

ELECTION WRAP-UP

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

Newcomers Sarah Sarbacker and Tom Schlimgen both earned seats on the Mount Horeb Area School District Board of Education in the April 2 election, defeating incumbent Jim Myers. There were two seats available, and it was a relatively tight three-way race. Sarbacker came in first with 1,532 votes (35 percent). Schlimgen finished second

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Marklein to replace Hesselbein as MoHo's senator

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

Physicists have sometimes said that if you think you understand string theory, you probably don't understand string theory. The fabric of the universe is confusing stuff, even to the brightest minds.

The same could probably said for the State of Wisconsin's legislative maps. While

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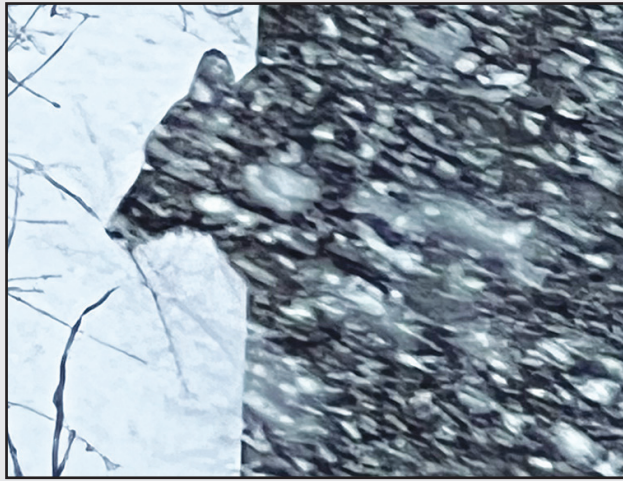


Marklein

Oh, deer...



A deer made its way through Mount Horeb on Tuesday, April 2, using a howling snowstorm as cover and passing by hundreds of people, most of whom never even noticed the doe. She slinked through residential and commercial areas, took refuge behind a dumpster and under a tree at McDonald's (below), then moved on. The Whitetail is likely the oldest large mammal species in North America, having lived here for millions of years. It is also quite possibly responsible for bringing the first humans to this region as they followed their food source. There are between one and two million in Wisconsin at the moment, but much of their local habitat has been destroyed by human development in recent years. Another major threat to this iconic animal is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), which is spreading quickly, in part due to a steady decline in hunting. Photos by Matt Geiger.



Judge rules with Friends

Friends of Blue Mound State Park win latest round in battle with the DNR

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

The Friends of Blue Mound State Park have won the latest battle in their ongoing legal war with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

It is a major decision in a saga that started with a disagreement over a snowmobile trail in the park but has grown to include a much larger rift including allegations of intimidation, bullying and behavior from the DNR that violated the Friends' first amendment rights.

The new judgement comes

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Artist spotlight

This week's edition marks the beginning of a special series in the Mount Horeb Mail. In the coming weeks and months, we will shine a spotlight on an array of local artists. Some paint. Some sculpt. Some take photographs or work in digital media. All are vibrant and vital threads in the rich tapestry of the community's artistic life. We are asking them all about their work, their influences, their creative processes, and how they manage to remain artists and find beauty in a world so often dominated by dull commercialism and glib pessimism.

Their answers so far have been as diverse, wise and illuminating as their art. We hope you enjoy getting to know them. Thank you to the Mount Horeb Area Arts Association for helping make this series a reality.

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

Our first artist is Georgene Pomplun, a plein air and studio painter, which is a fancy way of saying she works both outdoors and inside. She chronicles the beauty and splendor of small moments and vanishing landscapes, all in a joyful quest for meaning and mindfulness that stems from the adventures of childhood.

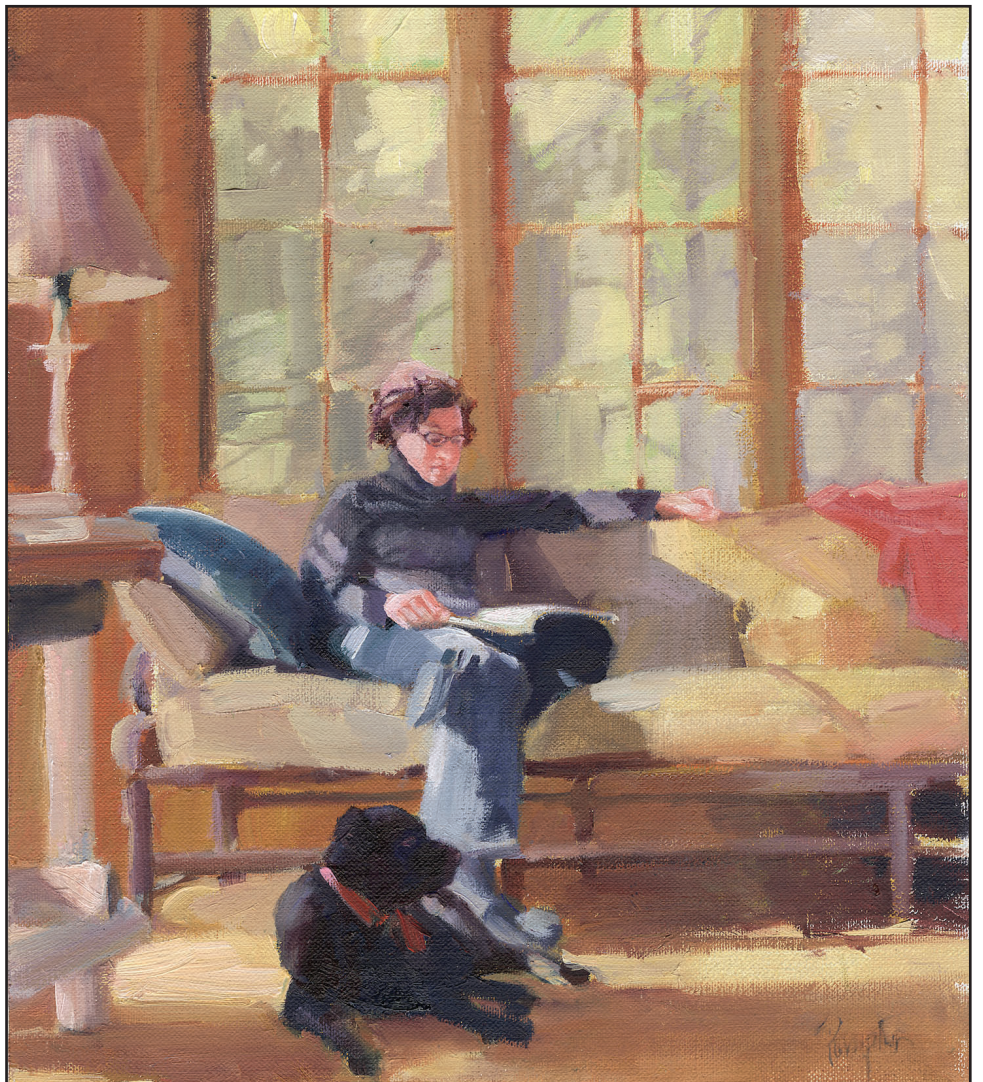
Pomplun has enjoyed great success as an artist. But when asked why she paints, her answers have little to do with selling her work. She paints, she says, "because it's immensely ful-

filling and brings me great joy." She also does it because, like so many writers and composers and painters, she feels she has something to say.

"Art has a power to reach people on a certain level, just like music," she says. "People are hardwired to it. We have cave paintings, and while we don't have recordings from back then, I'll bet the people at Lascaux [where 17,000-year-old paintings adorn the walls of a network of caves] were dancing up a storm, too."

The music and the painting have never stopped

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"Lake Julia Respite" by Georgene Pomplun.

A BIRD IN THE BUSH

Special deliveries

By **WILLIAM ROBICHAUD**
A Bird in the Bush

I recently dove into the experience of ordering some chicks to re-establish my flock of Dominique laying hens - replacements, a new generation, after the last of my girls were wiped out last summer by what was probably a weasel. The Wisconsin hatchery I order from no longer allows you to pick up your day-old chicks (probably to reduce the risk of introducing outside disease to the hatchery). They will now only mail chicks to you.

In this brave and frantic new world of life lived on the instantaneous, virtual run by text, email, and streaming, I find comfort in the fact that I can order baby birds through the mail. It's as if these small, fragile downies with a postage stamp on their butts have the power to slow the world a bit, to bring it back to something more real and thus more dear than a thousand Instagram

posts. And baby chickens are still something, thank God, you can't get through Amazon.

