equipment, road and bridge maintenance and replacement. WI towns typically delay road maintenance by 3X the recommended interval and that seems to apply for Springdale roads. We should explore all options to increase revenues without raising taxes and reduce government operating costs through greater efficiency and effectiveness. Options to reduce costs include exploring cooperation with adjacent townships and seeking strategic assistance from the WI Towns Association. Local property tax increases are limited by State law and ideally are kept minimal, but we can generate new tax revenues through new development. Relaxing restrictions and promoting reasonable development will expand the tax base. Another issue is a State study to eliminate most intersections on Hwy 18/151 between Verona and Dodgeville. This project improves safety but creates inconveniences and many new miles of frontage roads to maintain. Significant Town involvement will be needed during the State's planning process.

What are some things that town leadership has done well in recent years?

Altschul: I believe that our Town leadership has been very successful in keeping Springdale rural and our budget as small as possible. The growth that Springdale has seen has been wisely planned and has preserved the land's natural beauty and agricultural legacy. As a result Springdale's municipal tax levy is currently among the lowest per capita in Dane County at approximately \$347/per person(pp). The Town of Blue Mounds is at appx. \$443/pp, the Town of Verona is at appx. \$681/pp, the Town of Cross Plains is at appx. \$516/pp and the Town of Primrose is at appx. \$429/pp. The board has done a great job pursuing shared services agreements with the surrounding communities to keep these expenses low; such as shared fire and EMT services with the Village of Mount Horeb and garbage and recycling agreements that bring in revenue. These efficiencies save us all money.

Hensey: Town leadership has provided a safe and stable living environment and protected a pastoral lifestyle that we all highly value. The Town Board does a good job keeping property taxes reasonable, as reflected in the Town's 2024 mill rate component, which is the 7th lowest of 31 Towns in Dane County. The Town also receives the 20th highest shared revenue per resident out of 59 Dane County municipalities, but maybe there's room for improvement. Both measures compare favorably with our peers and reflect a job well done by the current Town Board.

In what areas could the board improve?

Altschul: I think that the Board could be more proactive in seeking grant funding to improve and maintain its roads and bridges. These items are a large expenditure every year and it would benefit us all to explore both State and Federal transportation grants to help subsidize the expense.

Hensey: Since I'm not currently on the Town Board, I'd need a detailed orientation on current issues, but initially there seem to be opportunities for improved planning, procedures, and communications: 1) Incorporate better long-range planning for predictable expenses over 5,10 and 15-year periods as part of the budget process. The cost of building upkeep and equipment and road maintenance/replacement is mostly known and therefore predictable for budgeting on a schedule. 2) Improve procedural transparency by posting more timely minutes on the Town web site and provide a simple live web broadcast of all meetings. 3) Update and simplify the Land Use Plan by reducing regulations and giving land owners more freedom regarding the disposition of their property. As with any development, the Town Board must exercise reasonable judgement, consideration and protection of safety, property values and appropriate use, but current land use options are too limited. I think any land use restrictions beyond those required by Dane County should be clearly defined, easily interpreted and minimal.

Tell us what unique skills and/or attributes you could bring to the board:

Altschul: By training I am an accountant and an attorney. I have spent years litigating state and local tax issues, including municipal finance issues, and analyzing budgets. I am currently appointed to Springdale's Plan Commission and have

experience there addressing zoning and development proposals. I am also a friendly, outgoing, problem solver who enjoys working with people and being a team player.

Hensey: I am eternally optimistic, realistic, and persistent in my endeavors. My Industrial Engineering degree from UW-Madison and 29 years of management experience at UW Hospital and Clinics have given me the knowledge and skills for communicating and working well with people and finding creative solutions to complex problems. I once served as Alderman in my hometown City of Delavan and was a small business owner for 3 years. This variety of experience gives me a well-rounded perspective for leadership, understanding others, setting priorities, and working cooperatively as part of a team.

Tell us about your long-term vision for the town?

Altschul: I touched on this already, but I would love to see Springdale preserve its beautiful landscapes of rolling hills and farm fields. We have urban landscapes to our east and west and I'd love for Springdale to remain an oasis between those municipalities.

Hensey: Land in the Town of Springdale is a very valuable asset. Demand is high for home and land ownership in rural settings near Madison. We should protect the rural nature of the Town but encourage reasonable growth and development to expand the tax base and allow others to share in the benefits of our rural lifestyle. The Town of Springdale has significant growth occurring on our east border with EPIC and the City of Verona and with Mount Horeb's rapid expansion near our northwest corner. We should take advantage of this growth and

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bigler will delve into Mt. Vernon history

Brian Bigler of Mount Horeb is the guest speaker at the meeting of the Verona Area Historical Society to be held at the Verona Senior Center, located on Paoli Street on Sunday, March 23 at 1:00. The talk, titled “Mount Vernon: Small-Town Characters and Tragedies,” focuses on the 1946 village of Mount Vernon’s history written by Amelia Pope, a self-proclaimed spiritualist who believed she could communicate with the dead.

Pope’s clairvoyant beliefs most likely encouraged and informed her way of relaying history. She focused on unusual experiences; the types of stories not always recorded in a standard local history. Pope penned visual prose of the local horse thief, tragic deaths, village characters, and the off the cuff historical experiences that took place during tiny Mount Vernon’s founding. These are tales that leave

listeners asking - were the good old days really all that good?

Pope had ties to both Mount Vernon and Verona as well as her days spent at the Wonewoc Spiritualists Camp in the 1940s.

Bigler became interested in regional history and material culture when he was six years old and more than sixty years later still finds the stuff of history fascinating. He is the founding member of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society, from which the manuscripts, photos and artifacts for this presentation were drawn and where he still volunteers.

Name of man who died in crash released

The Dane County Medical Examiner’s Office is releasing the name of the individual that died following an officer involved incident on March 2, 2025 in the Town of Blue Mounds. The individual was identified as: Bo A. Johnson 28 Plattville, WI Mr. Johnson was pronounced deceased at the scene on March 2, 2025. A

forensic autopsy was completed at the Dane County Medical Examiner’s Office on March 4, 2025. Cause and manner of death are pending at this time. Additional testing is underway at this time. This death remains under investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and the Dane County Medical Examiner’s Office.

Faber steps into new Little Vikings role

Academy of Little Vikings is excited to share that our Human Resource Director, Kari Faber, is stepping into a bigger role as our new Human Resource and Operations Director in a full-time capacity! This change will help us better support our teams by bringing Human Resources and Operations under one strategic leader. We’re looking forward to the added value this will bring to everyone as our organization continues to grow.



Note about county parks

With spring here, Dane County Parks Director Joleen Stinson is advising county park users that some county parks, or portions of county parks, may be temporarily closed during the next several weeks. The warmer weather brings out ground frost, making trails, dog parks and grassy areas wet, soft, muddy and easily damaged.

Over the next several weeks, visitors may find some park gates and facilities closed. Stinson requests that park users stay on hard-surfaced pathways and roads. “The community values outdoor recreational spaces. Visitor use of the county parks, trails and natural resource areas are at an all-time high, but the spring thaw period combined with high use can have long-term impacts, especially on grassy or limestone hiking trails,” says Stinson. “If we can reduce the damages at this time of year, it allows us to provide better services throughout the rest of the year.” After a few spring rains and drying winds, the ground will firm up and parks will be re-opened. Please contact the Dane County Parks Office (email/

phone) if you become aware of park facilities that appear to be stressed or damaged.

In addition, the prescribed fire season is upon us. Dane County Parks, along with other conservation partners, conduct prescribed burns within park lands throughout the county. “Burning is an important management tool for restoring and preserving our prairie and woodland habitat,” says Stinson. Prescribed fires are conducted under a predetermined set of parameters that include temperature, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, and fuel moistures. Before burning, fire managers ensure the process can be conducted safely.

Some parks, or portions of parks, may be temporarily closed during a prescribed burn. This may cause an inconvenience for users, especially at sites like Capital Springs Recreation Area, Indian Lake and Prairie Moraine County Parks that have a high number of daily visitors. Stinson says that the minor inconvenience of conducting burns can reap big rewards in helping to promote healthy native vegetation, stimulating plant vigor and species diversity in many different habitats.

Audit finds no voting problems

The largest and most comprehensive post-election audit of voting equipment in Wisconsin history took place following the 2024 General Election. The hand count of the paper ballots audited found no errors that would be attributable to the electronic voting system. Consequently, Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) members, at their March 7 quarterly meeting, unanimously determined the error rate of the 2024 post-election voting equipment audit as 0.0 percent. Commissioners determined electronic voting equipment, utilized statewide, performed in accordance with certification standards and tabulated votes accurately.

A total of 327,230 ballots, approximately 10 percent of all ballots cast statewide, were counted by hand during the 2024 post-election voting equipment audit. Audits are also conducted as a public meeting in each community selected. For context, 145,000 ballots were audited as part of the 2020 post-election audit and 222,075 were audited in 2022.

Local election officials have many responsibilities and, after having just administered a General Election, they were then required to immediately pivot to conduct these audits. “The municipal clerks, county clerks, election inspectors, and volunteers who completed these audits should be commended for their work and for their continued dedication to secure and accurate elections,” said WEC Administrator Meagan Wolfe.

Their audit summaries include a comparison between the total votes recorded by the voting equipment and the total votes hand counted on the paper ballots during the audit. WEC staff reviewed every submission and followed up for additional information when necessary. They found no election equipment changed votes from one candidate to another, incorrectly tabulated votes, or altered the outcome of any audited contest. Additionally, there was no evidence of programming errors, unauthorized alterations or hacking of voting equipment software, or malfunctions of voting equipment that altered the outcome of any races on the ballot.

Conducting the voting equipment audit did uncover a small number of human errors that take place during every election. WEC uses information from the audits to educate clerks regarding best practices through additional training and procedural changes.

Local library use increasing

Overall library usage increased again in 2024. They have seen a steady increase in the use of library services since 2020, and they are thrilled to welcome new members and provide services that are well-utilized. Pictured immediately above is a brief visual overview. Here are a few highlights:

On average, they are open 61 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Everyone is welcome to visit the library. A library card is not needed to use the space. However, a library card will open many borrowing possibilities for you (both physical and digital) and it’s FREE.

The library owns 53,961 books, 5,167 audio materials, and 6,071 DVDs. Last year we also added a DVD player, portable CD player, a second radon test kit, and blood pressure monitoring

kits for checkout.

Mount Horeb Public Library is a member of the South Central Library System, which means they have borrowing privileges with 54 other libraries. If you don’t see what you need on the shelves, the library can order it for you asap! They get deliveries every morning five days a week so you’ll have that item in your hands soon.

The library also has access to digital materials through our consortium buying power with the South Central Library System (Overdrive/Libby). In 2024, we also started a digital Lucky Day account for Mount Horeb Library patrons. They can purchase digital content just for Mount Horeb patrons to use, which moves you up the waitlists faster in Libby.

One of the largest areas of growth this year was in programming. Their programming staff of 2.5 FTE offered a whopping 414 programs with participation measuring at approximately 14,509 attendees.

Overall the library employs approximately 9.42 FTE, which has remained relatively unchanged since 2020.

Computer usage at the library increased by 15%, which is likely due to a combination of an increase in internet service provider costs and a very active afterschool gaming crowd.

The library spent \$60,410 on the print collection, \$18,855 on the audio/video collections, and \$19,502 on digital content. (Seriously, if you haven’t checked us out in awhile, you should! The shelves are literally packed with new materials and we are committed to keeping them that way.)

The library had a great year in 2024 and they look forward to serving our community in many ways this year.

A chance to help Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Culver’s, Mt. Horeb is teaming up with Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) for an upcoming Share Night event. The Share Night event will take place on Tuesday, March 24, from 5PM to 8PM at Culver’s in Mt. Horeb. During this event a percentage of the proceeds from every purchase made during the event will be donated to NHN.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Mt. Horeb Seniors Lunch outing to OPE House, Barneveld. Leave at 10:00am from Senior Center.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Driftless Photography & Beyond, an exhibition featuring photographs by Vicki France, Friday to Tuesday, 10:00am-4:00pm, through May 6. Free and open to all.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors, food pantry and clothes closet open 9:00-10:30am and 3:00-4:30pm. 102 E. Lincoln Street

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry and clothes closet open 10:00-11:30am. 102 E. Lincoln Street.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

Free “Medicare” Presentation by Mike Truong, 6:00-7:00pm, Senior Center. Open to public.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Tai Chi, Senior Center, 1:00pm

Ageless Grace, Senior Center, 2:00pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Footcare clinic with Amy Foster, 8:30-3:30pm. Call 608-437-6902 for appointment at Senior Center or 608-576-8986 for in-home appointment

Euchre, 12:30pm, Senior Center

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Shopping trip to Dodgeville, leave 9:30am from Senior Center

Little Free Pantries available at: New Hope Evangelical Free Church, 639 S. 8th St., Mt. Horeb; Immanuel Lutheran Church, 310 W. Main St., Mt. Horeb; Zwingli UCC, Hwy. 92, Mt. Vernon. Nonperishable food and other necessities available 24 hrs.a day.”Take what you need, share what you can.”

Information for the Community Calendar must be emailed by noon on the Monday of the week of publication.

Information should be emailed to mhclasses@fingerpub.com.

We reserve the right to edit for length.

COMMUNITY

LOCAL STUDENTS ON 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 2024-2025 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. Most call the honor “dean’s list,” but some grant the “Dean’s Honor List” and “Dean’s High Honor List.”

Blue Mounds: Calina Ackerman, School of Education, Dean’s List; Maja Hastings, School of Education, Dean’s List; 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, Honor Roll; Andie Moore, School of Nursing, Dean’s Honor List; Samuel Mrochek, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean’s List; Braden Schleip, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; Hayley Smith, School of Pharmacy, High Honor Roll; **Mount Horeb:** Camryn Anderson, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean’s List; Rachel Aquino, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; Lukas Bennin, School of Nursing, Dean’s Honor List; **Paige** Bilse, College of Engineering, Dean’s Honor List; Ayden Cornelius, College of Engineering, Dean’s Honor List; Olivia Dobson, College of Engineering, Dean’s Honor List; Abygael Edseth, School of Nursing, Dean’s Honor List; Caralyn Felcyn, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; Ethan Fendrick, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; Margaret Harvey, School of Nursing, Dean’s Honor List; Mary Harvey, School of Education, Dean’s List; Emma Heisch, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; Genevieve Helin, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean’s List; Eileen Herrera Carballo, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; Alice Israngkun Na Ayuthia, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; Len Johnson, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean’s List; Erin Kelley, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; Maggie Kelley, School of Education, Dean’s List; Tola Klabough, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean’s List; Mateja Lesar, School of Education, Dean’s List; Clara Leszczynski, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean’s List; Garrison Lindley, School of Education, Dean’s List; Esme Lizdas, School of Education, Dean’s List; Alexa Ouradnik, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean’s List; Anja Rathje, School of Education, Dean’s List; **Quentin** Rosborough, College of Engineering, Dean’s Honor List; George Rothamer, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; **Marissa** Rumler, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean’s List; Jenna Steiner, School of Education, Dean’s List; Sam Thompson, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; David Tisch, College of Engineering, Dean’s Honor List; Jimmy Vineyard, College of Letters and Science, Dean’s List; **Ridgeway:** Laurel Statz, School of Human Ecology, Dean’s Honor List.

Fiscal Facts: Opioid Deaths Drop as initial Settlement Funds Are Distributed

State and local governments in Wisconsin have begun to spend funds they have received from the state’s opioid settlements, which have totaled \$208 million so far and will total roughly \$780 million by 2038.

Recent data show overdose deaths in Wisconsin have begun to decrease for the first time in decades, a promising sign as the state now looks to expand programming to prevent and treat opioid usage. It may be possible to build on this trend through state and local spending financed through legal settlements with pharmaceutical manufacturers, retailers, and distributors – the majority of which is required to go toward abatement of the opioid epidemic.

Passed in the summer of 2021, Wisconsin Act 57 determined how the state and local governments that had signed onto the litigation could receive and spend their settlement dollars. Three in every ten dollars will go to the state health department, while the remaining 70 percent will go to local governments.

So far, the state has devoted the largest share (27.5 percent) of its funds to capital projects at or for treatment facilities. Arbor Place in Menomonie and Meta House in Milwaukee each received \$4.91 million to add a combined 80 treatment beds and services for women, while two more projects in Milwaukee County and northeastern Wisconsin were funded in the last year.

Wisconsin’s 11 federally recognized tribal governments have received a total of \$12 million to use on prevention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and more in their communities.

Nearly \$7.5 million has gone to the Narcan Direct Program, which in 2022 alone, supplied 135 law enforcement agencies with 31,560 doses of Narcan, the brand name of naloxone, which can immediately reverse an opioid over-

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Gregory “Greg” L. Mueller
Jan. 15, 1954 - Mar. 11, 2025



Gregory (Greg) Mueller, age 71, passed away peacefully at his residence on March 11, 2025, following a brief illness. He was born to parents Clifford and Grace Mae (Brattlie) Mueller on January 15, 1954, in Monroe, WI.

Greg met his wife, Terri Vertein, while both were working for General Casualty Insurance Co. their marriage was blessed with their son, Brett.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 1:00pm at New Life Church, 7564 Cottage Grove Rd., Madison, WI 53718. A visitation will be held at the church from 11:00am until the time of the service.

To view the full obituary and to sign the guestbook, please visit: www.ryanfuneralservice.com

neralservice.com
Ryan Funeral Home & Cremation Services
Windsor/DeForest Road
6924 Lake Road
608-846-4250

Debra D. Herfel
July 14, 1956 - March 14, 2025



Debra Diane (Disch) Herfel passed away on Friday, March 14, 2025, at Agrace HospiceCare, Inc., Fitchburg, at the age of 68. Deb was born July 15, 1956, in Monroe, WI, to Waldo “Duke” and Betty Jean (Holcomb) Disch. She was the fifth of seven children.

Deb married Curt Herfel on March 17, 1983, in Las Vegas, Nevada. They were blessed with three children and four grandchildren.

Deb grew up in Mount Vernon, WI, attending a small rural school, LaFollette Heights, in Mount Vernon until the 7th grade, when LaFollette Heights joined the Mount Horeb School District. Deb gradu-

ated with Class of 1974 from Mount Horeb High School. After graduation, she had various jobs until securing a job at Carnes, Verona, WI, on November 1, 1977, which she continued for 13 years. Following the passing of her father-in-law in a farming accident Deb and Curt purchased the family’s home farm, and she began a life-long career in agriculture. Deb and Curt worked side-by-side milking cows, doing chores and trying to figure out a new way of life. Deb appreciated her farm living which enabled her to be home with the family and ensuring her children had all they needed.

Deb is survived by her husband, Curt; their children, Shelly (Bob) Johnson, Traci Herfel (Roger Handler), and Curtis H. Herfel (April Jo Watson); grandchildren, Nicole and Kortni Johnson, Alex Grignano and Lillian Handler. She is further survived by siblings, Dennis (Phyllis) Disch, Cheryl (Roger) Disch, Linda (Bob) Sies, Judy (Dave) Ross, Terry Disch, Deanna Prochaska; brother-in-law, Ray Herfel (Irene); and 10 nephews and four nieces.

Deb was preceded in death by her parents; father and mother-in-law, Horace and Lillian Herfel; and brother and sister-in-law, Gerald and Yvonne Herfel and Shirley and Russel Riley.

Deb leaves behind many great friends who were a wonderful support team to her, including Lois Mimetz, Dennis and Anna Brady, Chris Disch, Dave and Loretta Herfel, Kristen Steivane, Brian Miller (who always went above and beyond to help Curt), Ben Shortreed, Kara Flentje, along with many others. She would have been lost without them and every day was so appreciative of their love. Special thanks to her siblings, Dennis and Deanna, for their nearly daily visits to provide support and make sure Deb was behaving. Deb and her family cannot thank Agrace HospiceCare, Inc. enough for all their love, compassion, and support over this past year.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Salem United Church of Christ, 502 Mark Drive, Verona, WI, with Rev. Phil Hobson officiating. Burial will follow in the Verona Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., on Friday, March 21, 2025, at Becker-Beal Funeral Home, 109 Greenway Cross, Belleville, WI.

An online memorial with guestbook is available at www.bealfuneralhomes.com.

Becker-Beal Funeral Home
Belleville, WI

CHURCH NOTES

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ 1693 Washington St. Verona 608-832-6677 www.mtvernonucc.org Sunday Worship, in-person and on Facebook Live, 10:15 am Bible Study 9am-10am We are an Open and Affirming Congregation	Good News Lutheran Church - WELS NEW LOCATION: 9975 Pepper Dr Pastor Jonathan Bauer Sunday Worship: 9:00 am (in person and online) Sunday School and Bible Study 10:15 am 608-437-4646 visit GoodNewsLC.org/location for details & directions
Springdale Lutheran Church 2752 Town Hall Rd. 608-437-3493 Vicar: James Ranney Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month at 10am twosteeple.org	Immanuel Lutheran- ELCA 310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb 608-437-8733 10am Sunday Worship www.immanuelmh.org/ 1st Steps Childcare 608-218-4425
St. Michael The Archangel Parish Rev. Robert Butz- Parish Administrator St. Ignatius Catholic Church 109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb 608-437-5348 Mass: Sunday 10:30 am Tuesday thru Friday - 8:00 am Sat. 5:00 pm Holy Redeemer Catholic Church 10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb Mass: Sunday 8:00 am	Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church – ELC 315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012 www.elcmthoreb.org 5 pm Saturday Worship 9 am Sunday Worship umcmh.org Celebrating God's Inclusive Love
Vermont Lutheran Church- ELCA 9886 Vermont Church Road Black Earth, WI 53515 www.vermontlutheran.org 608-767-3312 (office) Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.	New Hope Evangelical Free Church 639 S. Eighth St., Mt. Horeb Phone: 608-437-3273 www.newhopeefc.org Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church 2962 Church St., Blue Mounds 608-437-3493 Vicar: James Ranney Worship: Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month, 10:00 am	Perry Lutheran Church ELCA 1057 Hwy 78 S, Mt. Horeb 608-437-5294 Sunday Worship 9:00 am www.perrylutheranchurchelca.org

School board OKs policy changes

By **AVNSLEY HOELSCHER**
Mount Horeb Mail

The Mount Horeb Board of Education approved several policy changes involving religion and other issues. They also heard a public comment regarding Evidence Based Grading (EBG).

Parent Anne Ruthford explained how in 2009 she observed a Stevenson High School in the Chicago area

using EBG to improve standardized test performance.

“The label you put on a grade... it really doesn’t matter,” Rutherford said, “we really want to focus on what great things schools are doing.”

Independent disability evaluations

On second reading the board approved revisions to policy which outlines procedures for parents who may

want to test their student for a disability independently at their expense.

Cash in school

The board approved revisions to a policy handling cash at school. The changes were minor, and defined the end of the day for the purposes of securing the cash. For weekend or after hours events the end of the day is when all activities in that building are complete.

Employee grievances

The board updated the employee grievance to exempt termination and contract non renewal decisions from the informal resolution process. Those issues go straight to the formal process.

The policy was last updated in 2012 and the changes better align with state statutes.

Religious and patriotic observances

The board changed this policy to include mention of special observance days required by state law.

Religion in the classroom

The board altered their policy on how religions are taught about in the classroom so that it better protects the privacy of students. Instead of accommodation requests going to the teach-

ers, they now go to the principal for review.

Appeals of the principal’s decision are now in alignment with the general appeals policy.

Released for religious instruction

The board approved a small change to their policy allowing students time for religious instruction outside of school. The only change was editing cross references to other policies.

Blue Mounds board approves Sabel

By **STEVE MATYAS**
Mount Horeb Mail

The Village of Blue Mounds Board of Trustees opted to supply a list of questions to be asked at the March 19th candidates’

forum to each participant. The forum was scheduled to begin at 4:30 PM and was followed by a meet-and-greet with the candidates running for the board. Look for coverage in the next edition.

The village board last week approved the use of Sabel Mechanical LLC for replacement of bearings at the booster station and investigation into whether a sludge pump can be repaired or will require replacement,

and the use of Staab Construction Corporation if replacement is necessary.

The applications for the use of village streets for the Blue Mounds Cruise In and the Horribly Hilly Hundreds were approved. The Cruise

In, in its second year in the village, will start on June 3rd and run every other Tuesday from 4:30 until dusk. 20-60 participants are expected to show vehicles at the event, and set-up will begin at 4:00. The Horribly Hilly

Hundreds will take place on June 14th and run from 4:00 AM to 8 PM, with 1200 bicyclists expected to be on the road between 6:45 AM and 7:00 PM.

Billionaires from both sides flooding Wisconsin Supreme Courtrace with cash

Megadonors from the right, Diane Hendricks and Richard Uihlein, and the left, George Soros and Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, have each given their preferred party at least \$500k this year. Elon has spent more.

By **PETER CAMERON**
The Badger Project

Wisconsin is in the midst of another major election, and familiar billionaire megadonors are trying to outdo each other.

On Jan. 10, Wall Street legend and bogeyman to the political right George Soros gave the Democratic Party of Wisconsin \$1 million, according to records filed with the state.

On Jan. 17, Diane Hendricks, chairwoman of ABC Building Supply, gave the Republican Party of Wisconsin \$975,000, and another \$100,000 a few weeks later.

On Jan. 28, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, whose family owns the Hyatt hotel chain, gave the Democratic Party of Wisconsin \$500,000.

On Feb. 11, Richard Uihlein, an heir to the Schlitz beer fortune and co-founder of the packing supplies company ULINE, gave \$650,000 to the Republican Party of Wisconsin.

And on Feb. 13, the mother-daughter billionaire philanthropists Lynn and Stacy Schustermann, from Oklahoma City, each gave the Wisconsin Democratic

Party \$500,000.

Those billionaires have given huge sums to their preferred party in each of the last few elections in Wisconsin, translating mostly to more political advertising. The fact they are donating to the political party instead of directly to their preferred candidate is no mistake.

Donations made directly to political candidates in Wisconsin are capped by state law at a certain amount depending on the office. For example, an individual can only give a maximum of \$20,000 to a candidate for state Supreme Court, something Hendricks has already done this year.

But a loophole in state law allows donors to give unlimited amounts of cash to po-

litical parties, and for those same parties to divert unlimited amounts to candidates.

So the billionaires’ donations made early this year have almost certainly found their way to the two candidates for the state Supreme Court race. The state Democratic Party has already reported giving left-wing candidate and Dane County Circuit Court Judge Susan Crawford, \$2 million, while the state GOP has tried to keep pace, reporting giving right-wing candidate and Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Brad Schimel nearly \$1.7 million. And many weeks remain before the April 1 election.

That party loophole was opened by court cases and inaction by the GOP major-

ity in the Wisconsin State Legislature. It could be closed, but so far, Republicans have ignored attempts by Democrats in the minority to do so. Should they ever retake the state Legislature, it remains to be seen if Democrats will want to close a loophole that is now working so well for them.

Elon Musk has also jumped into the race, but using his millions in a different way. He is spending independently of campaigns and parties, through a super PAC to buy millions in political advertising and fund door-knocking operations for Schimel.

The last race for Wisconsin Supreme Court, in 2023, set a court record of more than \$50 million raised

and spent to try and influence the race, according to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, an organization that tracks political spending in the state. Experts expect even more in this race.

“If nothing changes, every Supreme Court race we have until now until 2030, it’s going to break a record,” said Nick Ramos, executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, of the massive political cash.

The court will have seats opening and thus elections in each of the next four years after this one. Liberals are at somewhat of an advantage, as they only have to defend two justices’ seats in that time, while conservatives must defend three.

How cost is used to deny access to records

By **BILL BARTH**
Your Right to Know

There’s good news and bad news in a recent Wisconsin Court of Appeals decision upholding an open records judgment related to the ridiculous and ham-handed investigation into alleged 2020 election fraud headed by former Supreme Court justice Michael Gableman.

On the good news side, the appellate court upheld a lower court ruling that the state of Wisconsin must pay \$241,000 in legal fees because various officials — including Gableman and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos — flouted the public records law by failing to turn over legally requested informa-

tion in a timely manner.

The bad news? There’s plenty. First, taxpayers — not the offending political characters — have to pony up the \$241,000. And taxpayers clearly did nothing wrong.

Moreover, this case illustrates a near-fatal flaw in the state of Wisconsin’s otherwise exemplary Open Records Law. The statute is among the nation’s best, setting forth that Wisconsin considers openness the default position and holding that records requesters who are denied documents illegally may recover court costs and lawyers’ fees.

But think about that number again. Who has \$241,000 to put on the line in an attempt to force the government to follow its

own laws?

In this particular case, an established liberal organization called American Oversight fought to make the government abide by the law.

This same law, though, is supposed to empower every citizen to approach any level of government — the school board, the city council — and request access to public records, which then must be turned over except in relatively rare instances that fall within narrowly defined exemptions. That sounds better than it sometimes works in practice, as the Gableman case shows.

If authorities decide to be difficult and stonewall a records request, the citizen can hire a lawyer and go to court like American Oversight.

And, in fairly short order, the citizen could wind up owing a lot of money.

That potential outcome is not a secret. Officials at all levels of government are well aware that prohibitive costs can lead to would-be records requesters relinquishing their rights rather than risking high legal fees. Any time that happens — and it does happen — a good law is turned upside down in a way that encourages public officials to just say no.

In the past, news media organizations frequently stood in for citizens and went up against public authorities bent on hiding secrets. That can cost a lot of money and, the state of the news business being what it is these days, fewer news

organizations are willing to take on this risk. As a result, citizens’ rights to information are diminished.

An alternative does exist in the law. When records are refused, the law says requesters can turn to county district attorneys or the Wisconsin Attorney General’s Office. But again, in practice, that’s a weak option. Prosecutors are busy dealing with burglars and rapists and killers. Taking on their fellow government officials over a stack of paper is low on the priority list. It’s rare for a district attorney anywhere in the state to haul a city, county or state records custodian in front of a judge to enforce the law.

So too many officials believe they can get away with withholding public records.

Or, they can rest easy in the knowledge it will be taxpayers, not them, stuck with the bill even if they lose a challenge.

The Legislature could fix this, with a reform that sharpens enforcement teeth in the law. Instead, it’s the sound of silence that you hear coming from the Capitol, and every other government building.

Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a group dedicated to open government. Bill Barth is the former editor of the Beloit Daily News, where a version of this column originally appeared.