The hatchery's minimum order is twelve, since that apostolic number is the smallest cluster of puff-ball bodies needed to keep each other warm on their journey through the US postal service (the calculus that worked to get young Christianity going seems to also work for chickens). Although I don't quite need a dozen, eleven Dominique pullets (young hens) and one cockerel it was. My housemate Grant later suggested we also get a duck, since everyone could use a yard and guard duck. Sure, of course, and so I called the hatchery back and added one duckling to the order. Shipping was scheduled for a recent Thursday, with delivery one or two days later.

Some aspects of the biology of birds, and especially precocial species such as chickens and ducks, make it possible for a hatchery to commerce in chicks through the mail, and it also makes timing crucial. One is that chickens and ducks, in contrast to altricial species like robins and sparrows, hatch with an insulating coat of down, rather than naked. In addition, they retain remnants of the yolk in their bellies, allowing them to

survive the first couple days of their post-egg life without food or drink. Finally, the incubation period of an egg is precisely characteristic for a given species or breed of bird, and the clock toward hatching only starts ticking when the egg is first warmed. In fact, a hatchery can keep a freshly laid, fertilized egg in suspended animation for some days by keeping it cool, and then start the incubation clock by putting the egg in an incubator. This allows them to give a precise shipping date well in advance, so you can be ready for the arrival of your chicks, and not be away at the Grand Canyon or your nephew's wedding when the cheeping box arrives.

Still, even the best, er, laid plans can go awry. With shipping promised on a Thursday, I expected the thirteen wee ones to arrive, like Moses in his basket, on Friday or Saturday, and so arranged my week accordingly. It thus threw me for a loop when early Wednesday morning, the day before the scheduled ship date, my phone rang and it was my sister-in-law, Kathy (who shares my last name), with the news that the Dodgeville post office was urgently trying to reach me, and had found her along the way. Anyone remember the Far Side cartoon, "You have

cows, Mr. Farnsworth"? Well the message from the post office was "You have birds - HERE, NOW - Mr. Robichaud".

Actually, the message Kathy understood and relayed is that the Dodgeville post office had a bird waiting for me, one duck to be precise. What, had the duckling been sent ahead, solo, like a scout or point man??

With my day already jammed, I called the post office in hopes they could deliver said fowl, and save me the time of a trip. A pleasant if slightly anxious woman answered, and our conversation went something like this:

"Hi. I understand you have a bird there for me."

"Yes, a baby duck. I've been trying to reach you. Can you come collect it?"

"No other birds, just the duck?"

"Just the duck."

"What happens if I can't pick it up?"

"It will die."

"Oh. ok..."

"However, I see you live near Barneveld. We could put the duck on this morning's truck with the other mail for Barneveld, and you could pick it up at the post office there when they open at nine. Would that help?"

"That would be fantastically helpful. Let's do that, and thanks so much for your

efforts on this. I think I'll name the duck after you."

"[Laughing] Sure, that would be nice. My name is Brandy."

An hour later, the clerk at the Barneveld post office handed me a small box with some ventilation holes and a frail peeping from within. Back home, I opened the box to find a lovely, miniature duck, not much bigger than my thumb, nestled in some bedding with a disposable hand warmer - its temporary mom. I transferred Brandy to a larger box with water, food, other warmth, and some room to roam, and the wee web-footed one settled right in.

The next day, Thursday, the saga continued, when the twelve little chickens were, as far as I knew, still due to ship. By this time, I was on an overnight trip (with Brandy at home in the care of Grant), and early in the morning in my motel room I checked email and saw an auto-message from the hatchery that another order had already shipped, the day before. What, early birds again?? Back on the phone to the Dodgeville post office, this time with a Savannah instead of Brandy, and once again it was, yes, we have birds for you, and yes, you need to pick them up ASAP. And so, within a few hours Birdman here

was pulling into the Dodgeville post office to collect a second shipment of birds. As soon as I stepped into the lobby I could hear cheeping from somewhere behind the counter, which I translated as "Take us home, take us home!". These little ones had traveled coach - crammed for mutual warmth in the same size box that Brandy and hand warmer had traveled solo. Back home, they were soon contentedly hugger-mugger with their cousin, the duck.

I'm happy to report that everyone is getting along well, and growing well. If you spend a lot of time with them their first couple days of life, they imprint on you as "mom" (and if not, it might be a hand warmer, or the mailman, they follow around the rest of their lives), and that period was both successful and fun. I've never been so glad to get some bills in the mail.

Bill ("Bird") Robichaud is an award-winning conservation biologist who lives on a farm north of Barneveld, on ancestral Ho-Chunk land. He writes about living from and with the Driftless land at www.birdinthebush.net.



Sustainability Notes

From The

Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee

Village Sustainability Committee and MH Public Library Present Composting and Native Plant Program

By **ELIZABETH GRADE**
Special to the Mail

The Village Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee (SNR) and the Mount Horeb Public Library are teaming up for another public programming installment on best practices for composting and prairie restoration Tuesday, April 16, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Library located at 105 Perimeter Road.

The program will feature Michelle Probst, Scientist at the Dane County Land and Water Resource Department, and Natural Resource educator Wade Moder, former Executive Director of the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association. Learn about the environmental benefits of composting and how to start your own at-home composting system. We will break down the supplies you need, what to put in your compost, and how to troubleshoot any issues you may run into.

Currently, organic materials make up 34 percent of Dane County's landfill waste, 35 percent of which is food

waste. Composting food waste at home reduces amounts of organic materials winding up at the county landfill, and greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane.

Composting transforms organic waste via microbial activity into a vitalized soil amendment improving nutrient uptake to plants. At-home composting of food waste reduces carbon emissions by having organic waste skip a trip to the landfill, making a rich source of nutrients for home gardens and lawns. Healthy soil reduces the need for fertilizers which can affect water quality downstream as storm water runoff. This enables our water treatment facility to less work reducing phosphorus levels during the treatment process.

Another way to enhance carbon footprint is to use plants to sequester carbon dioxide, a major source of greenhouse gas. Science has shown that the restoration or conversion of land to permanent perennial vegetation can increase the amount of carbon stored within soils. Wade and Michelle share information on the climate benefits of prairie restoration and ways for you to get involved in restoring our prairies. Native plants once established, require less water, fertilizer or pesticides. They also provide habitat for beneficial insects for biological control of garden pests.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let's all take care of pollinators this spring

Thank you for publishing the article "Buzz Off Early Spring," (Mt Horeb Mail, 03-28-24), as it is the perfect introduction to the Mound Vue Garden Club's "No Mow May" (NMM) initiative. The author stresses the importance of protecting pollinators all year long, cautioning against the urge to clean up gardens in the fall, which can remove their overwintering habitat and reduce bee and butterfly populations. NMM is about more than just mowing less. Some of the movement's originators have stated that while the catchy slogan is primarily aimed at protecting pollinators, it is also a stimulant to consider gradual changes from turf lawns that require highly toxic chemicals and expensive machinery, to increased native plantings in yards.

Why should we care? Like your "Buzz Off..." article states (focusing simply on pollinators for a moment) roughly 3/4ths of all the flowering plants on Earth need pollination, and native pollinators are in decline. How do we help? Doug Tallamy, a well-known author and entomologist, has proposed transforming some of our turf lawns back to natural habitat, or little "homegrown national parks" (a few lawns in Mt Horeb have signs indicating this). Small wild areas in our yards can have an ecological impact on all wildlife.

In this regard, the NMM group suggests a purely voluntary series of local options that, in lieu of "No Mow May" might also be considered "pollinator aware yard care," "slow mow may," "low mow summer," to name a few. In 2023, the Village Board unanimously proclaimed the month of May as NMM and encouraged all residents to participate. The proclamation also encouraged all residents to grow a variety of native plants that bloom across the growing season so that food resources are continuously available to pollinators.

How does one participate in NMM 2024? Again, this a voluntary project but we urge each resident to do what they can. Yard signs can signal to neighbors your intentions. Signs and informational flyers can be obtained in two locations this year beginning mid-April: Go to Duluth Trading Store, 100 W. Main, or the Chamber of Commerce, 300 E. Main (if you have a sign from 2023 just reuse it!). Or, attend the Garden Club's Annual Spring Plant Sale, Sat, May 11, at the Mt Horeb Fire Station, 400 S. Blue Mounds St, from 8:30-11AM where signs and how-to flyers will be available. We consider NMM as the first step in a year-long process of pollinator aware yard care.

Community members can learn more about getting started with native plants by attending a free workshop, Sat., May 4, 3pm at the Driftless Historium with speaker Jada Hooks, Garden Club member and owner of Jada's Greenhouse. Free native plant seedlings will be available.

For 66 years the Mound Vue Garden Club has provided monthly educational programs. If you'd like to attend, go to Mound Vue Garden Club Facebook page for more information. The NMM group can be reached at mhnomow@gmail.com.