Gleanings

By **BARR JOHNSON**
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- March 20, 1885

Our town is discussing the prospects of a town hall. A wrestling match will take place in the village of Blue Mounds tomorrow, at 2 o'clock p.m. Undoubtedly this will draw a large crowd, as this is something new you know.

60 fine \$10 accordions with 6 stops, 3 full sets of reeds and sounding trumpets, in beautiful cases, for \$4.50, at C. R. Lowe's.

\$640 for 160 acres of land located within two miles of town was the highest bid at the auction last Friday, and it was not sold. Either the land is not desirable or no one is after real estate.

130 Years Ago- March 21, 1895

LaGrippe is here again with all its old time vigor. Miss Annie Myers, waiter at the Hotel Britton, discontinued her services there Monday and departed for Madison to accept a position of the like kind.

Did Columbus have knowledge of the Norse discovery of America? R. B. Anderson, lecture, Mt. Horeb, March 25. Only 15 and 25 cents.

About 60 pedagogues were wielding the pen here Tuesday and Wednesday. Martin Quisler came home from Waukesha, Tuesday, for to stay. Martin has grown to be a big boy and has learned the tailor's trade.

Death entered the home of A. E. Field last Sunday and took away the young and promising son Andrew, aged 12 years and three months, after a week's sickness of inflammation of the bowels. This is the seventh death which has occurred in this family of fourteen children, seven remaining.

120 Years Ago- March 23, 1905

Brown & Weltzin have opened a branch office at Belleville with James Hendrickson as general manager.

J.P. Moen and Postmaster Vilberg went to Ridgeway Saturday evening to attend the band concert. Mr. Moen is the leader of the newly organized band. They returned home Sunday.

Levor Thompson bought 43 acres of land adjoining his farm from August Kable, paying about \$54 per acre.

Casper Bergen is back from Crandon where he put up in the winter in a logging camp.

I expect a car of coal in a few days and it would be well for coal consumers to look over their wants and notify me so the coal can be delivered from the car if any is wanted. Thos. Ayen

On next Monday Mr. Frank Goebel and Miss Maud O'Connor will be joined in hand, heart and destiny at the Catholic church at Paoli. Mr. Goebel is the youngest of the family, sober and industrious, respected by all. Miss

O'Connor is a very successful teacher, a lady of many good characteristics, of a pleasant and agreeable disposition.

100 Years Ago- March 24, 1925

Emil Koch is recuperating at his home after he suffered a broken leg and dislocated ankle when he fell while moving a car in the Mt. Horeb Auto Co. garage last Wednesday.

Spring has come for sure. A train of gypsies paid our town a visit Saturday. They had 20 horses with them.

Mrs. Emma Rue is a patient at Methodist Hospital, Madison.

There will be a number of new names placed in nomination at the caucus tonight. It therefore will be an interesting meeting and should be well attended. Remember the caucus is more important than the election.

John A. Dysland, who was appointed postmaster by President Coolidge a few weeks ago, received his warrant and assumed his duties yesterday.

Mrs. Timon Gordon, Mrs. Arthur Mackaprang and son Milford, left Monday for Chicago for an indefinite stay.

I wish to state at this time that I am not a candidate for nomination at the coming Village Caucus, either for President or Supervisor. I have been honored by election to the presidency of the village five times, which is quite long time.

Walter Gerber of Blue Mounds is suffering from cuts and bruises which he received when he was thrown from a wagon onto a barbed wire fence in a runaway last Friday. Mr. Gerber was driving a new horse, the animal

became frightened, and unmanageable, throwing the unfortunate man from the rig.

Albert Grinder and Miss Hilda Peterson were Wednesday. The numerous invited guests assembled at the church where the nuptial knot was tied early enough so as to partake of a sumptuous dinner at the house of the groom, where the wedding festivities were held.

90 Years Ago- March 21, 1935

The well drillers went to Milwaukee yesterday for tools with which they will attempt to raise the bit, which is lodged in the well. The rest of the tools were brought to the surface Saturday.

The work of remodeling and modernizing the former Mrs. Annie Gulson residence, recently purchased by I.J. Gesme, is now in progress.

Miss Dorothy Luhman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Luhman, and Wallace Bohle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Bohle, both of Mount Horeb were married Saturday evening, Mar. 16, by the Rev. W. T. Walker at the Methodist parsonage.

80 Years Ago- March 22, 1945

S/Sgt. Nona W. Hagen, WAX, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Way of Mt. Vernon, of the San Francisco Post of Embarkation, was crowned Queen of the Purple Heart at a Paramount Theatre. She won the title sending in 1,903 blood donors to the Red Cross.

At 12:20 am a fire broke out on the porch of the Inman Iverson home, Daleyville. A few minutes later a car full

of service men who were driving by happened to see the blaze. One of them immediately ran into the house woke the family. Then he and the others went about putting out the fire. The fire department was called from Mt. Horeb, but arrived too late-the fire was out.

One of the outstanding groups of hogs bought by Oscar Mayer & Company at Madison stockyards this last week were raised by William Helt of Cross Plains.

Roger Valstad had the misfortune to cut his foot with an axe while cutting wood Saturday.

70 Years Ago- March 24, 1955

The Mt. Horeb Music Department will present a Hanneman concert in the high school gym. The program will consist of four original compositions by Fred H. Hanneman for band and two for voice.

Local Men to attend the Sewage Short Course: An invitation to attend the four-day course for superintendent and operators of the city and sewage treatment departments has been received by Oliver Lee and Roger Valstad of the Mt. Horeb sewage treatment department.

There will be a rag bee at the Legion rooms Friday afternoon.

A dedication tea will be held Friday, April 1 at the Methodist Church parlors to dedicate the silver service given to the church in memory of Mrs. Theresa Evans.

60 Years Ago- March 25, 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Zweifel have sold their home on Lake Street to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Plenge, Boscobel, who will take possession, July 1. The Zweifels have purchased the Britt Valley School, which they will remodel.

Teacup Topics by Mary Ann: Spring's bold tripled and quadrupled color schemes dare to mix pinks and corals with scarlet. Clash, not match, seems to be the rule.

Mrs. Curtis Greenwald, her daughter, Mrs. James Brue and her little granddaughter Nancy got caught in one of our recent snowstorms. As if that wasn't enough, they ran out of gas, too. As Nancy watched her mother disappear in the storm on her way to find a farm house and some gasoline, she looked worried, voicing her concern she said to her grandma, "I hope she come back. She's the best mother I ever had."

50 Years Ago- March 20, 1975

Last Sunday a dinner was held at Club 18 honoring Matt Eggum on his retirement after over 40 years at Eggum & Johnson Company. Eggum sold his interest in the lumber supply company to Peter Riphahn who with Forest Johnson will continue as building materials supplier to the community.

Chriss J. Thousand, 77, Mount Horeb died Saturday, March 15, at a Madison hospital after a brief illness.

20 Years Ago- March 24, 2005

Dan and Kyle Curran were chosen as the Optimist club's high school recipients of the Someone You Should Know Award for outstanding community service for the month of March.

Louise Rundhaug, 87, of Mount Horeb died on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at Ingleside Nursing Home.

Mark and Kristin Clark proudly announce the arrival of Jenna Rose born on Saturday, March 12, 2005 at Meriter Hospital, Madison. She joins a sister, Emma, 16 months.

MOUNT HOREB MAIL

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DISPLAY AD DEADLINE: Thursday noon, week prior to publication
NEWS DEADLINE: Monday noon

PUBLISHERS: Tom Finger
EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Matt Geiger
SPORTS EDITOR: Rob Reischel
PROOFREADER: Christine Swiggum
ADVERTISING SALES: Lisa Kueter-Anderson

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$49/yr.; \$98/2 yrs.; Out-of-state: \$64/yr.; \$124/2 yrs.



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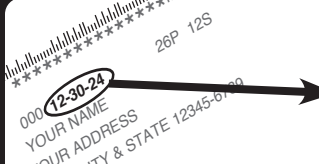


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Chamber welcomes Evolve Cannabis & Nutrition

The Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome Evolve Cannabis & Nutrition as a new member. Celebrating six years in the Mount Horeb community, Evolve offers a wide range of locally-sourced, hemp-derived products, including hemp flower, terpene-infused smokeables, edibles, topicals, and specialized items like Delta 8, Delta 9, Delta 10, and CBN/Melatonin products.

In addition to their existing product lines, Evolve is expanding its offerings to include a new Adult Wellness Boutique, as part of their ongoing commitment to holistic wellness. This curated selection of products will focus on intimacy, self-care, and overall well-being, providing a space where customers can explore items that promote balance, empowerment, and personal health. Evolve believes that wellness goes beyond fitness and nutrition, and this new



Evolve Cannabis & Nutrition owner Dee Hunter.

addition will help the community prioritize self-care in all aspects of life.

Evolve’s new nutrition line, featuring protein powders and pre-workout products, further supports their mission to enhance health and wellness. Their knowledgeable team, led by

Dee, is dedicated to helping customers find the perfect product to meet their needs—whether it’s reducing stress, improving sleep, or finding natural relief.

“Welcome, Evolve Cannabis & Nutrition – we’re thrilled to grow together,” said the Chamber.



Library will hold Pet Lookalike Contest

Pictured from left to right are Caitlynn Nemec and her cat, Luna.

By Jessica Gretzinger
Beginning April 1, the library will hold a Pet Lookalike Contest. Members of the community can vote for their favorites! Votes are earned by checking out ma-

terials – multiple checkouts earn multiple votes! Voting will conclude on April 30th with the winner announced May 1st. We are accepting submissions through March 31st. To compete, please

visit our website (mhpl.org) and upload your photos or drop them off in person! Questions? Contact Jessica at jessica.gretzinger@mounthorebwi.info.

ELECTION

continued from page 5

benefit from it by encouraging and allowing residential and potentially commercial development (as appropriate) along these corridors and throughout the Township. Growth is happening with or without us. The Town of Springdale should benefit from this growth and new tax revenues rather than risk losing it by suppressing development and enduring more annexations.

Are you familiar with Robert’s Rule of Order and

Wisconsin’s various open records and open meetings laws?

Altschul: You bet. Via my job as a public employee and as a current member of the Springdale Plan Commission.

Hensey: Yes, I have a functional understanding of these and intend to strictly and transparently comply with all rules, regulations and laws relating to Town Board procedures and individual Supervisor actions and communications.

Tell us how you will work collaboratively, including with people you disagree with on certain issues:

Altschul: Working collaboratively with those who have opposing views is the foundation of democracy. To accomplish anything at all we must problem solve and compromise. We are neighbors and a lot of the time we are friends. I don’t expect that having opposing viewpoints on municipal issues will change that.

Hensey: It is important to remain open minded and reasonable when settling

disputes or differences of opinion. I generally try to find alternatives that allow saying yes to a request or proposal rather than saying no due to rules and regulations. Respecting, listening to, and understanding other people’s perspective is an important part of individual success and finding negotiated win-win solutions to problems. Listening and communicating clearly, remaining objective, sharing information, and taking a friendly approach usually leads to a common understanding and agreement.

What is your favorite thing about living in Springdale?

Altschul: The rolling hills and scenic views of fields and forests make living here feel like living at a vacation destination. The Military Ridge Trail, Donald Park, and the 4th of July fireworks at Mt. Vernon Park are staples for me. We are so lucky to have all of this in such close proximity to the urban amenities and jobs that Dane County offers. The friendly neighbors and the excellent tavern fare are added bonuses!

Hensey: While living in the City of Verona, I searched for a nearby rural home I could afford for many years. Availability and affordability of homes and land was very limited. I was blessed to finally find a home on two acres where I hope to live “happily ever after.” The Town of Springdale rolling hills provide a beautiful rural Wisconsin setting for pursuing happiness in a peaceful environment while also offering convenient access to nearby city amenities.

DEATHS

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dose. The state also provided counties and tribal governments around the state with \$7.8 million to cover room and board costs for Medicaid members in residential opioid treatment.

From the 70 percent share of the split, most is distributed to localities based on a formula applied to all settlement fund dollars that its population and how it has been impacted by the opioid epidemic. Milwaukee County will receive the largest share at about \$102

million over the next two decades.

Milwaukee County used a comprehensive application process and a panel of expert reviewers to approve \$16.5 million for an initial cohort of 15 projects. The largest was a \$4.8 million effort to provide prevention, treat-

ment, and harm reduction grants to community-based organizations that target historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups in Milwaukee. Other projects focused on harm reduction, project coordination, delivery of services to vulnerable popu-

lations such as the elderly or homeless, or new staffing or materials for various county agencies.

Moving forward, policymakers may wish to seek out stories of success in the use of opioid settlement funds, as state and local agencies tailor their approach to the

opioid epidemic to best meet the needs of their residents.

This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state’s leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education. Learn more at wispoli-cyforum.org.

MOW

continued from page 1

mowing no more frequently than every 2-3 weeks. Another way to increase benefits to pollinators is reducing lawn size. Slow Mow May encourages participants to add native gardens, shrubs and trees to benefit not only pollinators but birds. Native plants support the multitude of caterpillars birds need to feed their young and enable them to thrive.

The shift aligns with similar changes in other

Wisconsin communities, including Madison’s “Low Mow May,” Fort Atkinson’s “Less Mow May,” and Appleton’s “Slow Mow Summer.”

To reflect this change, the Slow Mow May Committee will provide “Slow” stickers to existing No Mow May participants for their signs. New participants can obtain free signs with the updated slogan. The Slow Mow May committee will continue to offer educational programming on attracting and retaining pollinators, reducing

pesticide use, reducing the size of your lawn, and incorporating native plantings. Stay tuned for some unique educational offerings this spring.

To learn more, and obtain signs or stickers, please contact slowmowmay@gmail.com and a committee member will deliver signs/stickers to your door.

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Small Size, Big Personality: Discovering Small Mammals as Pets

Discover the unique care needs and personalities of hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, and more

By Heather Stanek
Finger Publishing

Cats and dogs may be king for most, but there's another kind of pet that also deserves the royal treatment. Domesticated small mammals are some of the most diverse on the planet. Each kind has its own personality, intelligence, diet, lifespan and care needs. There are lagomorphs, like rabbits, along with rodents, such as hamsters, fancy rats, and guinea pigs. There are even members of the weasel family: Ferrets. If you want to go really exotic, look no further than chinchillas. Words like "rodent" may be a turnoff for people, but it's not a term that should be synonymous with "dirty" or "diseased." In fact, the word "rodent" simply refers to the type of teeth possessed by these small animals. By extension,

it also describes their diets. If you look closely, you'll see rabbits have a different set of teeth that rats or mice, which is why rabbits are called "lagomorphs." Weasels — and ferrets by extension — have a carnivore's teeth, although they are also known to feed on fruits and other vegetation. If you're curious about getting a different sort of pet, read on to discover a bit more about some of the most common small pets. As always, make sure to do even more thorough research on any animal you plan to adopt, make sure you can afford it, ensure it is acceptable in your living situation, and figure out if it will fit with your family and/or other pets. **Hamsters** These are among the most common small pets, and there are several reasons why. They are compact



Guinea pigs need toys and items to chew on because their teeth never stop growing. (Photos by Heather Stanek)

and cute, don't need a lot of space, and have one of the shortest life spans among small pets. According to the RSPCA, hamsters live an average of two years, though that number may increase depending on the breed and overall health. There are many different kinds of hamsters, and all vary in size and coat color. All, however, love to explore, burrow and climb. You may have seen them dig down into their paper

bedding in order to bury themselves for sleep. Like other small prey animals, they like to feel covered and protected. They also love hoarding food. Who hasn't seen at least one video of a hamster literally stuffing its face? If you give it food or treats, it'll likely fill its cheeks and then run off to hide its quarry. Hamsters also do well on their own, an unusual trait for rodents, which tend to



Guinea pigs are curious and social, and they may come over to see if you have food.

be herd animals, according to the RSPCA. It makes sense, as there is strength in numbers. Not necessarily so for the humble hamster. As with all caged pets, hamsters need regular cleaning of their enclosures. Make sure to put your furry friend in a safe, secure place while removing the old bedding and adding new material. Otherwise, you might find yourself scouring your home for the little escapee. Hamsters, like other ro-

dents, also need toys or wood to chew on since their teeth never stop growing. You can find said toys, along with food and bedding, at pet supply stores, some major retailers, and online. You'll also need to regularly check and replace the water. You wouldn't want to drink old or dirty water, and neither would your pet. It's a good idea to establish with a vet who specializes in exotics. A traditional **continued on next page**

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PAWSOME PETS

continued from previous page

vet may not have the expertise or equipment to properly diagnose and treat hamsters and other rodents.

Hamsters typically feed on the dry pellets you can purchase from stores or online, but you can also treat them occasionally to green veggies and fruit. For a complete list of safe foods, it's best to go online or consult with a vet. One resource is www.rspca.org.uk.

Be warned that some hamsters don't like to be handled, and may even bite to avoid being picked up. It's understandable since instinct tells them to run from being lifted. You might be able to overcome this behavior with repetition or treats, but don't be too disappointed if your hamster never warms up to being picked up.

Fancy rats

Don't equate these little ones with the bubonic plague. Fancy rats are exactly that: They are a domesticated version of their wild brethren. As a result, they are more social, intelligent and calm than those found in the wild. They also boast more colorful coat patterns.

Rats don't like to be alone, so make sure to get them a friend of the same sex.

The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends making sure they have lots of space to explore, play, eat and sleep. They are social animals, so you'll need to set time aside for them every day.

Like hamsters, they need fresh water and a clean enclosure. Also, remember those teeth that never stop growing? Yup, they need chew toys, too.

Unlike certain hamster breeds, fancy rats tend to enjoy being handled and interacting with their owners. They may sit on your lap or

shoulder or snooze in your arms.

Among rodents, they have some of the longest life spans at two to four years, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. Keep that in mind when choosing a pet.

As for diet, rodents enjoy store-bought food plus fruits and vegetables. Rat food can help ensure they get the right mix of nutrients, but don't be afraid to spoil them with fresh selections, such as apples, broccoli and berries, according to WebMD. As with any food, make sure to consult a comprehensive list, which can be found online, before deciding to feed your rat.

You might need to trim a rat's nails if they get too long, which can be done with special clippers purchased from pet suppliers. If you are nervous about trimming them yourself, seek out an experienced veterinarian or groomer with exotics expertise.

Like any animal, rats can carry illnesses, but you can reduce your risk of getting sick by practicing good hygiene. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends always washing your hands with warm, soapy water after handling your pet. This is important for all small pets, not just rats. Never kiss or cuddle them close to your mouth or face. Whenever cleaning enclosures, it's a good idea to wear disposable gloves. For a cleaning guide, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/animal-safety.htm.

Guinea pigs

Of all small domesticated rodents, guinea pigs are among the most social. They prefer to have at least one friend of the same sex, though they also do well in larger groups. Never mingle

male and female guinea pigs unless they are fixed, as that's a surefire way to end up with a lot of pigs in a short amount of time.

Be aware that guinea pigs are some of the most demanding of small pets. They have the longest life spans among domesticated rodents, living up to five to seven years, and require a specialized diet. Simple store-bought food won't be enough for them; you'll also need to provide plentiful hay and fresh produce every single day.

Like others, they also need fresh water and chew toys.

Guinea pigs are known not only for their myriad of colors and hair lengths, but also their vocals. Their unmistakable "wheek" sounds indicate their enthusiasm for food, their friends or even their owners. They have an assortment of other vocalizations, too, ranging from quiet peeps of contentment or curiosity to rumbling in agitation or dominance, or even purring to show ultimate happiness and relaxation. They are also known to jump or do half-twists in excitement, especially when playing with other pigs, exploring a freshly cleaned cage, or anticipating a treat. This act is known as "pop-corning."

They may prefer to be with others but, even so, they still have a hierarchy. For that reason, you can expect to see dominance behaviors. This includes having chin-lifting contests with other piggies, wiggling their rumps and rumbling, or dragging their rumps along the cage floor. Don't worry, they don't have worms. Guinea pigs have grease glands in place of a tail, and they use this to mark their territory.

The good news is they don't smell musky like some other animals with glands, unless they are dirty, becoming sexually mature or just doing a lot of dominance behavior with other guinea



Rabbits come in all colors, sizes and hair types. Longer haired varieties require more care to prevent matting and tangles. (Reedsburg Independent file photo)

pigs. If they get smelly, you can wash their back ends with warm, soapy water (free and clear soaps for sensitive skin are the safest bet). Keeping the cage clean will also go a long way in preventing odors.

Like rats, guinea pigs are very social and need attention every day. They will likely run from your reaching hands, but don't let that deter you. They aren't likely to bite, and are only running due to instinct. Once they are up and in your arms, you can make them feel safe by providing a blanket or just holding them close. Be sure to provide support under the rump and around the body. Most piggies eventually learn to look forward to lap time, but only if you make the effort to train them. Guinea pigs can even be taught to indicate when they need to be put down, which means you don't have to worry about one having an accident on your shirt or pants. They are among the most intelligent of small domesticated rodents, and it shows the more you interact

with them.

Finally, like you, they need their nails kept neat and trimmed. You can find a vet to do it or do it yourself with the proper clippers. Online tutorials can help you learn how to give your piggy a proper manicure.

Rabbits

As Easter approaches, you might be tempted to get a fluffy little bunny for your child or grandchild. Be warned, though, that rabbits, like every other pet, require a lot of commitment, diligence and work.

For one, they don't stay cute little baby bunnies. Rabbits can get to be quite large, depending on their breed. That size requires more room, cleaning and food. They also have energy, meaning you'll need to take them out and let them get exercise every day. They are also social and like interacting with their owners or another bunny friend.

Be warned that rabbits can't be housed in an enclosure with other types of pets. They can be hurt by dogs and cats, but they in turn can injure or kill hamsters and guinea pigs. This is due to their powerful back feet.

Speaking of feet, rabbits use them to "talk." Don't be surprised if your rabbit gives attitude by thumping its feet. They may also do this in alarm.

When severely distressed or in danger, rabbits may also squeal.

Rabbits have a much longer life than most other small pets. A rabbit can live up to 15 years, according to the SPCA.

They need a lot of care. Besides the usual enclosure cleaning, they also need to have their fur brushed to prevent matting and tangles. This is especially true of the long-haired varieties. Also, like guinea pigs, they need to have their nails regularly trimmed.

Also, again like guinea pigs, they need a diet of fortified pellets, water, plentiful hay, and fresh produce, especially leafy greens.

Rabbits are incredibly intelligent. They can even be trained to use a litter box!

Just be careful if you decide to take your bunny out and let it roam around your home. Rabbits can get into mischief and they love to chew. Keep an eye on your furry friend at all times, lest they get ahold of your phone charger or an extension cord.

No matter what you choose, small pets can bring substantial benefits to your life. Just make sure you're ready before you make the decision to bring one home, and remember: There's no such thing as a "starter pet." All pets, especially small mammals, are demanding in their own way.

Heather Stanek is editor of the Reedsburg Independent. She has raised guinea pigs for more than 10 years.

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PAWSOME PETS

New Feed Store is Open in Middleton

Middleton Farmers' Cooperative opens The Feed Store, offering high-quality feed and supplies for farmers, ranchers, and suburban pet owners

By **Matt Geiger**
Finger Publishing

The Middleton Farmers' Cooperative has a long and illustrious history. The next chapter in its evolution and growth is The Feed Store, which offers an array of items for everyone from suburban pet owners to longtime farmers and ranchers. Spokesperson Natalie Sander took the time to explain more about the co-op, the feed store, and what customers can expect to find there.

First, tell us a little about the Middleton Farmers' Cooperative. What's its history? I do believe it's nearly 100 years old!

Sander: The Middleton Farmers Cooperative Company, a farm supply co-op, was formed in 1928 in Middleton, Wisconsin. Sales of the cooperative consist primarily of petroleum product, feed, and hardware and confections. The Middleton Cooperative is a producer cooperative, and as such, has only producer farmers as board of Directors.

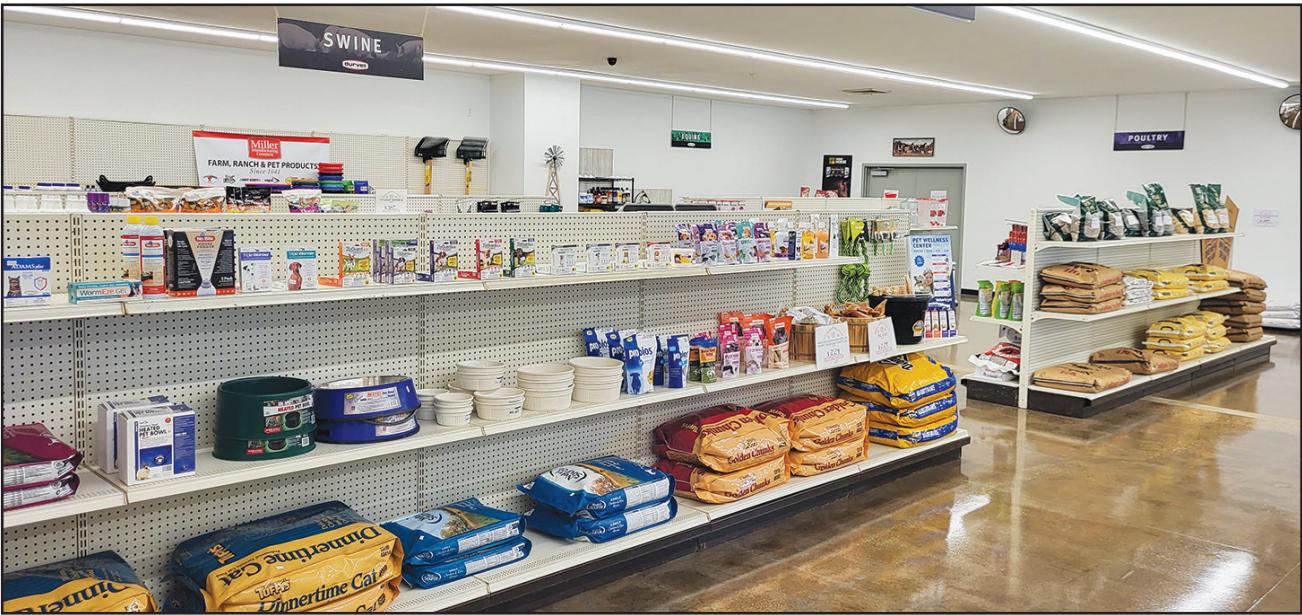
The Middleton Farmers Cooperative main office is located at 1755 Pleasant View Road. This location houses the majority of operation for the co-op including the feed mill, agronomy, energy, car wash, one convenience store, and The Feed Store. The hardware,

landscaping and rental is located at 1987 Pleasant View Road. This location is just north of the main office and other entities of the co-op and was purchased in September of 2021. Our second convenience store is located at 7515 University Avenue in downtown Middleton, across from the fire station.

Tell us all about the Feed Store: What prompted you to open this new division? What kinds of products do you sell?

Sander: The Feed Store was opened to reach customers that like to browse their feed options, and only buy a few bags at a time such as small heard producers, backyard chicken owners, horse owners, or show exhibitors. The store stocks products for horses, chickens, pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, cats, dogs, and rabbits including feed, treats, supplements, and supplies for lifestyle and show animals. Our goal is for the store to provide above and beyond service for with high quality feed and supplies to customers, in addition to being known as an educational resource for them and Dane County as a whole. We are involved in community events and outreach, and regularly host educational meetings and clinics in the store.

Is it just for farmers and ranchers, or do you have items for suburban pets



An aisle at The Feed Store is stocked with a variety of feed and supplies for livestock and pets.

and backyard chickens as well?

Sander: The Feed Store is for everyone whether you have one animal or an entire herd.

I think it's awesome that the co-op is still thriving despite all the development that has occurred in Middleton. Maybe talk a little bit about the fact that there are still a LOT of farmers and animal owners in the area who need a place they can get the items they need for their animals?

Sander: The farming community is still alive and well in Middleton and surrounding areas! The Middleton Farmers Coop originally opened in downtown Middleton, right where the post office stands today. As the city of Middleton grew, the coop moved out of town, to its current location on Pleasant View Road. First the agronomy department moved into the new home, and slowly the small hardware store, feed mill, and fuel departments followed in 1982 to 1984. The first convenience store remained behind, on University Avenue. In the late 1990s, the coop added a second full offering convenience store to

its services.

Fast forward to 2021, when the coop acquired the Fish Lumber property to the north. The new property allowed the hardware store to expand from just 3,000 square feet, to 25,000 square feet and 14 acres, allowing them to expand their hardware, landscape, and rental offerings as well. The old hardware store space remained vacant, until the idea of a new feed supply for the growing Middleton area – think backyard chickens – was born. In 2024, The

Feed Store came alive, and is now the source for quality feed and knowledge related to any lifestyle feed and livestock you can imagine – producing and showing livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, horses, and rabbits) plus the mascots that are ever-present with livestock – dogs and cats. Today, the feed mill, agronomy and fuel departments continue to provide supplies and services to area livestock producers, whereas our two convenience stores, The Feed Store, and the Do

It Best® hardware store provide supplies and services to our smaller producers and home owners.

Anything else you want to add?

Sander: We're excited to be working with UW Extension to put on educational events. We've also partnered with local groups for charitable donations over the holidays. Anyone with agriculture related organizations is welcome to reach out and discuss with us new opportunities to be involved with our communities!



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PAWSOME PETS

Protecting Pets from Fleas and Ticks

Experts share tips and products to keep pets safe and comfortable during flea and tick season

By Alec Finger
Finger Publishing

As temperatures rise and pets spend more time outdoors, the risk of fleas and ticks increases significantly. These pests are more than just a nuisance—they can cause serious health issues for pets and their owners. Taking the right preventive steps can make all the difference in keeping animals safe and comfortable throughout the summer months.

Fleas and ticks are two of the most common parasites that affect pets. Fleas are tiny, wingless insects that survive by feeding on the blood of their hosts. Their bites leave behind itchy, red bumps that can trigger allergic reactions in some pets. A single female flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day, meaning a small problem can quickly escalate into an infestation.

Ticks, on the other hand, are small arachnids that latch onto pets and feed on their blood. They often hide in wooded areas and tall grass, waiting for an animal to pass by. Once attached, they can transmit diseases such as Lyme disease and anaplasmosis, which can lead to long-term health complications. Removing ticks properly is essential. Kathleen Folz, Educational Coordinator at Tabby & Jack's, advises, "Use a tweezers or tick remover and pull as close to the skin as possible to avoid leaving the head behind, which could cause infection."