Mound Vue Garden Club No Mow May Committee
Carolyn White, Barb Case, Mary Hull, Betty Drape, Larry Kruckman

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Board hears nondiscrimination report

School board also plans to distribute new community survey

By ERIN HERNDON
Mount Horeb Mail

The Mount Horeb School Board accepted an updated pupil nondiscrimination report at its April 1 meeting. The Board approved the motion in addition to a community survey to be distributed in April as well as revisions to a previously discussed advertising, donation, and sponsorship guide.

Brian Johnson, Director of Student Services, and Sarah Straka, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the 2024 edition of the District Self-Evaluation of the Status of Pupil Nondiscrimination and Equality of Educational Opportunity. According to the report, the DPI or Wisconsin

Department of Public Instruction typically requires school districts to complete the evaluation at least once every five years on a schedule determined by the state superintendent. Up to this point, the most recent iteration was the report released in 2018.

“The DPI asks us to do these every five years, but due to COVID, it’s actually been closer to seven or eight,” Johnson said. “It takes a lot of work from a lot of people who examine the data to see where we need to make improvements.”

Stratka said that the DPI uses the report to supplement information they’re able to derive from Infinite Campus, a student information

system (SIS).

“The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction can monitor several areas when we think about disciplines, suspensions, and expulsions through annual reports that we kick out through Infinite Campus,” Stratka said. “There’s many other pieces of information and data that can’t necessarily get pulled from Infinite Campus directly to the state. That’s where the pupil nondiscrimination report comes in.”

Straka said that while the 45-page report is a legal document, it’s also an opportunity for district staff to work as a team in considering district data from the time frame of each report.

According to the current reporting cycle within the document, Cycle VI, districts were required to evaluate elements such as trends and patterns within student enrollment, achievement, disciplinary actions and extracurricular activities. Other considerations include school board policies and administrative procedures, efforts to achieve equality of educational opportunity and nondiscrimination, and technology, including electronic communications by school district staff. Stratka said one example of a prominent change in the data of the 2023-2024 Cycle VI compared to the 2017-2018 Cycle V can be seen in the percentage of female high

school students taking career technical (CT) classes.

“In the 2022-2023 school year, 26 percent of those students were identified as female, which you may think is low, but when we did this report back in ‘16-’17, it was 8.4 percent,” Stratka said. “Our teaching staff has been creating a space where males and females can feel valued that they belong in these courses. That’s something we need to celebrate, and we wouldn’t know that necessarily unless we do reports like these and compare them to previous year’s reports.”

In considering the data, Johnson said district staff did not find any major areas of concern.

“We’ve been doing a lot of work with our equity teams and in regular meetings with our staff, looking at the data and there were no big ‘a-ha’s,’ but there were definite reminders,” Johnson said. “Now, we can have a certain action plan with the steps to move forward with it.”

The Board unanimously approved the Cycle VI report. In other news, residents can expect a community input survey in their mailbox at some point in April. The anonymous survey regards the District’s facility needs and will be due May 10.

The next regular Board of Education meeting occurs April 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Town examines short-term rentals

Springdale board considers rules governing Airbnb usage

By STEVE MATYAS
Mount Horeb Mail

Springdale Plan Commission Chair Amy Jester presented findings from her research into short term rental regulations to a meeting on March 25th. The town is considering adoption of an ordinance governing the use of residential properties as Airbnbs or tourist/transient rentals.

Potential areas of regulation include the need for public health licensing, length of occupancy during a single stay, minimum and maximum numbers of rental days allowed per year, licensing fees required by the town, seller’s permits if rental income exceeds a prescribed amount, availability and proximity of owners or

operators of the property, site plans indicating parking availability and location, advertising, use of campers or tents to increase the amount of lodging, the town’s dark sky ordinance, and maintenance of a registry of guests.

Jester spoke in favor of such an ordinance, saying it is standard in most areas she studied and would allow the town to move faster if any issues or concerns are raised. She pointed out that Dane County currently requires a conditional use permit for such properties, but of the fifteen or so town properties now engaging in short term rentals, only one or two

are aware of and follow the county’s requirements. She added that having the town be involved in licensing and regulation would help ensure that all residents are aware of what is going on within the community.

Commission member Ellen Bunn expressed her support of a potential ordinance, stating that it would be “good for the town.” Member Rami Aburomia called for more study on the maximum number of nights allowed per stay, voicing his opinion that most rentals would be on weekends and that Saturday nights may be an area of concern.

Speaking against any

new ordinance (and perhaps foreshadowing his vote if the town board is asked to take action), Supervisor Richard Schwenn cited the ever-increasing number of ordinances on the town’s books. He further referred to such action as a “waste of time” and “out of line” and questioned who would be responsible for enforcement of new regulations. Despite Schwenn’s comments, the commission directed Jester to draft a proposal regarding a potential ordinance to be presented at a later public hearing.

The commission also addressed the town’s proposal to vacate a portion of Ben

Franklin Road and turn over the property to current landholders on each side of the road, splitting the land down the middle. It was observed that no reason exists for the town to continue ownership of the road, and a public hearing has been set up in May to discuss formal turnover of the land involved.

Construction of a 60x40x20’ residential accessory building on land at 92423 Gem View Lane was discussed and recommended to the town board. Chair Jester and committee member Jim Hanson previously visited the site and reported that no problems seemed to be apparent as long as

neighboring landowners don’t raise objections. They stated that expansion of an existing driveway to service the new building should not be problematic given the relative level nature of the ground and advised the board that no action on its part is necessary. The board subsequently approved the plan.

Board Chair John Rosenbaum played a minimal role in proceedings due technical difficulties in his attendance via Zoom.



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GLEANINGS

By **BARR JOHNSON**
Mount Horeb Mail

130 Years Ago- April 19, 1894

It looks as if Allen and Schneider are going to make a complete success of the livery business. Monday, their opening day, 12 horses out of 15 were in the use of the public.

The cheese in the Daleyville factory was sold to Mr. Regitz last week for nine to ten and a half cents a pound.

There was received in Cross Plains last year from saloons as license, \$1050 and the town expenses were \$850. The supervisors received \$30 each.

The mason work on the foundation of Ole Holum's house, on Fourth Street, has been put up.

A man down east committed suicide by hanging, for the reason that some people found fault with him. If that should become general, the trees would be crowded with country editors.

We have a bundle of hats at our office, that partly gives it the appearance of a pawnshop. The hats were found and advertised last summer, but not called for. Who owns them?

G. G. Mandt says he has sold out his property where the post office is now located, to A.L. Burchell. Where the post office will be moved to is not known to us at this writing.

Andrew Brattrud must mean business, judging from the meat wagon he received this week. He purchased it from Trostle & Son, of Beloit, and it is an

elegant a rig of its kind, as you will see in any large city. Andrew has hired his brother Edward, of Madison, and intends to boom the meat business.

Mount Horeb has been beautified by some illuminative signs in front of several business houses, lately. They are very serviceable for the public, as well as we think they are preliminary of electric light.

120 Years Ago- April 14, 1904

Isaac Lewis of Fitchburg, formerly of this place, has taken out his intention papers and will soon be counted in the matrimonial army.

The contract for the erection of the new Methodist Church on Third Street has been let to G.E. Mickelson Lumber Company at a cost of \$3,090 to be completed August 1. The edifice is to be of large size, Greek cross design with basement and steeple.

Gale Bang, Ole Bingham and Peter Everson left this place Tuesday for North Dakota to look after their land interests. They promised to let themselves be heard from during their absence, so their friends here would know they are existing.

Some more big wood-sawing has been reported. Gabe Bang and his crew found it a not uncommon thing to saw six and a half cords of cord wood per hour on an average all day, or 65 cords per day. Any one else?

Three new comers arrived last week, They are nephews of Syver Krogfass, deceased, and did not know of their uncle's death until they

arrived here.

The newly elected village officers met last Saturday evening and qualified and are now in the harness. The affairs of the village are in safe hands as they have always been since it was incorporated. The same spirit of improvement will characterize the new board.

110 Years Ago- April 9, 1914

Peter Rockstad recently had a well sunk on his tract in the eastern part of the village and struck a very good stream at a depth of 70 feet and the water is soft.

William Whitt, the industrious janitor at the grade school, has had a sore hand, getting it hurt when installing seats in one of the rooms and it has caused him sleepless nights.

Mrs. Martin Grinder of Perry has been granted a soldier widow's pension of \$12 per month.

E. A., Throndrud was seen on our highway Friday hauling hay in his auto.

Miss Clara Jordee went home Tuesday to join the family group in a picture, all being present.

The marshal has received notice from the railroad company the boys must keep off the railroad grounds and tracks and Pete is prepared to run in the lads that are found trespassing and it may be well for parents to ascertain where their boys are at play.

As was expected Arnold Sletto was released from custody by the authorities at Madison on last Thursday, as there was not the slightest evidence to warrant any suspicion and must be admitted that it was a hasty act on the part of the detective. A large number of Springdale citizens secured the services of attorney Boyce.

100 Years Ago- April 15, 1924

What is believed to be the first accident on Highway 19 this year happened on this side of Madison Thursday evening when C.A. Fink was returning home from his farm when his car was run into by a strange car about a mile west of Verona. Mr. Fink escaped without injury, as did the occupants of the other car. Mr. Fink's car, slightly damaged, was taken to a garage in Verona for repairs. As the Cannon Ball was just coming from Verona, Fink returned on it.

The committee appointed by the village board and the one appointed by the business men had a hard time deciding who they wanted for the night watch to take the place of Stanley Jacobson, who resigned. Elmer Disrud received the appointment. He is an ex-service man and very well thought of by all who know him and he should make a good officer.

Thomas Ayen's gang of teamsters and shovelers are hard at work digging the basement of the new Mount Horeb Bank. Evidently work will be rushed and it will not be many months before that financial institution is housed in its new home.

70 Years Ago- April 15, 1954

Elmer Magnuson Jr., U.S.A.F., who has been spending a 30-day leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Magnuson, Sr., Springdale, will leave April 24 for Parks Air Force Base, Calif., enroute to Japan.

The Mount Horeb Fire Department answered a chimney fire at the Henry Luhman Jr. farm home near Mount Horeb Saturday morning.

Alvin Brager purchased the Clara Johnson residence on Lake Street Thursday. The deal was made through the Ray Bakken Agency.

60 Years Ago- April 9, 1964

Mrs. Mary Lloyd is 95 years old, but she still helps the Mt. Horeb chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary in gathering and sewing carpet rags during their annual "rag bee."

Andrea Pfister, Julie Guenveur and Anita Lund received "A" ratings at the district forensic contest at Platteville State College.

30 Years Ago- April 14, 1994

Twin daughters, Gretta Magdalene and Shiloh Suzanne, were born on Friday, April 8, 1994 to Sandy and Blaine Krantz, Mount Horeb. Maternal great-grandparents are Mary Haag and the late Albert Haag; their 77th and 78th great-grandchildren.

Betty M. Hatch, age 63, of Blue Mounds, died on Thursday, April 7, 1994 at her home surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Rest assured, Mount

Horeb taxpayers, the school administration is not overspending your precious tax dollars on high tech presentation gadgetry. No laser disk, no computer generated displays, only a single overhead projector and the old fashioned and reliable display media-the chalk board, which was used by Dr. Craig Hitchens to lead the school board members through the 1994-1995 budget.

20 Years Ago- April 8, 2004

The work has begun on the Mount Horeb Main Street reconstruction and roundabout construction at the intersection of Springdale and Eighth Streets.

Except for the final filing and recording with the state, all the voting is done, and Mount Horeb has a TIF (tax incremental financing) district.

Jerome "Jerry" Post, 84, of Mount Horeb, died on Thursday, April 1, 2004 at Ingleside Nursing Home in Mount Horeb.

Kristin and Andrew Seibel, Mount Horeb are very pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Nathan Andrew, who was born March 31, 2004 at Meriter Hospital, Madison.

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HUNGER

Demand at food pantries is up 112 percent

Without food pantries, thousands of people in our community wouldn't have access to enough food to meet their basic needs.

The demand across six of Dane County's largest food pantries has reached record highs, more than doubling over the last two years, while charitable giving has plummeted nationwide during that same time period. The 112% increase represents the average increase in the number of household visits across the six pantries between December 2021 and December 2023.

Up to this point, community support has been a critical part of how pantries have met the need, local pantry leaders said.

"We have never turned anyone away, but we have had to put some limits on the amount of food people can take," said Ellen Carlson, executive director for WayForward Resources in Middleton. "We worry about how we and other local food pantries can continue to ensure that everyone in our community has access to nutritious food."

The pressure on pantries to meet the need escalated in Spring 2023 as pandemic-era supports phased out, including the expanded child tax credit, universal free school lunches, and increased federal food and rental assistance.

"In the past four years, we've felt the impact of a pandemic, inflation, high housing costs and increased migration," said Tracy Burton, Badger Prairie Needs Network Food Pantry Director. "All of these combined have resulted in over five times the number of visits to our pantry from pre-pandemic levels."

Rhonda Adams, executive director of The River Food Pantry, said the number of households in need of the pantry's services began growing steadily over the past few years and then surged when most pandemic relief programs phased out last spring, resulting in over 276,000 visits by households in need of groceries and meals in 2023 alone. "Food insecurity is a communal issue, even if we may not always recognize when it is affecting our friends and neighbors, and support from the broader community will continue to be essential to successfully addressing it," Adams said.

While inflation has slowed down, prices for basic goods and housing have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. The consumer price index, the most widely-followed measure of inflation, remains about 20 percent higher than it was before the pandemic. In addition, the steep increase in housing costs in Dane County means many households in our community have to focus even more of their income on rent.

"Many of our customers are people who are employed full-time and finding it necessary to choose between paying bills and buying food," said Francesca Frisque, Goodman Community Center food pantry assistant director, who said growth there has been consistent and "sometimes staggering."

"We're thankful for so many generous partners throughout the community, and we have an incredible base of donors who give regularly. Even still, we're not seeing as many donations come in, and we're having a hard time keeping our shelves stocked," Frisque said. "Without help from the community, we wouldn't be able to meet the need of our Madison neighbors."

Food pantries help families stretch their budgets so they don't have to go without basic necessities and can continue to cover costs such as filling their gas tank to get to work and paying for prescriptions.

"We continue to respond to escalating pantry need with a variety of food options so people and families don't have to choose between paying rent and buying groceries," said Chris Kane, senior director of client services at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul — Madison.

"We won't turn anyone away, and we're spending more money each month to make sure our shelves are stocked," said Catie Badsing, manager of food security programs at the Sun Prairie Food Pantry at Sunshine Place. As the gap between wages and cost of living continues to widen, Badsing said pantries will keep seeing more new families who need their services. More than eight percent of employed adults in Wisconsin live in food insecure households, according to a recent Census Pulse Household Survey.

"Our shifts outside of regular working hours are our busiest, which means most of our customers are working, sometimes multiple jobs," Badsing said.

There is a misconception that food pantries operate mainly with state or federal support, but only a small amount of food comes in through the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program. Instead pantries must stock their shelves by relying on a complex web of systems and collaborations. That includes strategic partnerships like those with Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, food rescues from local grocery and convenience stores, as well as monetary and food donations from businesses, foundations, churches, and individuals.

"Unfortunately, many grants have stayed at the same levels, pandemic era funding is gone, our guests' SNAP benefits have been reduced, and our food banks have been struggling to keep up with this growth," said Burton from Badger Prairie Needs Network. "We've been grateful to be in a community that has always risen to the need — but with this enormous growth, we will need to find new sources of food and/or money or will have to restrict access to the pantry."

While generous food drives at the end of 2023 had a major impact for people in our community, hunger doesn't end with the holiday season. Donations of money, food and your volunteer time can all make an immediate difference in the lives of so many of our neighbors who need our support now more than ever.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS & NOTES

Alert: Watch out for AI scams

The Dane County Sheriff's Office is warning about the increasing advancements used by telephone scammers. The all too common "Grandparents Scam" has become even more believable with Artificial Intelligence (AI). By taking online videos and using AI to create a recording using the person's voice, scammers can make

their victims believe their grandchild is in danger and needs help. By playing on people's emotions, these scammers are stealing thousands of dollars from unsuspecting senior citizens. "We need to share this information far and wide to protect our most vulnerable community members from these callous scammers," said Sheriff Calvin Barrett. "The only way to deter this calculated criminal activity

is to spread awareness of their ruthless tactics." Be cautious of how much is shared on social media accounts. Locking down privacy settings so that scammers cannot access video content is another way to lessen their prospects. If you receive one of these calls, hang up and call the family member directly to check on their welfare. Chances are, they are doing just fine, and you can sigh with relief that your bank account is still intact.

some of the world's most amazing animals Monday, April 15 at 1pm at the Mt. Horeb Public Library. Discover the special abilities, behavior and habitat of these cute (and not so cute) creatures in this afternoon event designed for adults. Meet Wanda the wallaby, Montgomery the python, Wilson the armadillo as well as many other Zoozort animals with licensed animal educator Noelle Bezio. For more information about the library, its events and services, visit mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021.