Pet owners have several options when it comes to protecting their pets from fleas and ticks. Traditional treatments include sprays, shampoos, and spot-on products that use synthetic insecticides like fipronil

and pyrethroids. These chemicals work by spreading through the pet's natural skin oils, repelling and killing parasites over time. While effective, some pets may experience skin irritation or allergic reactions.

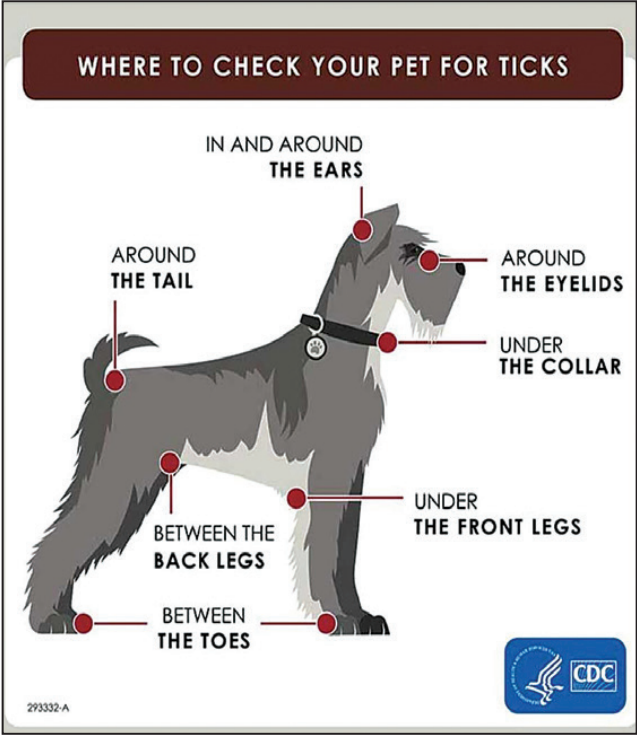
For those looking for a more natural approach, there are products that use essential oils such as cedar oil to repel and kill pests. Folz explains, "Essential oils block neurotransmitters found only in insects and arachnids, causing their nervous system to fail." Brands like Wondercide and Earth Animal offer natural spot-on treatments and sprays that provide an alternative to chemical-based products.

Different pets may require different approaches depending on their environment and lifestyle. "A small dog living in an apartment will have different needs than a hunting dog that spends time in tall grass and wooded areas," Folz notes. Consulting with a veterinarian can help pet owners determine the most suitable option.

In addition to using protective products, pet owners can take several practical steps to minimize the risk of flea and tick infestations:

- Regular Grooming:** Brush your pet's coat frequently and use a flea comb to catch any pests early.
- Vacuum and Clean:** Wash pet bedding weekly and vacuum carpets to remove flea eggs and larvae.
- Yard Maintenance:** Keep grass trimmed and clear out leaf piles and brush where ticks may hide.
- Healthy Diet:** Feeding pets a balanced diet can strengthen their immune system, making them less attractive to pests. Folz advises that low-carb diets can help since "fleas and ticks are drawn to yeast, which thrives on sugar."

Tabby & Jack's offers a range of products designed to help pet owners manage fleas and ticks. Their selection includes natural spot-on treatments, sprays, collars, and shampoos. They also carry tools like the Tick Twister and Ticked Off, which make removing ticks



A diagram shows common areas to check for ticks on pets, including behind the ears, under the collar, between the toes, and around the tail.

easier and safer. For added protection, supplements like Earth Animal's Daily Herbal Internal Powder and Kelp Blend with Garlic can help support a healthy immune system and reduce the likelihood of infestations.

Ultimately, protecting pets from fleas and ticks requires a combination of the

right products and consistent care. By staying vigilant and working with a veterinarian to find the best approach, pet owners can help their animals stay healthy and comfortable all season long. "It's about finding the right balance for your pet's lifestyle," Folz says.

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Sugar River Euchre

By **Stan Hook**
Sugar River Euchre

February 20-27

Results for February 20th: With Kurniki’s Express losing by 41 points to the Cheese Eaters, and both the Norsk Cowboys and Kleeman Hay Shakers winning their matches, there was a three-way tie for first place between the Cowboys, Express and Hay Shakers going into week eight of the second half. Pranksters Larry Losenegger and Rodney Latham had high score at 118 points with Cheese Eaters Kendal Wenger and Brett Hoesly just 3 points behind at 115 points. Cheese Eaters Kohl Wenger and Jeff Buesser assisted in the defeat of the Express by adding another 114 points to the Cheese Eaters’ total. Cowboys Roger Olstad and Harold Schlimgen had 113 points for the Cowboys. Jack Gehin and Scott Keyes were able to scrounge 112 points for the River Rats, while Paul Mason and Kevin Ollendick found 115 points for the Trolls. This week’s low score went to Shufflers Kevin Haack and Shane Kahl with 82 points.

Results for February 27th: At the end of week eight, three teams still have a chance of being crowned

as the second half winners: Kurniki’s Express, the Norsk Cowboys and squeezing in with a slim chance, the Kleeman Hay Shakers. In their 26 point win over the Hay Shakers, engineers John Scheidegger and Dale Herfel recorded 114 points. With 119 points, this week’s high score, Harold Schlimgen and Ferdie Schmitz were nearly perfect in the Cowboys’ win over the Kurniki’s Pipe Benders. Harold and Ferdie lost the second game of the match to Ross Nesheim and John Forbes. John and Ross finished the night with 111 points. Tom Magnuson and Dan Meinholz had 110 points for team Uff-da thereby taking down the River Rats by 29 points. At scoring just 54 points, this week’s low score, River Rats Jimmy Gehin and Gary Bartels scored the league’s lowest score recorded since the 2019/2020 season. The Sportsman’s Cheese Eaters were unable to string together their second win in as many weeks. After defeating the Express last week, they found it tough to beat the quick feet of the Shufflers. They fell to the Red Mouse Shufflers by 23 points giving the Shufflers only their second win of the half. The Viking Trolls also won for the second time this half in their 14 point victory

over the Norsk Pranksters.

Standings
Express 7-1
Cowboys 71
Hay Shakers 6-2
Cheese Eaters 4-4
Uff-Da 4-4
River Rats 3-5
Pranksters 3-5
Pipe Benders 2-6
Shufflers 2-6
Trolls 2-6

March 6
In one of the important matches of the evenings, in their bid to at least secure a tie for first place in the second half of the season, the Kurniki’s Express were up by 25 points going into the eighth frame over the Norsk Pranksters. But in the end, it was very close to being a photo finish as the Pranksters picked up 21 points in the eighth to lose the match by a mere 4 points. Dave Hook and Tommy Schulenberg did their part by raking 111 points in for the Pranksters. The other crucial match was between the Norsk Cowboys and the Viking Trolls. The Cowboys quickly started knocking off the trolls one by one to finish with 74 notches on their belts. Don Field and Steve Dower scored 110 hits while Harold Schlimgen and Marvin Thompson had 112 hits. With both the Cowboys and the Express finishing with

a record of eight and one, a playoff match is required to determine the second half winners. The Kleeman Hay Shakers did everything they could to also get into a playoff match, when they defeated the J&M Bar River Rats by 32 points. But with both the Express and Cowboys winning their matches, the Hay Shakers fell one match short of reaching the playoffs. Don Boley and Scott Keyes had 116 points (this week’s high score) for the River Rats which was minimized by the 68 points recorded by teammates Tracy Funseth and Mark Raders, this week’s low score. With most of their regular players back in action, the Red Mouse Shufflers had an easy time twisting the Kurniki’s Pipe Benders out of shape. By the end of the second frame the Shufflers commanded a 34 point lead and never led by fewer than 18. In the end, with all four Shuffler couples scoring 103 points or more, they secured their third win of the half by 49 points. Winning every frame, team Uff-da took 71 lbs. of cheese from the Cheese Eaters’ stores. Not only did RoseAnn Maier and Ralf Hoesell score 110 points for team Uff-da, but they also skunked Keith Wenger and Jeff Buesser in the sixth frame.

Standings
Cowboys 8-1
Express 8-1
Hay Shakers 7-2
Uff-Da 5-4
Cheese Eaters 4-5
Pranksters 3-6
River Rats 3-6
Shufflers 3-6
Pipe Benders 2-7
Trolls 2-7

Spring Tournament

We had a great turnout for the Spring Tournament held at the Red Mouse in Pine Bluff. In all, there were ten tables, forty players. Barb Judd and partner Dale Herfel were tournament winners with a score of 115 points. They lost only their first game to Opie Taylor and Dave Steinhauer. Leo Humphrey and Pete Ott were tailgating Barb and Dale a little too close for Barb and Dale’s liking, scoring 114 points. The difference was that Leo and Pete lost their first two games. Third place ended with a tie between Larry Losenegger and Kendal Wenger, and Jerome Krantz and Jeff Goebler at 109 points. This is amazing since Jerome also kept track of everyone’s scores while he was playing, and only one mistake was discovered in the scores. Fifth place went to John Baumgartner and Dave Hook with 107 points. The final payout po-

sition went to Opie Taylor and Dave Steinhauer with 101 points The remainder of the scores were: Tom Magnuson and Dave Herfel 100, Don Williams and Stan Hook 99, Steve Vogt and Chris Hook 96, Steve Hoffmaster and Laveran Maier 95, Mary Humphrey and Al Zimmerman 92, Jeff Judd and Jim Day 90, RoseAnn Maier and Bruce Milestone 90, Tom Schulenberg and Harold Schlimgen 88, Dean Disch and Jerry Judd 87, Loretta Herfel and Chris Booth 84, Rodney Latham and Giff Hoesly 80, Dan Meinholz and Keith Wenger 80, Ralph Hoessel and Randy Skogen 79, and bringing up the rear was Kohl Wenger and Roger Truttmann with a 78. League President Jerome Krantz acknowledged those players that recorded a perfect score this season and those that received a friendly visit from Pepé Le Pew. Jerome also announced the place and time of the second half playoff match scheduled for 7:00 pm between the Norsk Cowboys and Kurniki’s Express. The match will be played on March 20th at Kurniki’s. Hats off to Kit and the Red Mouse for the perfect venue and to the staff for being exceptional hosts and preparing and serving plenty of pizza to satisfy all in attendance.

ALUMNI
continued from page 1
the achievements of Mount Horeb High School alumni. These alumni serve as motivation for current students

to excel, remind faculty of the potential each student has to make the community better, reconnect alumni to the school, and bring pride to the community as the achievements of these individuals are recognized.

Past recipients have included Judy Steinhauer in 2014, Dr. Jeffrey Post and Col. Timothy Cullen in 2015, Fred Alley (1962-2001) and Jeff Herbst in 2016, Jeff Grundahl, Steve Grundahl, and Rick Tvedt

in 2018, and Jerry Hook in 2024, to name just a few. Nominees must be graduates of Mount Horeb High School who must have graduated prior to 2005. Individuals who have had a significant impact on their

individual professionals and personal communities are sought for this remarkable honor. To nominate an individual for the Distinguished Alumni Award, an application can be found on the

Mount Horeb School District website (www.mhasd.k12.wi.us). Forms should be printed out, completed and mailed to the address indicated on the forms prior to May 1, 2025.

ATVs

continued from page 1
Village administrator Nic Owen explained that the proposed ordinance was designed to allow ATVs on every street that the village is able to. This is to simplify enforcement and allow residents to drive ATVs straight from their homes. The ordinance included language that bans intoxicants, sets speed limits and times of use and requires insurance. Public input provided directly to the village across this issue was nearly evenly split with 20 in favor and 22 against. Routes to the east of the village are already severely limited by the town of Springdale while southern routes have not yet been applied for due to the lack of approval in Mount Horeb. West and north sides of the village have a few established routes and other communities which connect.

Much of the opposition centered around safety. The manufacturers of ATVS and UTVS include a label that says they are not designed for use on public roads. However, Badger ATV representative Robert Sagmoen clarified that the label on new ATVs now adds “unless designated for off highway vehicle access.” Those in favor clarified that data on emissions were done with much older ATV models that are no longer made. Noise concerns were also contested, with arguments that most ride on mowers and an idling semi trucks were much louder. State safety rules require those under 18 to wear a helmet, have a licensed adult with them and take a safety course. Village trustee Cathy Scott voted in favor of the ordinance and expressed frustration with the board’s ruling. Scott cited the many surrounding communities and counties that have allowed

ATV use as a reason to support it in the village. “I just don’t think it’s logical that the leaders of all of these communities that I’m talking about would be wrong with allowing them to be used,” Scott said, “if there were significant problems in the last 20 years we’d hear about it, and yes there’s going to be deaths yes there’s going to be accidents there’s motorcycle accidents and car accidents... all these sort of things happen but I think that’s part of life.” Trustee Ben Jones voted no on the ordinance, saying although he’s had positive experiences with ATVs and those who ride them, the businesses that may benefit have not pushed to support it. “We have to think of both the costs and the benefits and I think the benefits here are pretty, with all due respect to the people who want use their ATVs and the positive economic benefits here, are pretty modest.”

Another issue for Jones was safety, although he acknowledged that when compared to motorcycles ATVs are similarly dangerous. “These vehicles don’t have the same safety features we’re seeing in automobiles.” Jones also brought up the way state statute makes it impossible to prosecute ATV drivers in the same way as car drivers, especially when driving under the influence. Although there are laws against drunk ATV riding and other violations, the separate enforcement measures from automobiles caused him concern. “It’s not that I think ATV [riders] are more likely to drink than car drivers... but our legal system isn’t set up to handle it in the same way and I think it’s going to lead to some marginal problems,” he said. Trustee Brett halverson and Nate Gauger also voted against for the same reasons that others had stated. Trustee Mark Schelffefer

also voted against and took issue with the differences in enforcement standards that others mentioned. However, he didn’t agree with everything said by the rest of the opposition. “Whether they’re in a UTV or a car, they’re going to create a safety issue if they want to make a safety issue,” Schekffefer said. “I don’t think it’s the vehicle that’s the issue in my mind.” **Street improvement bids opening** The village board approved bid solicitation for the street improvements project. The village engineer estimates the project at just over \$1.5 million. **Neshiem water bid awarded** The Neshiem water rehabilitation project bid has been awarded to S&L Underground Inc. at about \$1.77 million. This bid was lower than the engineer estimate of \$1.8 million. **Street improvement bond** The board approved bond

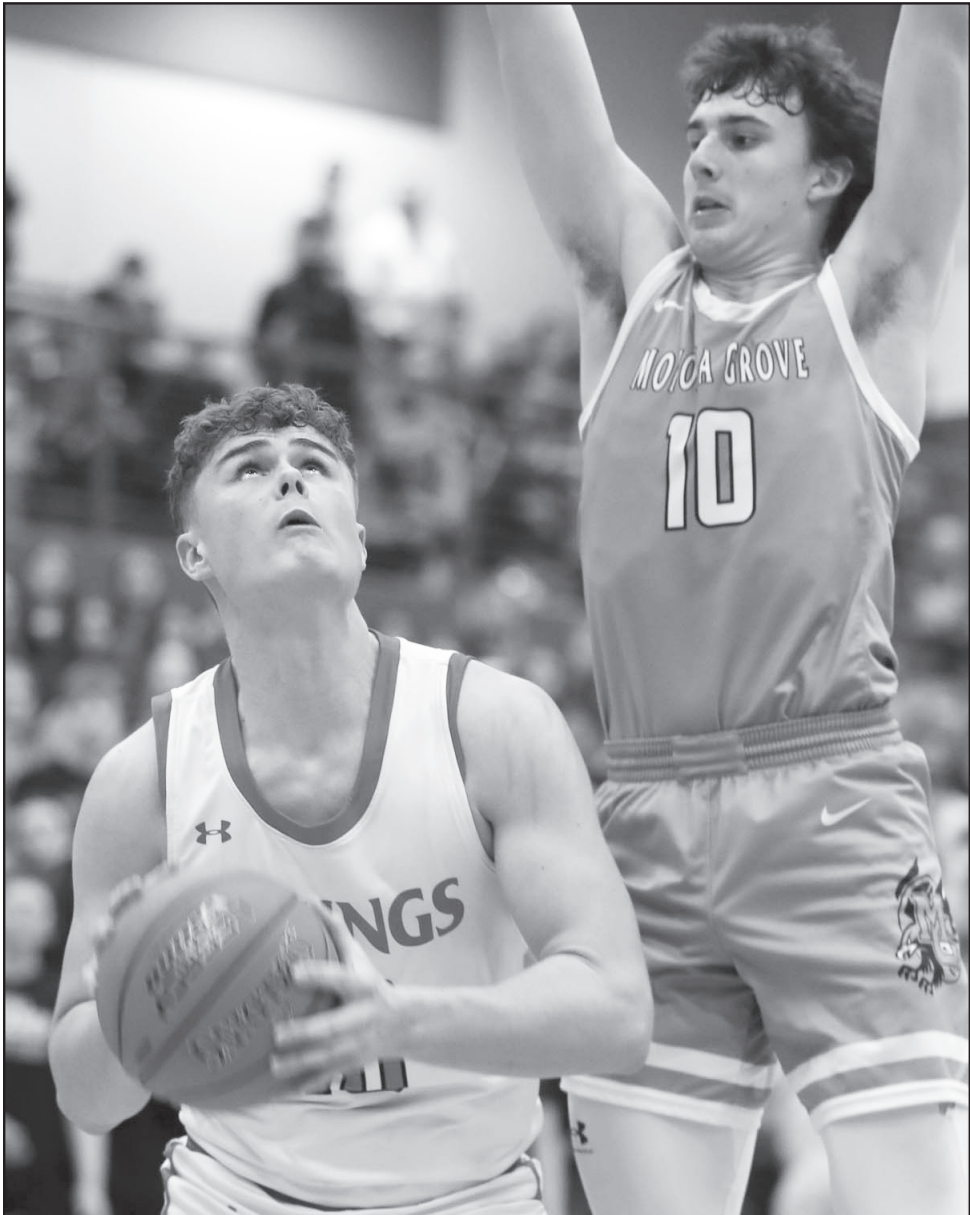
sales for street improvement projects up to about \$5.3 million. Kevin Mullen of Baird Financial Services explained the borrowing plan. With these and other upcoming projects the yearly tax levy would rise from about \$1.6 million last year to about \$2.1 million this year. This amount would rise some then level out and drop in anticipation for more projects in later years until it’s paid off. “The estimates are meant to be not to exceed amounts,” Mullen said, “and it would give the authority to the administrator and village president to sign off on financing between now and some point in the future assuming all those parameters are met.” **Brookview Trail Lots** Approval of 16 new lots and an extension of Brookview Trail was passed. There are still many steps that must be completed towards development.

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SPORTS

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MOUNT HOREB 49, MONONA GROVE 45



Hayden Anderson (10) and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team toppled Monona Grove, 49-45, in the sectional semifinals on March 13. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

WAUWATOSA WEST 71, MOUNT HOREB 59



Mount Horeb's Griffin Hannah drives on a pair of Wauwatosa West defenders during the sectional finals last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Holly Stoenner

Vikings' dream season ends

Mount Horeb shines in sectional semifinals, downs Monona Grove

by ADAM MERTZ
Sports Reporter

OREGON — It's one thing to ride the emotional wave of a home playoff game and a giant cushion of points to finish off a conference rival after the sudden sting of losing your superstar to injury.

It's quite another to spend the next five days recalibrating your entire offensive approach and game strategy to face a red-hot playoff adversary on the same neutral court where your season ended in heart-breaking fashion the prior year — without getting spotted 18 points.

Everyone knows what Josh Manchester brings to the Mount Horeb boys basketball program. The junior guard averaged better than 31 points per game

this season and is on pace to become one of the most prolific scorers in state history. He's also got active hands defensively, often triggering transition points with steals on the perimeter.

But the Vikings made a loud and clear statement on March 13 that this is far from a one-man show. The quantifiable output of a 49-45 triumph over Monona Grove was a berth in the WIAA Division 2 sectional finals — the program's fifth in the past 20 seasons, and first since the 2019 team that came within a victory of the state tournament.

The emotional haul was at least equally satisfying. This was validation, not surprise. Satisfaction, not relief. The hallmarks of what you'd call a "program

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Zach Maguire and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team reached the sectional finals, before falling to Wauwatosa West last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Wauwatosa West too much for Mount Horeb in sectional finals

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

OCONOMOWOC — Grit. Toughness. Tenacity. Defense.

These have been the pillars of Mount Horeb's boys basketball program for Todd Nesheim's 17 seasons.

Slow and steady doesn't always win the race, though. Eventually, a Porsche Taycan is going to speed past a Chevy Silverado.

That was the case in the Vikings' 71-59 loss to Wauwatosa West in a WIAA Division 2 sectional final held at Oconomowoc last Saturday.

The Trojans — a remarkably athletic team with two NCAA Division 1 players, and possibly a third — used their speed and quickness to get to the rim at will and shoot a remarkable 62.2% from the floor. Mount

Horeb, playing without standout guard Josh Manchester (shoulder) couldn't keep up and fell one win short of its first state tournament appearance since the 2015 group captured gold.

"They were really tall, really athletic," Mount Horeb senior wing Griffin Hannah said of the Trojans. "They were really hard to guard in every way. They can get by you, outrebound you. They were just super hard to guard."

Vikings senior guard Chris Kiel, a defensive wizard, agreed.

"They're pretty relentless, just really, really talented," Kiel said of Wauwatosa West. "We didn't play as good of defense as we wanted and our gaps weren't as good as they needed to be. But some of that was them because they're such

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WAUWATOSA EAST 71, MOUNT HOREB 59

Manchester’s injury too much to overcome

Vikings’ star was sidelined with shoulder injury during sectionals

by ADAM MERTZ
Sports Reporter

OCONOMOWOC — For Mount Horeb junior guard Josh Manchester, a week that started with optimism and was marked by his relentless pursuit of a pathway to get back on the floor ended with acceptance of a difficult truth: His injured right shooting shoulder was simply too compromised for him to play. Left in the unfamiliar and uncomfortable position of watching his teammates from the sideline, the program’s all-time leading scorer experienced exhilaration and then frustration. The Vikings gritted their way to a 49-45 win over Monona Grove in a WIAA Division 2 sectional semi-final March 13, before succumbing to a talented Wauwatosa West team, 71-59, in the sectional finals last Saturday.

“It was hard. We had a lot of long talks and conversations about it,” said Manchester, whose sounding boards included his parents, Kristine and Vikings assistant coach Paul, who both had distinguished prep basketball careers and understand the significance of the moment. “I still couldn’t trust myself to take the contact and play like I know I can play. If I can’t play how I want to, it’s not worth it. If I can’t give it my all, it’s best to sit it out. I talked to a lot of different doctors, and they all said the same thing: It’s not smart — it’d be really risky to play.” Manchester has built an incredible resume that has attracted attention from a host of Division I colleges. With 1,931 career points, he will have a shot next season to move past names like former University of Wisconsin standouts Sam Dekker and Sam Okey on the all-time state scoring list, and perhaps climb as high as No. 2 behind former Wausaukee and Marquette guard Anthony Pieper. For all his exploits this season — which concluded with Manchester averaging 30.8 points per game,



Mount Horeb junior standout guard Josh Manchester missed the Vikings’ sectional games last week after separating his right shoulder during regionals. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

and shooting 41.7% from 3-point range — his impact during the playoffs might have been even greater. Manchester racked up 34 points in Mount Horeb’s regional semifinal thrashing of Monroe. That led Cheesemakers coach Brian Bassett to observe that Manchester was “just laser-focused” — more so than he’d seen on film from regular-season games — and for Vikings coach Todd Nesheim to add that he “had the eye of the tiger.” Then, Manchester out-did himself the next night against McFarland, amassing 20 points in the first 12 minutes against the Spartans to help stake Mount Horeb to a 34-16 lead. That included making 8 of his 9 shots from the field, including two 3-pointers and a variety of drives against shot-blocking McFarland twin towers 6-8 Ben Forbes and 6-9 Eli Krueger. Manchester also had three assists and two steals in that span. But with 6:26 left in the half that night, Manchester extended his right arm to position himself to box out on the defensive end. McFarland’s Mason Roe

jumped slightly and Manchester’s shoulder popped out of alignment on what amounted to a non-contact injury. “I think it was just wear-and-tear ... the beatings I take during games, it probably was just bound to happen,” Manchester said. “It happened at a bad time.” Did it ever. Mount Horeb fielded its best team this winter since the 2015 state championship outfit. And the Vikings carried a 25-2 record into their sectional final matchup with ultra-talented Wauwatosa West. Ideally, Manchester would’ve rested the shoulder for a few weeks. But he had already made up his mind to play had Mount Horeb reached the state tournament, knowing how difficult it is to get to the Kohl Center. The Vikings suffered two-point losses to Stoughton in the playoffs in his first two years — in the regional final as a freshman and in the sectional semifinals as a sophomore — and there are no guarantees the pieces will fall into place in his final run as a senior. “I would’ve given it a shot. I would’ve played,”

he said. “I try not to think about that too much.” Fortunately, it does not appear that any muscles were torn when the shoulder dislocated, but the area remained sore, stressed, and subject to further damage that could’ve prompted surgery. Last Friday night, Manchester made the decision that he would not be capable of playing Wauwatosa West. Would the outcome of that 71-59 defeat been different if Manchester had played? That’s debatable, because his presence likely wouldn’t have improved the Vikings’ ability to defend Trojans standout sophomore slasher Jalen Brown, who finished with 30 points, all coming close to the basket. But would Manchester have altered the style and tone of the game, and given Mount Horeb the firepower it sorely needed to compete? Absolutely, said Brown, who had faced Manchester once previously and lost to him in a summer league game. “I wanted him to be out here,” Brown said after the Trojans’ win. “He for

sure would’ve changed the game. He would’ve slowed them down if they were under pressure. He’s a real shooter. Josh is nice. I love Josh’s game.” The Vikings were able to make some effective adjustments against both Monona Grove and Wauwatosa West. Sophomore Alex Chapman acquitted himself well as the primary ballhandler and shooter, with team highs of 15 and 13 points in the two games. Against the Trojans, senior forward Griffin Hannah came alive in the second half with a series of aggressive drives, finishing with 11 points, while senior guard Chris Kiel contributed a season-best nine points by taking the ball hard to the basket. “With Josh being out, I knew we all had to step up offensively,” Kiel said. “And I knew if I got the opportunity, if things were a little stagnant on offense, I was just trying to bring the energy and get to the basket as much as I could. Just trying to get there, put some points up and just help us.” But the Vikings missed Manchester’s playmaking as much as his scoring, fac-

ing mostly contested looks on the perimeter that hampered their ability to counterpunch. “Tosa West created early separation with a 10-0 run to forge a 24-13 lead. Then, the Trojans held off two second-half challenges, swelling their lead back to 16 points after Mount Horeb closed within 57-45 with 7:05 left on a bucket by Hannah. The Trojans later pushed their lead to 17 after Chapman’s putback had drawn the Vikings within 61-52 with just under 4 minutes remaining. “I couldn’t be prouder of my teammates. They did great,” Manchester said. “(Wauwatosa) West is a great team with some really good guys, but I’d like to replay them. I think it’d go very differently. “When you’ve got great players like they do, they’re going to punch back. That’s why I wish I was there, to give (us) that punch and that energy. “But it is what it is. I can’t go back and do it over. Just got to focus on getting better for next year.”



Mount Horeb’s Morgan Monroe (top) was named first-team all-conference, while Lauren Mester (above) was named to the league’s all-Defensive team. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Vikings’ Fab Five

Mount Horeb has five girls basketball players named all-conference

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team improved by leaps and bounds this season, winning their most games in a season (12) since 2019-2020

And the Vikings were justly rewarded by landing four players on the all-Badger Small Conference team.

Senior guard Morgan Monroe was named first-team all-conference, while sophomore guards Courtney Monroe and Maren Johnson, along with senior

guard Hallie Klein were named honorable-mention all-conference.

Freshman guard Lauren Mester was named to the conference’s all-defensive team.

Morgan Monroe led Mount Horeb in scoring at 13.3 points per game, as well as three-point field goals made (47) and three-point attempts (153). In conference games only, Monroe led the Badger Small in scoring with 15.8 points per game.

She also led the Vikings

in rebounds per game (5.7) and was fourth in assists (1.3).

“Morgan’s personal goal last summer was to improve her shooting and ball handling skills to make first team all-conference and she went and did it,” Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said.

Klein missed the first half of the conference season after having appendectomy surgery. She finished the year, though, averaging 4.5 points, 2.2 rebounds and 1.3 assists per game

“Her minutes, scoring and steals increased every game,” Leibfried said of Klein.

Courtney Monroe was third on the team in scoring at 7.8 points per game. She was also second in rebounding (4.6) and first in assists (2.8).

“Courtney really came on strong the final six games,” Leibfried said.

Johnson was second on the team on scoring (8.1), third in rebounding (3.5) and fifth in assists (1.2).

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All-Badger Small Conference Girls Basketball

First Team

Name	School	Yr.
Anna Miller	Edgewood	10
Beanie Thompson	Edgewood	10
Erin Schauer	Edgewood	12
Maren Schmotzer	Edgewood	12
Macey Faust	Edgewood	11
Morgan Monroe	Mount Horeb	12
Addison Meister	Reedsburg	12
Mallory Hartwig	Sauk Prairie	11
Ava Brings	Sauk Prairie	12
Ella Hamacher	Stoughton	12
Elizabeth Stokes	Stoughton	12

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Anna Miller, Edgewood

COACH OF THE YEAR: Lora Staveness, Edgewood

Honorable Mention

Name	School	Yr.
Taylor Sperl	Baraboo	10
Kadence Funmaker	Baraboo	12
Riley Bickelhaupt	McFarland	12
Courtney Monroe	Mount Horeb	10
Maren Johnson	Mount Horeb	10
Hallie Klein	Mount Horeb	12
Coco Nieves Cruz	Portage	12
Maddy Casey	Reedsburg	12
Audrey Brickl	Sauk Prairie	10
Brooklyn Kaufman	Sauk Prairie	11
Gracyn Meyer	Sauk Prairie	12
Gretchen Tangeman	Stoughton	12
Gracie Schmidt	Stoughton	12

All-Defensive Team

Name	School	Yr.
Erin Schauer	Edgewood	12
Maren Schmotzer	Edgewood	12
Lauren Mester	Mount Horeb	9
Brooklyn Kaufman	Sauk Prairie	11
Gretchen Tangeman	Stoughton	12

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GIRLS BB

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“Courtney Monroe and Maren Johnson both are only sophomores and have such high ceilings,” Leibfried said. “Maren has the potential to be a leading scorer in the conference the next two years.”