and a song reminding us of atrocities during World War II such as "The Closed Town". There will be a fun and rhythmic Israeli song "Ya Ba Bom" that sings of peace and an uplifting song Pilgrims' Hymn. All in all, there will be music that will engage you, music that will fascinate you, music that will entertain you. One of the nicest things about the Mount Horeb Chorale is that it is made up of a variety of age groups from teenagers to 80 year olds and everything in between. Singers in the group are from Mount Horeb, Verona, Cross Plains, Blue Mounds, Barneveld, Blanchardville, Madison, Dodgeville, Sauk City, and Mineral Point. There will be intermission music performed by individual chorale members. This year's chorale is accompanied by Diane Dangerfield and Barb Underwood and will feature soloist and local voice and piano teacher, Rebecca Dennis. The chorale is directed by Gregory Dennis.

of both urban composting and prairie restoration. Discover the supplies you need for at-home composting, what to put in your compost, and how to troubleshoot any issues you may run into. The presentation also discusses how science has shown that restoring or converting land to permanent perennial vegetation can increase the amount of carbon stored within soils. Wade and Michelle share information on the climate benefits of prairie restoration and ways for you to get involved in restoring our prairies. This program is held in partnership with the Village of Mt. Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee. For more information about the library, visit www.mhpl.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Seniors shopping trip to Dodgeville, Bus leaves at 9:30am. Call Kris to reserve seat at 608-444-7930

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Closet open 9:00am-10:30am (Seniors Preferred) ; All shoppers - 3:00pm-4:30pm, 102 E. Lincoln Street

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food and Clothes Closet open 10:00am-11:30am, 102 E. Lincoln Street

Irish Concert at 1:00pm and Irish Session (bring your flutes & fiddles to join in) at 2:00pm with Matt and Shannon Heaton, Mt. Horeb Public Library

Celebrating Wisconsin's Centennial through stamps now showing in the Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Gallery at the Driftless Historium through Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Brunch-11:00am; Celebration of Music Concert- 1:00pm-3:00pm, Springdale Lutheran Church

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Men's Story Telling Group, 12:00 noon, Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Badger Hearing, 1:00pm-3:00pm, Walk-in or call Tracy for appt. at 608-285-2772, Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Tai Chi, 1:00pm. Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Ageless Grace, 2:00pm, Mt. Horeb Senior Center

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Foot Clinic, 8:30-3:30pm. Call 437-6902 for appt., Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Fink's Cafe, serving senior meals, 11:00am-1:00pm

Euchre - 12:30pm, Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Little Free Pantries are located at: New Hope Evangelical Free Church, 639 S. 8th St., Mt. Horeb; Immanuel Lutheran Church, 310 W. Main St., Mt. Horeb and Zwingli UCC, Hwy 92, Mt. Vernon. Nonperishable food and other necessities available 24 hours 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 mhclassies@fingerpub.com. We reserve the right to edit for length.

Brunch and concert

Springdale Lutheran Church will host its second annual brunch and Celebration of Music concert on Sunday, April 14. Brunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. followed by the concert from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The menu will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, fresh fruit, homemade pastries and beverages. The concert was created "to celebrate God's gift of music and will feature singers and musicians performing songs from a variety of musical genres." Springdale Lutheran Church is located at 2752 Town Hall Rd., Mount Horeb.

Live animals at the library

Spend the afternoon with

Mount Horeb Chorale to perform

The Mount Horeb Chorale will fill the MHHS Auditorium with song the Sunday afternoon of April 21 starting at 2:30 p.m. The 65-voice chorale has been rehearsing since mid-February on a variety of music with some songs hopeful, some sad, others jubilant, yet others filled with lamentation, and still others peaceful! There will be songs like "Kum Ba Yah" and the spiritual "All My Trials" that you will recognize and another "City Called Heaven" which you won't! There will be songs with a light message such as "Hope is the Thing with Feathers" composed by local musician Peter Putz

Urban composting class

Get a head start on Earth Day during this 2-in-One program at the Mt. Horeb Public Library Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30pm. Wade Moder, Natural Resource Educator at Dane County Extension and Michelle Probst, Land & Water Scientist with Dane County Land & Water Resource Department, present the benefits

AWOL man is located

The Mount Horeb man who went AWOL from the Dane County Sheriff's Office Jail Diversion program is back in custody, according to the Dane County Sheriff's Office. Richard C. Williams, age 39, was declared AWOL on Sunday morning last week after deputies received an alert that Williams had cut off his GPS monitoring bracelet and was last seen in the Madison area. He was located Thursday. Williams is serving a sentence for operating a motor vehicle without consent, theft and violating a domestic abuse injunction. A warrant had been issued for his arrest.

REC NOTES

Now Hiring – If you are looking for a fun seasonal job, look no further than the Recreation Department! We are currently seeking individuals for the following positions: Summer Office Assistant (min age 17) Recreation Coordinator LTE (min age 18) Kids Camp Coordinator (min age 17) Are you looking for a non-traditional sport to try? Join **Fencing Camp** this summer where new and returning students are invited. Your favorite instructors return with more knowledge, refined coaching skills and, of course, your favorite fencing games and arm bands. Safety is our first priority. We sup-

ply safety swords, protective masks, chest plates and jackets in a high-octane inclusive environment. Summer camp is Monday through Thursday, June 10 through 13. Ages 7-10 year olds are from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM and ages 11-15 year olds are from 1:00-4:00 PM. All classes will take place at the Intermediate Center Cafeteria. Resident fee is \$135 and non-resident fee is \$145. Registration deadline is June 3. Welcome to the Korean Martial Art of **Tae Kwon Do**! Join Master Miles while he teaches students about basic kicking and punching combinations, as well as increase strength and flexibility. Tae Kwon Do promotes self-esteem and confidence,

along with improvement of focus and concentration. Master Miles is our new instructor this summer, and is 6th Dan Master Instructor with the Kukkiwon in Seoul, South Korea. Belt testing will be held 3 times per year, which is an additional fee. Summer 1 session is June 3 through June 24 on Mondays. Beginner Level (first timers through yellow belt) will be from 4:30-5:30 PM and Intermediate Level (rank of green belt and beyond) will be from 5:30-6:30 PM. All classes will be held at the Rec Department Multipurpose Room. Resident fee is \$50 and non-resident fee is \$60. Registration deadline is May 28. **HOW TO REGISTER:** There are multiple

ways to register for programs and activities. Online (go to <https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mhrd>) In-person at 105 N. Grove Street Place completed form and payment in 24-hour drop box Email completed form and payment to mhrec@mounthorebwi.info **REGISTRATION DEADLINES** Spring Martial Arts (4/25) Introduction to Fly Fishing (4/29) Machine Pitch (5/1)

COMMUNITY

A guest column from the Mount Horeb Area School District

An introduction to ‘evidence-based’ grading

By **AUBREE HANKS**
MHASD

Do you know what evidence-based grading is? Join Mount Horeb Middle School Principal Paul Christiansen and High School Prin-

cipal Cody Lundquist on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the High School Commons to learn more about how we’re improving grading practices and assessments and how this will

benefit our students! As a District, we are committed to grading practices that support the learning process, encourage student success, and accurately reflect student progress. Stu-

dents need to be at the heart of their learning. Therefore, practices and systems are put in place that make students aware and active partners of their learning in order to meet the determined

standards for proficiency and achievement. Evidence-based grading is a way to refocus our conversations on grades to conversations about learning. Evidence-based grading measures an individual student’s proficiency on a set of skills or content based on evidence shown by the student. The evidence collected by the teacher from each student is directly related to grade level content standards.

as punctuality, extra credit, effort, attitude, homework completion, and averages to communicate grades. Many of these factors are not representative of actual student learning and often misrepresents what a student may actually know.

Using an evidence-based grading system, students will better understand their progress toward proficiency on a skill or standard through specific and actionable teacher feedback. In addition, teachers will have more specific information to plan, reteach, and extend instruction to better target specific skill needs and deficits.

Evidence-based grading is a well-documented grading system. Multiple neighboring districts have been grading by standard or evidence for decades and the state of Wisconsin adopted academic standards over 25 years ago.

Join us on **Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM** in the High School Commons to better understand this grading system and how this will help students become life-long learners.

Optimists give library \$800



The Optimist Club of Mount Horeb proudly presented the Mount Horeb Public Library \$800 on April 4 to support the Summer Reading Program for kids. Pictured from left to right are Hannah Klapperich-Mueller, Amy Kalchick and Optimist Club President, Curt Garrity. Photo contributed.