Mester played a majority of the season with a fractured foot. She was fourth on the team in scoring (5.0), second in assists (2.0) and fifth in assists (2.8).

Mester’s defense was sublime, too, as she took nine charges and earned a spot on the league’s All-Defensive team.

“The only time she did not wear a boot was during practice and games,” Leibfried said of Mester. “Re-

ally tough kid. Great on the ball defender.”

Conference champion Madison Edgewood — the WIAA Division 2 state runner-up — landed five players the first team.

They included sophomores Anna Miller and Beanie Thompson, seniors Erin Schauer and Maren Schmotzer and junior Macey Faust.

The resot of the first team included Mount Horeb’s Morgan Monroe, Sauk Prairie junior Mal-lory Hartwi and senior Ava Brings, and Stoughton seniors Ella Hamacher and Elizabeth Stokes.

Edgewood’s Miller was the league’s Player of the Year and Edgewood’s Lora Staveness was the conference’s Coach of the Year.



Clockwise (from top) Mount Horeb’s Maren Johnson, Courtney Monroe and Hallie Klein were all named honorable-mention all-conference. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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Post Messenger Recorder.....	11 am Thursday, the week prior to publication
Star News.....	Noon Thursday, the week prior to publication
Home News.....	Noon Thursday, the week prior to publication
Reedsburg Independent.....	Noon Thursday, the week prior to publication
Mount Horeb Mail	1 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication
Times-Tribune.....	2 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication
Marquette County Tribune.....	10 am Friday, the week prior to publication

Thank you in advance for getting your notices to us in a timely manner. Please email your notices to:

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NOTE: Legal notices submitted after deadline will be scheduled for the next available publication date.

EARLY DEADLINES will apply for postal holiday weeks. Watch for updates.



Owen Aeschlimann (14) and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team finished the year 25-3 overall. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

LOSS

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good players.”
Mount Horeb, which had its 13-game winning streak snapped and lost for the first time in 49 days, finished the year 25-3. That tied the 2013-’14 team for the most wins in a season in school history.

Wauwatosa West, co-champions of the Greater Metro Conference — an ultra-competitive league featuring seven Division 1 teams — improved to 22-6 and earned its first-ever trip to the state tournament.

The Trojans’ terrific trio of sophomore wing Jalen Brown, junior forward Matthew Kloskey and senior guard Jake Hansen gave opponents fits all season, averaging a combined 63.2 points per game. And Mount Horeb — a team built around its pack line defense — never could find a solution for West’s three stars.

The 6-foot-4 Brown, who has NCAA Division I offers from Arizona State, Grambling State, Mississippi State, Northern Illinois and West Virginia, was the best player on the floor and poured in a game-high 30 points. Brown made a ridiculous 15-of-19 shots from the field, using his length, speed and quickness to repeatedly get to the basket.

“Once we got things moving in our motion (offense), there were a lot of gaps,” said Brown, who leads the Trojans in scoring at 22.4 points per game. “I just attacked hard.”

The sharp-shooting Hansen, who has college offers from Arizona State, Buffalo, Cal Poly, Grambling State and St. John’s, drilled four 3-pointers and scored 14 points. And the 6-foot-5 Kloskey, another long and

lean athlete who averages 21.8 points per game, added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Together, that trio shot 24-of-37 against one of the state’s better defensive teams. The Trojans also outrebounded the Vikings, 33-22.

“Defense was our No. 1 key. Their strength against our strength,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “And we knew if they’re getting shots at the rim, we’re in a bunch of trouble. And unfortunately, they were.

“But give them credit. They did a good job. They tried to put (Hansen) on the same side of the floor as (Brown) and have him attack. Our goal was to not let (Brown) get to his left hand, but obviously that’s easier said than done. They just did a better job than we did.”

Even with a healthy Manchester, the Vikings would have had their hands full at every turn. Playing without him was simply too big of an ask.

Mount Horeb knew its path to victory was similar to the one it had followed 48 hours earlier, when the Vikings won a rock fight over Monona Grove, 49-45, in the sectional semifinals. It became clear early on, though, that Mount Horeb wasn’t going to get the pace and tempo it desired.

Mount Horeb used an early 6-0 run — with all six points coming on back-to-back 3-pointers from senior guard Owen Aeschlimann — to erase a 7-point deficit

and pull within 14-13.

But that was the closest the Vikings — who never led — would come.

The Trojans answered with a lightning-quick 10-0 run that took just more than 2 minutes and gave West a 24-13 lead with 7:55 left in the first half. The Trojans scored on five straight possessions, including three baskets from inside of 5-feet from Brown.

Mount Horeb, on the other hand, went six straight possessions and 3 ½ minutes without a point. The Vikings had three turnovers in that stretch, missed both of their field goal attempts and went 0-for-2 from the free throw line.

“It was very important to get out to a lead,” Brown said. “They don’t have Josh out there, and we knew if we brought the pressure, they were going to turn the ball over and do what we wanted them to do. We wanted to control the game from the start, and that’s what we did.”

Mount Horeb crept back within 26-18 with 4 minutes left in the first half after the burly Kiel used his strength to attack the rim and score, and senior forward Zach Maguire kissed home a 5-footer. At that point, the Vikings believed if they could be within single digits at halftime, they could make things interesting in the second half.

Instead, the Trojans answered with their second 10-0 run of the opening stanza and surged to a 36-18

lead. Brown was virtually unstoppable again, scoring eight points in that burst and making all four of his shots.

At halftime, the Vikings found themselves in a 36-21 hole.

“He’s a dude,” Nesheim said of Brown. “We knew we couldn’t let them get going and he got them going.

“You get to this point, most teams are going to have a dynamic scorer, and we just don’t have that. So we needed to do it by committee and we didn’t shoot it well enough.”

Mount Horeb is a program — and really an entire community — built on strength and resilience. And the Vikings showed exactly that in the second half.

First, Nesheim got after his team hard at halftime. The Vikings shot just 36.3% in the first half (8-of-22) and allowed the Trojans to shoot 59.3% (16-of-27). Mount Horeb also lost the turnover battle, 8-1, and was out-rebounded, 16-11.

“They got challenged pretty hard at halftime,” Nesheim said. “Chris (Kiel) was good the whole game. That was the message, like, this kid (Kiel) is playing his you-know-what-off. I thought the rest of us were just kind of there. So I saw a lot more fight in the second half out of everybody.”

That’s for sure.

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**TOWN OF VERMONT
PLAN COMMISSION
MEETING**
Monday, March 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
4017 County Hwy JJ, Black Earth, WI 53517
See townofvermontwi.gov for meeting agenda.
Please note: You can sign up for emailed meeting agendas at www.townofvermont-wi.gov
Publish: 3/20/25 **WNAXLP**

**VILLAGE OF MT. HOREB RESIDENTS
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Horeb, Dane County, Wisconsin adopted the following ordinance amendment at the Village Board meeting on March 5, 2025.
Ordinance 2025-04, “AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FROM R-3 MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO R-2 TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ON PARCEL 0606-121-0123-2”.
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that a copy of the ordinance is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the Village Clerk. It is also available on the village website at www.mounthorebwi.info.

Alyssa Gaffney
Village Clerk

Publish: 3/20/25 **WNAXLP**

**TOWN OF VERMONT
LEGAL NOTICE**
Request For Bid: Assembled Aluminum Box Culvert Procurement

The Town of Vermont is requesting bids for an assembled aluminum box culvert as specified at <https://townofvermontwi.gov/bohn-road-bridge>
Questions may be directed to clerk@townofvermontwi.gov
The Town of Vermont will attempt to utilize the lowest bid when obtaining product, however the Town reserves the right to obtain product from the most advantageous vendor/location. In making this determination, the Town will consider availability of product and proximity of the vendor to the project to minimize hauling costs and/or assure that the product quality is not compromised by excessive travel time.
Send bids to the Vermont Town Hall, 4017 County Road JJ, Black Earth, WI 53515 by 7:00 pm on March 28, 2025. Bids will be opened at 6:00 pm on March 31, 2025 at the Town Hall and the accepted bid will be awarded at that time.

Katie Zelle, Clerk

Publish: 3/13/25, 3/20/25 **WNAXLP**

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VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
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The Village of Mount Horeb will receive sealed bids for the referenced project until **11:00 A.M., Friday, March 28, 2025**, at the Village Office, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin 53572. At that time, bids will be opened and read aloud.
Bids are to be addressed to the Village of Mount Horeb, ATTN: Village Clerk, Mount Horeb Village Hall, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin 53572, and shall be marked “Sealed Bid – CONTRACT 25-101, 2025 STREET IMPROVEMENTS.”
A complete set of the PDF Electronic Contract Documents may be obtained by contacting Josh Bilau of SmithGroup at Josh.Bilau@smithgroup.com. Drawings may not be picked up at the SmithGroup office as the Contract Documents (Drawings and Specifications) are **NOT** pre-printed.)
Drawings for the work will be available as PDF electronically from SmithGroup on or after March 13, 2025.
Drawings for the work are on file for inspection at the Village Office, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb on or after March 13, 2025.
Plan Holders are required to provide an e-mail address to receive addenda and other information electronically. Plan Holders are required to designate whether they are a prime contractor, subcontractor, or supplier, which will be posted on the project Plan Holders List.
All bidders must include a Statement of Bidder's Qualifications with sealed Bids.
Bidders who submit a bid must be a Plan Holder of record at the issuing office. Bids from Bidders not on the Plan Holders List may be returned as being not responsive.
Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond equal to at least 10% of the maximum bid as a guarantee that if the bid is accepted, the Contractor will, within 10 days of receipt of the Notice of Award, furnish the Owner with a Performance and Payment Bond equal to the Contract price.
The project engineer contact is Heather Brose at SmithGroup, 44 East Mifflin Street, Suite 500, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, (608)327-4443 or Heather.Brose@smithgroup.com.
Portions of this Contract are funded in part by a grant from the WisDOT Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP).
The Village of Mount Horeb reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any technicality, and to accept any bid that it deems advantageous. All bids shall remain subject to acceptance for forty-five (45) days after the time set for bid opening. The Contract award shall be made based on the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder.

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Storm Structures	5	EA

Published by the authority of the
Village of Mount Horeb, Wisconsin
Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk

Publish: 3/13/25, 3/20/25 **WNAXLP**



Chris Kiel (left), Cal Odgers (above) and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team fell to Wauwatosa West in the sectional finals last Saturday. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

LOSS

continued from page 20

The Vikings began the second half with a 7-2 burst and closed within 38-28. Hannah came out of half-time like a different player and scored four quick points, while sophomore wing Alex Chapman buried a 25-foot, 3-pointer in that stretch.

“It was a bad first half,” said Hannah, who had all 11 of his points in the second half. “We didn’t want to end our season with a bad game. We wanted to bring it back as close as we could and leave it all on the court. It’s my last time playing, so just leave it all out there.”

Hansen, whose long range marksmanship helped the Trojans topple Brookfield Central in the sectional semifinals, then keyed a 12-5 West run that pushed its lead back to 50-33. Hansen hit three 3-pointers in a 90-second window during that run. Two nights earlier against Central, Hansen drilled three 3-pointers in just 65 seconds.

“When you’ve got great players like they do, they’re going to punch back,” Man-

chester said of Wauwatosa West. “That’s why I wish I was there, to give them that punch and that energy. But it is what it is. I can’t go back and do it over. Just got to focus on getting better for next year.”

The Trojans took their biggest lead of the night at 57-38 after back-to-back lay-ups from Brown with 8:20 left. The Vikings, though, had one final push, answering with a 14-4 blitz to close within 61-52 with 3:35 remaining.

Chapman, who led the Vikings with 13 points, was sensational in that stretch with seven points — including a 3-pointer from the right wing. Maguire had a traditional 3-point play, while Kiel and Hannah also had baskets.

“It was a slow first half, but we played a lot better in the second half,” Kiel said. “We all played our (tails) off. I couldn’t be more proud of them. We had a great season. It didn’t come out the way we wanted, but we all played as well as we could.”

The Vikings’ hopes of a miraculous comeback faded

quickly, though, when the Trojans punched back with an 8-0 run and pushed their lead back to 69-52 with 1:45 left.

“We played a lot better in the second half and left it all on the court,” Hannah said. “But they played really good, too. They’re a good team.”

Nesheim agreed.

“We got the response we wanted in the second half,” Nesheim said. “You walk away disappointed, but at least the effort was there. I think everybody knew it was kind of an uphill battle with what we have offensively, but we really battled.”

Mount Horeb battled all year long, and the results reflected that.

The Vikings reached No. 1 in the state polls in early-January, marking the first time that happened in more than a decade. Mount Horeb went a perfect 14-0 in the Badger Small Conference, which was just the third time in school history the Vikings went undefeated in conference play.

Mount Horeb had winning streaks of 12 and 13 games. And 17 of the Vikings’ 25 wins were by double digits.

“It was a great group, and that’s the hard part,” Nesheim said. “We always have good teams, teams with good chemistry. But this group was right up there near the top and that’s what I told them.

“I don’t like to compare groups and teams, because I think we do a pretty good job of fostering a really positive culture, but you feel bad for them falling a game short. You wanted them to experience it. We had a good chance, but we just weren’t good enough today.”

March 15
WIAA Division 2
sectional final
WAUWATOSA WEST 71,
MOUNT HOREB 59
‘Tosa West 36 35 — 71
MoHo 21 38 — 59
WAUWATOSA WEST
(fgm ftn-fta pts) — DJ Hen-

nings 2 4-5 8, Jake Hansen 4 2-2 14, Matthew Kloskey 5 4-7 14, Messiah Chambers 2 1-2 5, Jalen Brown 15 0-2 30. Totals: 28 11-18 71.

MOUNT HOREB — Kam Nesheim 1 0-0 3, Ethan Morrisard 1 0-1 2, Chris Kiel 4 1-2 9, Hayden Anderson 2 0-0 4, Owen Aeschlimann 2 0-0, Zach Maguire 3 1-1 8, Griffin Han-

nah 5 1-4 11, Alex Chapman 5 0-0 13, Nick Ibinger 1 0-0 3. Totals: 26 10-12 71.

3-pointers: WW 4 (Hansen 4), MH 8 (Chapman 3, Aeschlimann 2, Nesheim 1, Maguire 1, Ibinger 1). **Total fouls:** WW 11, MH 17. **Fouled out:** None.

NOTICE OF PENDING APPLICATION
FOR PROPOSED DAM
ABANDONMENT AND REMOVAL

Lynn Pitman, 1410 State Rd 92, Verona, WI 53593 has applied to the Department of Natural Resources for a permit to Dam - Abandonment and Removal. The project is located in SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 01 Township 05N, Range 07E located in Town of Primrose, Dane County.

Contained on quarter-quarter section.

The Department will review the proposal provided by the applicant and any information from public comments and the public informational hearing. The Department will determine whether the proposal complies with ss. 1.11, remove authorities not applicable: 30.31 or 281.36, 30.208, Wis. Stats. and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code

The Department has made a tentative determination that it will issue the permit for the proposed activity.