OBITUARY

Thomas “Tanker” Gerald Meyer
Nov. 13, 1953-
Apr. 3, 2024



Blue Mounds – Thomas “Tanker” Gerald Meyer, age 70, of Blue Mounds, passed away unexpectedly at home from natural causes on

Wednesday, April 3, 2024. Tom was born in Dodgeville, WI on November 13, 1953; a son of the late Arthur and Martha Meyer. He graduated from Barneveld High School in 1971 and then attended SWTC for Tractor Mechanics. After college, he went to work for the Farmers International dealership and then to General Beverage and back to the home farm to help out until he went to work for the USPS as a rural carrier, retiring from there after 25 years, in 2018. Tom’s interest and hobbies in life were pulling tug o’ war, hunting, collecting guns, tractors and pulling tractors, cutting wood,

watching WI sports on TV and finding any place that had a card game going on. His number one passion in life were his grandchildren and attending all of their events, even traveling to Iowa on the weekends to watch baseball tournaments. Tom is survived by his wife, Lynne, of 43 years; his children Tom (Lynsey) Meyer, Katie (Chad) Baumgartner. He will be loved and missed by his grandchildren Kaitlynn Baumgartner, Colten Meyer and Gaege Meyer. He is further survived by his siblings, Helen Fink, William Meyer, Mary Weatherford, Dave (Tory) Meyer, Tim (Renee) Meyer; and many nieces and

nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Fred Meyer, brother-in-law Corny Fink, sister-in-law Rita Meyer, and an infant brother. A visitation will be held from 1:00pm until 4:00pm on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at the GORGEN-McGINLEY & AYERS FUNERAL HOME in Dodgeville. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family. Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home Dodgeville, WI www.gorgenfh.com

CHURCH NOTES

Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church – ELC
315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012
www.elcmthoreb.org
5 pm Saturday Worship
9 am Sunday Worship

Immanuel Lutheran Church
www.immanuelmh.org
Sunday 10:00 service
310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb

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

Mt. Horeb United Methodist
Corner of Hwy. S & Hwy. 78
Sunday Worship: 9am online and in person
umcmh.org
Celebrating God's Inclusive Love

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

Springdale Lutheran Church
2752 Town Hall Rd. 608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month at 10am
twosteeples.org

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

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.

Good News Lutheran Church - WELS
NEW LOCATION:
9975 Pepper Dr
Pastor Jonathan Bauer
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Sunday School and Bible Study 10:15 am
608-437-4646 visit
GoodNewsLC.org/location for details & directions

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

Be Prepared for Storm Season

Peak tornado season is right around the corner

By **KATIE PEDERSON**
Finger Publishing

According to the National Weather Service, Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes each year, with most tornadoes occurring in the 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. time frame. The busiest “spin-up” hour is from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

May through August is peak tornado season in Wisconsin with June having the greatest number of tornadoes. A record-setting 62 tornadoes occurred in 2005, followed by 46 in 2010. In 2022, Wisconsin had 28 tornadoes, including 13 EF-0s, 13 EF-1s, and 2 EF-2s. The “average” Wisconsin tornado has a seven to eight minute duration, a path length of about 4 to 5 miles, and a damage width of about 120 yards.

Another hazard of the warm-season is powerful, straight-line thunderstorm winds that can peak at 75 to 150 mph. Every year Wisconsin will get a few storms that generate hurricane-force winds of at least 75 to 100 mph. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued for these wind events, rather than Tornado Warnings. The bottom line is - if you don’t feel safe, head for a sturdy shelter, go the lowest level of the building, and get away from windows and exterior walls.

Other warm-season hazards include large hail stones that can result in damage in the millions of dollars, localized flash floods or widespread river and low-land flooding, lightning, and excessive heat. In fact, excessive heat is the biggest weather-killer in Wisconsin over the long haul.

In 2024, Wisconsin experienced its first February tornado in recorded history (since 1950). On the evening of February 8, 2024,

a rare, impressive setup for severe weather came together across southern Wisconsin. As a dynamic low tracked northeast across the Upper Mississippi Valley, the warm sector spread across the state of Wisconsin. Within the warm sector, afternoon sunshine allowed surface-based instability to develop. Along with the increasing instability, the dynamic system brought a plethora of deep-layer and low-level shear. The impressive shear profiles led to concerns for the development of rotating storms that would be capable of producing all hazards - but especially large hail and a few tornadoes.

Two tornadoes were recorded in our area on that evening. The first occurred in Green County, between Juda and Albany, covering around 8.35 miles in 14 minutes. This tornado, with estimated peak winds of 110 mph and a maximum width of 50 yards, was determined to be an EF-1. The tornado’s track was determined by a physical survey of damage by the National Weather Service which found that the tornado started 1 mile northwest of Juda (along Highway 11) and tracked to the northeast to just south to 2 miles southeast of Albany after crossing the Sugar River. There were no injuries reported during this event. Tornado number two covered areas in Rock, Dane and Jefferson counties, taking a path which began 3 miles south of Evansville, tracked north to Edgerton, and ended on the northeast side of Lake Koshkonong, which is located approximately 3 miles west of Fort Atkinson. This tornado was determined to be an EF-2, with estimated peak winds of 130 mph, a maximum width of 750 yards and a

length of 26.20 miles, and stayed on the ground from 5:41 p.m. until 6:17 p.m. One injury was reported when a motorist’s car was pushed into the ditch by the tornado.

EF stands for Enhanced Fujita, which is the scale which became operational on February 1, 2007, and is used to assign a tornado a ‘rating’ based on estimated wind speeds and related damage. When tornado-related damage is surveyed, it is compared to a list of Damage Indicators (DIs) and Degrees of Damage (DoD) which help estimate better the range of wind speeds the tornado likely produced. From that, a rating (from EF0 to EF5) is assigned. The EF Scale was revised from the original Fujita Scale to reflect better examinations of tornado damage surveys so as to align wind speeds more closely with associated storm damage. The new scale has to do with how most structures are designed. An EF-0 ratings is for winds 65-85 mph; EF-1, 86-110 mph; EF-2, 111-135 mph; EF-3, 136-165 mph; EF-4, 166-200; and EF-5 refers to winds greater than 200 mph.

Each year Wisconsin holds Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness week, with guidance provided by Wisconsin Emergency Management and the five National Weather Service Forecast Offices that serve the state. The annual campaign encourages everyone to prepare for the tornadoes and severe storms that the state frequently experiences during the spring and summer months.

Thunderstorms are dangerous storms that can produce powerful winds, create lightning and hail, and cause flash flooding and tornadoes. The National

SPC Thunderstorm Risk Outlooks

Thunderstorms	1-Marginal	2-Slight	3-Enhanced	4-Moderate	5-High
No severe thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning & flooding threats exist with all thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
					
spc.noaa.gov/public/cwa/images/MKX_swody1.png (Southern WI-Today)					
spc.noaa.gov/public/cwa/images/MKX_swody2.png (Southern WI-Tomorrow)					
spc.noaa.gov/public/cwa/images/MKX_swody3.png (Southern WI-Day 3)					

Weather Service defines a severe thunderstorm as storms capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph.

What to do Before, During and After a Thunderstorm

BEFORE:

Know your risk. Know your area’s risk for thunderstorms. On average, the number of days per year with thunderstorms in Wisconsin ranges from 30 to 40 days, according to the National Weather Service.

Be informed. Make sure your smartphone is set to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts for severe weather. Have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather radio that can alert you to weather conditions in your area. Sign up for community alerts.

Strengthen your home. Cut down trees that may be in danger of falling on your home. Trim trees and branches. Secure loose objects that may blow away, close windows and doors, and move any valuable objects inside or under a sturdy structure. Have whole-house surge protectors to protect your appliances.

Make a plan. Create an emergency plan so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves from the effects of a thunderstorm. Identify a safe spot and/or sturdy buildings close to where you live, work, study, and play.

DURING:

When thunder roars, go indoors! If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Find shelter in a sturdy building or car. DO NOT take shelter in small sheds, in a structure with exposed sides, or baseball dugouts. Stay in place for 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.

Get away immediately. If you are caught outside,

immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, and get out of and away from ponds, lakes, pools, and other bodies of water.

If caught outside with no safe shelter nearby:

In a forest. Seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees.

In an open area. Go to a low place such as a ravine or valley. Be alert for flash floods.

On open water. Get to land and find shelter immediately.

If you feel your hair stand on end. This means lightning is about to strike. Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place hands over your ears and put your head between your knees. You are making yourself the smallest target possible and minimizing contact with the ground. DO NOT lie flat on the ground.

Stay away from windows. Damaging wind or hail may be approaching.

Avoid water. Do not bathe, shower, wash dishes, or have any other contact with water because lightning can travel through a building’s plumbing.