If you would like to know more about this project or would like to see the application and plans, please visit the Department's permit tracking website at <https://permits.dnr.wi.gov/water/SitePages/Permit%20Search.aspx> and search for Pitman.

Reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

Any person may submit comments and/or request a public informational hearing by emailing Allen.Ramminger@wisconsin.gov, over the phone at (608) 228-4067, or writing to Allen Ramminger, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711 by U.S. mail. If you are submitting general comments on the proposal, they must be emailed, verbalized, or postmarked within 30 days after the date this notice is published on the Department's website. If you are requesting a public informational hearing, the request must be emailed, verbalized, or postmarked within 20 days after the date this notice is published on the Department's website. A request for hearing must include the docket number or applicant name and specify the issues that the party desires to be addressed at the informational hearing.

If no hearing is requested, the Department may issue its decision without a hearing. If a public informational hearing is held, comments must be postmarked no later than 10 days following the date on which the hearing is completed.

The final decision may be appealed as indicated in the decision document.

Docket Number IP-SC-2025-13-00344.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
For the Secretary BY:
/S/ Allen Ramminger
Water Management Specialist Date March 5th, 2025

Publish: 3/20/25 WNAxLP

TOWN OF PRIMROSE
PUBLIC TEST OF
ELECTION
EQUIPMENT

The Town of Primrose will hold a public test of the election equipment beginning at 10:00 am on Thursday, March 27th, 2025 at the Primrose Town Hall, 8468 County Road A, Verona, WI 53593

Publish: 3/20/25 WNAxLP

TOWN OF CROSS
PLAINS
LEGAL NOTICE

This is to give notice that the Office of Clerk for the Town of Cross Plains will conduct a public test of the DS200 and the Express Vote electronic voting equipment on March 25, 2025 at 5:45 p.m., at 3734 County P, the Community Center. This is in accordance with Section 5.84(1) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Nancy Meinholz, Clerk
Publish: 3/20/25 WNAxLP

TOWN OF PERRY
PUBLIC TEST
VOTING EQUIPMENT
Town Hall, 10084 CTH A
Monday, March 24, 2025
11:00 AM

The Town of Perry Chief Election Inspector and the Town Clerk will conduct tests of the DS200 and the Express Vote voting equipment on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 11:00AM at the Town Hall, 10084 CTH A, in accordance with Wisconsin Statute §5.84(1).

Mary L. Price
Town Clerk
Publish: 2/20/25 WNAxLP

TOWN OF
SPRINGDALE
REQUEST FOR BIDS
HVAC—Town of Springdale

The Town of Springdale (2379 Town Hall Rd. Mt Horeb) is seeking bids for a new ventilation/HVAC system for the town garage (4,800 sq. ft.). Interested contractors may contact Jackie at adminclerk@springdalewi.gov to obtain project plan and specifications. Qualified bidders should submit sealed bids no later than Monday, April 14 at 5PM. Bids will be opened at the Board meeting on Tuesday, April 15 at 7 PM. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Publish: 3/13/25, 3/20/25 WNAxLP



Mount Horeb junior guard Kam Nesheim and the Vikings downed Monona Grove, 49-45, in the sectional semifinals on March 13. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MG
continued from page 16

win,” built on foundational principles that stay constant regardless of who’s on the floor.

You heard it from senior guard Chris Kiel: “We’re all very disciplined, we’re all working our butts off. With or without Josh, with or without anybody, we’re all going to work as hard as we can.”

And from sophomore guard Alex Chapman: “We’re really close, we’re a hard-working group, we keep each other accountable, and we work hard day in and day out.”

How meaningful was this one? The Vikings have won 263 games over 17 seasons under coach Todd Nesheim, including the 2015 state championship, and for him this ranks near the top.

“It’s right up there. What we lost, what they presented, what we knew was going to have to happen to have success,” Nesheim said. “Super proud of the boys. That’s a gritty, tough effort. I don’t think you can watch that as a Monona Grove fan and not respect what our guys just did without Josh in a matter of

days.”

Manchester was in street clothes on the bench after dislocating his right shoulder late in the first half of Mount Horeb’s regional final victory over McFarland, in which he’d racked up a stunning 20 points in just 12 minutes to power the Vikings to a huge lead.

In his absence, everyone on the roster ramped up their contributions to help fill the void.

That adjustment started with a new strategy on offense, which almost exclusively runs through Manchester. That’s where Chapman shined. He racked up a team-best 15 points while taking over primary ballhandling accountability, and grabbed a team-best eight rebounds.

“He’s ready,” Nesheim said of Chapman. “We were hoping he’d have a break-out game for his sense of confidence. He works hard and he wants to be that guy. He knows his role when Josh is on the floor — he takes a bit of a back seat. But next year, those two should be a dynamic duo.”

Kiel spearheaded a defensive effort that limited MG to 37% shooting and just one point above its

lowest scoring output of the season. Senior forward Zach Maguire posted his fourth double-digit scoring night in the past five games, with 11 points and a team-best four assists. Junior forward Hayden Anderson put a physical stamp on the game, grabbing seven rebounds and producing some thunderous collisions along with his nine points. Senior forward Griffin Hannah helped break up MG’s plans to concentrate solely on the perimeter with a couple well-timed finishes inside and started a stretch of 8-of-10 made free throws down the stretch to finish off the Silver Eagles (18-10).

“Credit to those guys. You’re not 24-2 just because of one guy. You’re 24-2 because you have really good players,” said MG coach Dan Zweifel, whose seventh-seeded team had won nine of 10 games, including a road upset of second-seeded Fort Atkinson in the regional semifinals. “Maguire, Chapman, Hannah — those are solid guys who’ve played a lot of basketball games, and they’ve played together.

“They’re really good and they’re well-coached. You

can’t put your head down. We’re obviously disappointed, but we lost to a really good team. Kudos to them.”

Monona Grove led just once — and for all of 20 seconds — on a Trent Rodelfeld 3-pointer for a 6-5 advantage with 13 minutes, 21 seconds left in the first half. Mount Horeb senior Owen Aeschlimann quickly erased that deficit with a trey of his own.

But the bulk of this game was played within a two-score margin. Twice, Mount Horeb put itself in position to break things open, but MG had a strong response each time.

The Vikings stormed to a 19-10 lead with 4:25 left in the half, fracturing the Silver Eagles’ 2-3 zone on a pair of inside baskets by Hannah — off assists from Kiel and Chapman — and a 3-pointer from Maguire to cap a lengthy possession that included an out-of-bounds save by Chapman and a pair of offensive rebounds after missed treys.

MG answered with an 8-0 run that featured a 3-pointer from fluid 6-foot-6 sophomore post Austin Luchetti, a traditional three-point

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TOWN OF VERMONT
BLACK EARTH, WISCONSIN
NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
BOHN ROAD STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT
Project No.250410

BID SUBMISSION DUE by 1:00PM, BID OPENING at 2:00 PM:
April 10, 2025.
The Town of Vermont, hereinafter termed Owner, hereby announces that it is advertising for bids from certified contractors for the above project.
All potential bidders must become certified by Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) prior to submitting bids on construction projects with budgets over \$50,000. All bids received from contractors who are not certified will be rejected.
Sealed bids will be received as follows, before the time indicated above:
• PDF scanned file of all required bid documents, including bid and bid bond forms with original wet signatures or properly transmitted electronic signatures (only PDF files will be accepted) uploaded to QuestCDN <https://www.questcdn.com/>.
Bid document files can be viewed and downloaded for free on QuestCDN. Bidding on QuestCDN requires a member account with login and payment of a \$50 bid fee. The bidder is responsible for the bid documents being uploaded before the time specified for the bid submission. Bid opening results will be posted to QuestCDN.
In general, the work consists of: bridge removal, salvage and removal of beam guard, removal of beam guard posts, common earthwork, temporary culvert pipe, installing aluminum box culvert with aluminum headwalls and wingwalls (structure excavation and structure backfill incidental), salvaged topsoil, landscaping, temporary erosion control, asphaltic pavement, and gravel shoulder.
Construction bidding documents (drawings, specifications and addenda) may be obtained only as downloadable electronic files (in PDF format) from the QuestCDN website. Construction bidding documents may also be available at various Builders’ Exchanges. Additional project bidding information, including plan holders lists are available on the QuestCDN website. No deposit is required to obtain documents for bidding purposes.
A formal pre-bid tour will not be conducted for this project; however, a site visit is encouraged.
Bidding Documents will be available on QuestCDN immediately upon the project being advertised for bid.
Publish: 3/13/25, 3/20/25 **WNAXLP**

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CONTRACT 25-102
STEWART LAKE STORM WATER
LAKE STREET AT NORTH VILLAGE LIMITS
VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
138 East Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

The Village of Mount Horeb will receive sealed bids for the referenced project until **11:30 A.M., Friday, March 28, 2025**, at the Village Office, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin 53572. At that time, bids will be opened and read aloud.
Bids are to be addressed to the Village of Mount Horeb, ATTN: Village Clerk, Mount Horeb Village Hall, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin 53572, and shall be marked “Sealed Bid – CONTRACT 25-102, STEWART LAKE STORM WATER.”
A complete set of the PDF Electronic Contract Documents may be obtained by contacting Josh Bilau of SmithGroup at Josh.Bilau@smithgroup.com. Drawings may not be picked up at the SmithGroup office as the Contract Documents (Drawings and Specifications) are **NOT** pre-printed.)
Drawings for the work will be available as PDF electronically from SmithGroup on or after March 13, 2025.
Drawings for the work are on file for inspection at the Village Office, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb on or after March 13, 2025.
Plan Holders are required to provide an e-mail address to receive addenda and other information electronically. Plan Holders are required to designate whether they are a prime contractor, subcontractor, or supplier, which will be posted on the project Plan Holders List.
All bidders must include a Statement of Bidder’s Qualifications with sealed Bids.
Bidders who submit a bid must be a Plan Holder of record at the issuing office. Bids from Bidders not on the Plan Holders List may be returned as being not responsive.
Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond equal to at least 10% of the maximum bid as a guarantee that if the bid is accepted, the Contractor will, within 10 days of receipt of the Notice of Award, furnish the Owner with a Performance and Payment Bond equal to the Contract price.
The project engineer contact is Josh Bilau at SmithGroup, 44 East Mifflin Street, Suite 500, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, (608)421-7319 or Josh.Bilau@SmithGroup.com.
Portions of this Contract may be funded in part by an Urban Water Quality Grant from the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department.
The Village of Mount Horeb reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any technicality, and to accept any bid that it deems advantageous. All bids shall remain subject to acceptance for forty-five (45) days after the time set for bid opening. The Contract award shall be made based on the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder.

ESTIMATE OF PRINCIPAL ITEMS		
Unclassified Excavation	1,310	CY
Base Course (12")	45	SY
Bituminous Pavement	45	SY
Raised Sanitary Manholes	2	EA
Storm Sewer	300	LF
Storm Structures	1	EA

Published by the authority of the
Village of Mount Horeb, Wisconsin
Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk

Publish: 3/13/25, 3/20/25 **WNAXLP**



Mount Horeb sophomore Alex Chapman had a team-high 15 points against Monona Grove in the sectional semifinals. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MG
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play from A.J. Nelson and reserve Henry Thome’s drive to the hoop.

Things again looked bleak for the Silver Eagles after Chapman made both ends of a 1-and-1 with 4:35 left in the game to stake Mount Horeb to a 39-29 lead — a cushion beefed up by the official scorer errantly adding two points to

the Vikings’ total minutes earlier.

But Mount Horeb came up empty on four of its next five possessions, missing the front end of two bonus situations along the way, allowing MG to draw within 41-37 with 2:22 left.

The Vikings were able to close the door thanks to their strong work at the free-throw line, with Hannah, Anderson and Maguire draining six straight to key

that 8-for-10 burst.

Meanwhile, MG twice pulled within three points, including a Nelson drive with 44 seconds left to creep within 45-42. But Mount Horeb got the benefit of the doubt on a disputed out-of-bounds call

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★ CHAIRMAN ★

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- ★ Being fiscally responsible

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MG

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after a missed 3-point attempt by Luchetti, gaining possession on a jump ball ruling. Then, the Vikings came up with a huge steal off MG's Kaden Connor after he had forced a turnover on the ensuing inbounds pass.

The win provided a bit of vengeance for a two-point loss to Stoughton in last year's sectional semifinals on the same Oregon court.

"Everyone had to contribute more," Kiel said. "The preparation was a lot more important ... in the playoffs, it's always a lot more important, but we definitely homed in on it today."

The sequence that haunted Zweifel came early in the second half, after Luchetti pulled MG within 25-23 on a thunderous dunk. The Silver Eagles managed just one field goal

over the next 12 minutes, letting Mount Horeb off the hook for its own offensive sputters during that stretch to cling to a 41-35 lead.

"Todd's a hell of a coach, one of the best coaches in the area, and I knew he'd have his team ready to go defensively," Zweifel said. "That was the key – they shut us down defensively."

March 13
WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinals
Mount Horeb 49, Monona Grove 45
Monona Grove .. 18 27 – 45
Mount Horeb 23 24 – 49
Monona Grove (fgm-fta pts) – A.J. Nelson 5-7 3-4 13, Cal Woerth 2-7 4-4 10, Austin Luchetti 4-9 0-0 10, Kaden Connor 2-7 1-2 7, Trent Rodefeld 1-6 0-0 3, Henry Thome 1-3 0-0 2, Chayne Hunt 0-2 0-0 0, Cohen McKail 0-0 0-0 2, Blake Leach 0-0 0-0 0, Anthony Rodefeld 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 15-41 8-10 45.
Mount Horeb – Alex Chapman 5-12 2-2 15, Zach Maguire 3-9 4-6 11, Hayden Anderson

3-4 3-5 9, Griffin Hannah 2-6 3-4 7, Owen Aeschlimann 1-4 0-0 3, Chris Kiel 1-3 0-1 2, Kam Nesheim 0-1 0-0 0, Cal Odgers 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 15-39 12-18 49.

TEAM STATS
Field goal percentage – MG 36.6%, MH 38.5%. **Three-pointers –** MG 7-23 (Connor 2-6, Woerth 2-7, Luchetti 2-3, Rodefeld 1-5, Nelson 0-1, Thome 0-1), MH 5-19 (Chapman 3-8, Maguire 1-6, Aeschlimann 1-3, Kiel 0-1, Nesheim 0-1).
Transition points – MG 2, MH 0. **Points off turnovers –** MG 9, MH 10. **Second-chance points –** MG 0, MH 5. **Points in the paint –** MG 16, MH 18. **Rebounds –** MG 21 (Luchetti 6, Connor 5, Nelson 3, Woerth 2, Rodefeld 1, Hunt 1, Thome 1), MH 32 (Chapman 8, Anderson 7, Maguire 5, Kiel 3, Hannah 3, Odgers 1). **Assists:** MG 14 (Nelson 4, Luchetti 4), MH 12 (Maguire 4).
Steals – MG 5 (Connor 3), MH 5 (Kiel 3). **Blocks –** MG 0, MH 1 (Anderson). **Turnovers –** MG 10, MH 10. **Fouls –** MG 20, MH 14.



Mount Horeb boys basketball coach Todd Nesheim called the Vikings' win over Monona Grove on March 13 one of the best of his career. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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the week prior to publication.
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