Avoid electronic equipment. Do not use computers, gaming systems, or anything connected to an electrical outlet. Use land-line phones only in an emergency. Lightning can travel through electrical systems and telephone lines.

Avoid flooded roadways. Turn around, don’t drown! Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Get updates. Use a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials. Smartphones are safe to use.

AFTER:

Stay informed. Pay attention to authorities and weather forecasts for information on whether it is safe

to go outside and instructions for possible flash flooding.

Be aware. Watch for fallen power lines and trees. Report them immediately. Stay out of damaged buildings.

Contact loved ones. Let family and friends know that you’re okay. Text messages and social media are more reliable forms of communication than phone calls. Mobile phone calls can overwhelm provider capacity during an emergency.

Help neighbors. If you come across people that are injured, if you are properly trained you can provide first aid to victims until emergency response teams arrive.

A tornado is a rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground. They can cause fatalities and devastate communities in a matter of seconds. Not all tornadoes may be visible at first, and they could occur at any time of day or night. Planning and practicing how and where you take shelter could save your life. Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes a year. Peak tornado season in Wisconsin is April to August, but they can occur any time of year.

What to do Before, During and After a Tornado

BEFORE:

Be weather-ready. Check out your forecast regularly to see if you’re at risk for tornadoes. Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or local news for the latest information. Look for approaching storms and keep an eye on weather conditions.

Be notified. Know how you will be warned if a tornado is in your area. Some communities have outdoor tornado sirens, but they cannot always be heard indoors. Make sure your smartphone is enabled to receive wireless emergency

continued on next page

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Governor signs Vet Memorial Bill

Gov. Tony Evers on Friday signed Assembly Bill 558, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 270, which adds the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial to state highway maps. With the enactment of Act 270, the memorial will join 16 other veterans' sites that are statutorily included on Wisconsin's official state highway map. The governor was joined for the signing by bill authors Senator Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) and Representative Mike Bare (D-Verona), local officials, and community members.

“Across our state, local community and veteran organizations work to develop and establish locations like the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial to recognize and honor our nation’s heroes. Adding this memorial to our state highway maps will make sure folks from across our state and beyond can visit the memorial and pay respects to the service and sacrifices of our veterans,” said Evers. “I want to thank the Mount Horeb VFW, American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans Chapter for their work supporting this effort, and I look forward to continuing to work with all our local partners to bolster our efforts to recognize, thank, and support Wisconsin’s more than 300,000 veterans.”

In 2018, the Mount Horeb VFW Post 9511, Mount Horeb American Legion Post 113, and Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter IV formed the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Association to establish, plan,

and construct the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial, which opened to the public in May 2021. According to the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Association, the memorial honors five branches of the U.S. military—Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard—through various design features, including 10 flags circling the Freedom Tower, black granite pillars representing each branch, and more than 400 pavers inscribed with the names of over 600 veterans.

Evers recently signed four other bills, Wisconsin Acts 203, 204, 205, and 206, that provide additional resources for Wisconsin veterans and their families.

Act 203, which Gov. Evers signed in March, makes it easier for county veterans service offices to receive veterans service of fice grants by removing the requirement that counties only hire veterans service officers who have taken a civil service examination or have been appointed under a civil service competitive examination procedure. Under Act 203, the county veterans service officer must simply be a Wisconsin resident who served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. Armed Forces and meet certain other conditions, allowing county veterans service offices to help more veterans connect to benefits, preventative programming, and mental health resources across the state.

Act 204 allows spouses of veterans to become members of the state veterans'



Governor Evers (center) with lawmakers Mike Bare and Dianne Hesselbein, as well as veterans Jeff Anderson and Don Hartman. Photo by Matt Geiger.

homes even if their veteran spouse is not a member. This bill will ensure that healthy veterans are not seeking admission to a skilled nursing home before they need that level of care while also ensuring their spouse also receives the care they need.

Act 205 adds to the definition of “veteran” any person who was admitted to the United States under the Hmong Veterans’ Naturalization Act for the purposes of indicating veteran status on a driver’s license or identification card.

Finally, Act 206 makes changes to the hiring process for positions that provide direct care to residents at veterans homes, removes the Wisconsin residency eligibility requirements in determining whether an individual or their spouse or children may be buried in a state veterans cemetery, and modifies the elements of sexual assault under the Wisconsin Code of Military Justice to align with the elements of the offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, among other provisions.

Outside of legislation, the Evers Administration is committed to ensuring Wisconsin veterans have

the tools and resources they need to thrive in their civilian lives. In 2022, Gov. Evers signed an executive order creating a Blue Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunity to develop new, innovative initiatives to support the more than 300,000 veterans who live in Wisconsin. Based on the Commission's recommendations, Gov. Evers announced a \$10 million investment, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in veteran services across the state. These services included investments to support veterans' mental health initiatives, a new rental assistance program for homeless veterans, and additional resources for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs' (DVA) Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP), veteran services offices, and more.

The governor's directed investments enabled VORP to expand from 12 to 16 regions, ensuring the program could connect more veterans with housing, employment, and mental health services, among other critical services. In 2023, those working under VORP enrolled 473 veterans in the program.

made 5,460 contacts with veterans seeking assistance across the state, and conducted 8,745 hours of case management services. Gov. Evers and DVA also directed part of Gov. Evers' \$10 million ARPA investment toward a new Veterans Rental Assistance Program, which provided more than \$2 million in assistance to 566 veteran households to address housing insecurity and homelessness in 2023.

Additionally, part of Gov. Evers' \$10 million ARPA investment went toward bolstering support for the mental health of Wisconsin's veterans. Last year, Gov. Evers and DVA Secretary James Bond launched the Veteran Mental Health Community-Based Organization Grant program and announced nearly \$650,000 in grants to 16 nonprofit organizations to promote positive mental health through activities, programs, and services that enhance the emotional, psychological, and social well-being of Wisconsin veterans. In September, Gov. Evers also announced two additional veteran mental health grants for mental health providers to serve veterans with crisis or emergency mental health

needs and for licensed providers to administer mental health services to veterans. In November, DVA announced \$474,407 in grants to seven organizations for the first round of the two grant programs to directly subsidize mental healthcare for Wisconsin veterans.

Gov. Evers' 2023-25 executive budget built upon the investments recommended by the Commission, providing ongoing state support for these critical initiatives. While a majority of these provisions were removed by Republicans in the Wisconsin State Legislature, the final 2023-25 budget signed by Gov. Evers still increased funding by 25 percent for county veterans service offices and Tribal veterans service offices and provided \$2.5 million annually to support the state's veterans homes, as needed, to ensure these vital facilities can retain staff, address building and operational needs, and provide top-quality care to veterans.

Finally, during his 2024 State of the State address, Gov. Evers declared 2024 the Year of the Worker and announced Wisconsin's workforce development services now rank 4th in the country for successfully helping veterans find employment. The new ranking underscores Wisconsin's deep commitment to connecting veterans to jobs employers are seeking to fill. In the program year that ended June 2023, the U.S. Department of Labor standard showed that 67.9 percent of the state's veteran program participants who were unemployed became employed with help from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Office of Veteran Employment Services. Last year, 58.7 percent of participants received the help they needed to gain employment.

To learn more about resources and services available to veterans and their families in Wisconsin, visit the DVA website.



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Find out more at Pomplun’s website at georgenepomplunpaintings.com.

POMPLUN

continued from page 1

since then for these strange, upright hominids, who stand on two legs to better see their environment, and Pomplun feels that painting the world helps her see the world and appreciate its magnificence.

“Part of it, for me, is I think as I get older, I appreciate how special the beautiful moments really are,” she observes adds. “Sometimes it’s the small moments that make life beautiful.”

“The splendid Wisconsin countryside has been my inspiration for the past 30 years, when I moved up here to marry my husband,

Tom,” she says. “We live in an old farmhouse in a rural part of Mount Horeb, where I am surrounded by paintings at every turn. I love painting the area barns and farmhouses, as well as our neighbors’ horses, cows, and dogs. Painting these farms is my stake in preserving a way of life that is rapidly disappearing - often I will have painted a barn only to find it gone within a year.”

She has been an artist all her life, recalling a childhood in Chicago in which she was “unfettered” by

rules and routines. She says that freedom, roaming the world with other young people, created “a deep foundation for happiness” and allowed her to know the many joys of personal and creative freedom.

“I had wonderful experiences as a child, a great education courtesy of my supportive parents, a lengthy career as a design professional, and am now painting full-time - hurrah! - I am also busy with occasional teaching and jurying shows,” she says.

“When you are a child, everything is infinite,” she continues. “And that’s what painting does. You are totally in the moment.”

Being a painter taught Pomplun to open her eyes to the world around her, from its geography and architecture to the constellation of creatures – dogs, horses, people and more – who live out their lives in this distinct place and time.

“Painting something makes you much more empathetic to it,” she reveals.

Her influences are eclectic.

“Three artists who have consistently inspired me are John Singer Sargent, especially his personal watercolors; Winslow Homer, who captured the essence of light on land and at sea, and N.C. Wyeth, the superb narrative illustrator,” Pomplun explained. “With every painting I make, I strive to get better, to learn something new, to explore and refine my vision, and to celebrate my subject matter. I invite viewers of my work to come with me into a landscape or find a moment of joy in con-

templating an interior view.”

“The striving and working at the craft, that’s fun for me,” she says. “It doesn’t feel like work, because it isn’t.”

She says her paintbrush has always felt like a passport, allowing her to set out each day in search of beauty, meaning and joy, in herself and everything around her.

Edgewood Orchard Galleries in Door County represents her work, and it can be seen there or online at edgewoodorchard.com

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POLICE REPORT

FEBRUARY MONTHLY SUMMARY 2024

911 Disconnect – 7
911 Open Line Count – 3

Accidents – 2
Accident – 1
Property Damage – 1
Adult Arrest – 1

The Mount Horeb Police Department was requested by the Verona Police Department to attempt contact with an individual at a Mount Horeb address, due to the individual having an active warrant from Department of Corrections. Contact was made and the individual, who was taken in to custody, and was transported to the Dane County Jail without incident.

Alarm – 3
Animal Complaint Bite – 3
Animal Complaint Disturbance – 2
Animal Complaint Stray – 1
Annoying/Obscene Phone Calls – 1

A resident of Mount Horeb reported receiving annoying phone calls from someone she believed to be her boyfriends’ ex-girlfriend. Contact was made with the subject who stated that she did call, but she was trying to reach her fiancé. The phone calls were not harassing in nature. The subject was told by police to not call that number anymore. The reporting party was advised to block the phone number.

Assist Citizen – 12
Assist Citizen – Vehicle Unlock - 9
Assist DCSO – 13
Assist Fire/Police – 2
Check Person - 10
Check Property – 19
Citizen Fraud – No Loss – 1

A resident of Mount Horeb called to report receiving a phone call from someone claiming to be from “Amazon”, but they then changed it to an “investment company”. The reporting party was notified that a charge labeled “IRS Tax” for a large sum of money had been attempted on her credit card. The charge did not go through, and the resident has already been in contact with her bank and the credit card company. The resident was advised that she took all of the correct steps, and that this incident would be documented.

Damage Property Complaint – 2

Officers responded to a residence for the report of a possibly burglary. The residence was checked and there were no signs of a forced entry. All doors were

checked and all were able to be secured. Officers observed that the front door handle appeared loose, but the door did not appear forced open. Photographs were taken for documentation.

A resident reported damage to their vehicle while parked in a school parking lot. Officers reviewed video footage, but did not see any signs of another vehicle or person damaging the vehicle.

Disabled Vehicle – 2
Disorderly Conduct – 1

An officer was approached by an individual who stated that while he was out running a vehicle pulled up alongside of him, and the operator of the vehicle yelled inappropriate comments. The vehicle also swerved at the runner, who then had to jump into a snow bank. The runner did get a vehicle make and partial license plate. The officer conducted a DOT check, but the information given did not result in a return. Due to a lack of cameras in the area, there is no suspect in this case.

Domestic/Family Trouble – 2

A citizen came to the police department to report a possible physical altercation between his daughter and her mom, that may have occurred in the Village. After interviewing the reporting party, the daughter, and the mother, it was decided that no charges would be forwarded to the District Attorney. All parties involved were counseled.

A passerby called 911 on behalf of a woman who was walking the streets, and appeared to be in distress. The woman then walked into the Mount Horeb Fire Department and stated that she and her husband had a loud verbal argument, and that he shoved her down. Also with the female, was her one-year-old child. An interview was conducted and the male party was eventually arrested for Battery and Disorderly Conduct. He was transported to Dane County Jail without incident.

EMS Assist – 43
Foot Patrol/Check Property -2
Found Property – 4
Fraud – 4

A resident reported a case of identity theft, where someone had opened a debit card in her name. She received a letter from the bank stating to contact the bank if she did not open the account. The resident contacted the bank and had her account froze until the issue can be resolved. She is also contacting the Social Security Administration regarding her social security number possibly being stolen.

A resident of Mount Horeb came in to the police department to report a fraud. The resident stated that she received a phone call stating that she purchased over \$1000.00 on Facebook Marketplace. The person on the phone convinced the resident to go buy Apple gift cards, scratch the security label off, and read the numbers to the person on the phone. The resident was informed that this is scam that occurs frequently.

Police took a report of a fraudulent bill being passed at a local business. Police responded to the business and obtained surveillance footage that captured the unknown individual. This case is considered active and still being investigated.

Officers responded to a residence for the report of a fraud. The reporting party stated that while logging in to her Amazon Prime on account on her tv an authenticator app popped up. After calling the phone number listed, the reporting party gave out a variety of personal information including bank account, Amazon, Venmo, Paypal and a host of other personal information. After realizing that this was a scam, the reporting party hung up and then took the necessary steps to cancel any fraudulent charges.

Graffiti – 1
A business owner called to report graffiti located at the back of their business. Officers arrived on scene and took photographs and obtained video footage. This case is inactive until a suspect can be identified.

Harassment – 2
A resident came in the police department to report receiving disturbing and unwanted emails and texts from an acquaintance, who has known mental health issues. Contact is being made with the head of security of a local establishment that the subject has been trespassed from, and Dane County Mental Health Department to assist with this matter.

Mount Horeb PD received a report of photos taken from social media accounts that were photoshopped. Multiple victims were interviewed. Officers are waiting for more information from the victims. At this time, there are no suspects. This case is inactive until further

information is provided.
Information – 9
Juvenile Complaint – 2

Officers responded to the report of four juveniles running in a parking lot and there were safety concerns. The officer made contact with the juveniles and gave them a ride back to where they were staying. The juveniles were released to an adult.

A resident brought her son in the police department in a distraught state asking for help with her son who was being disrespectful and not following rules. The officer talked to and counseled both the mother and son and gave suggestion and ideas on how to handle situations at home.

Miscellaneous Sex Offense – 1

A resident came into the police department to report receiving inappropriate photos by an individual who is currently out on bail for possession of child pornography. This activity is a violation of his bail conditions. Officers made contact and arrested the individual for Felony Bail Jumping and Send Obscene Email/Text Messages. The subject was transported to the Dane County Jail without incident.

Neighbor Trouble – 1
A resident called to report that her neighbor’s cat was coming on to her property and this bothers her cats. Contact was made with both parties and they were informed of the ordinances regarding animals at large.

Non-Residential Burglary – 1

Officers responded to a local business where the front door window was broken out. Officers cleared the scene and the owners were notified. Evidence was collected along with surveillance footage from the business, along with neighboring businesses. Upon viewing video footage, a suspect and suspect vehicle were identified. It was found that the suspect was currently in jail on a probation violation that occurred in

Madison. Charges for Burglary, Criminal Damage to Property, and Retail Theft were forwarded up to the Dane County District Attorney’s Office.

OMVWI Arrest / Intoxicated Driver – 1

Officers were dispatched to a motor vehicle crash. Contact was made with the driver who told officers and EMS that he had been drinking. Field Sobriety Tests were conducted and the driver was ultimately arrested for Operating While Under the Influence (1st), Operating with PAC (1st), and Failure to Keep Vehicle Under Control. The driver was released to a responsible party.

On Street Parking Complaint – 2

Parking Tickets – 89
Phone Call – 7
Preserve the Peace –2

A resident called with some questions on a preserve the peace at the Police Department. The resident is looking to purchase a motorcycle and wanted a safe place to meet with the seller, as he will have a significant amount of cash on him. The resident was advised to call back and arrange a time for the preserve the peace.

A resident called the police department for assistance in retrieving Amazon packages that were mistakenly sent to his prior address. The resident did not feel comfortable going to the address in question and asked for police assistance. The officer verified and collected the packages and returned them to the owner.

Safety Hazard – 2
School Related Incidents – 12

Battery – 1
Check Person – 1
Event - 1
Juvenile Complaint – 1
Juvenile Information – 2
Sex Offense – 1
Special Events - 5
Sexual Assault 1-2-3-4 / Rape – 1

An individual came in to the police department to report that she had been

sexually assaulted at a local business in the village. Video footage from inside the establishment was reviewed and officers were able to observe the incident described by the reporting party. Contact was made with the suspect who was arrested for 4th Degree Sexual Assault. Charges were also referred to the District Attorney’s Office for Disorderly Conduct.

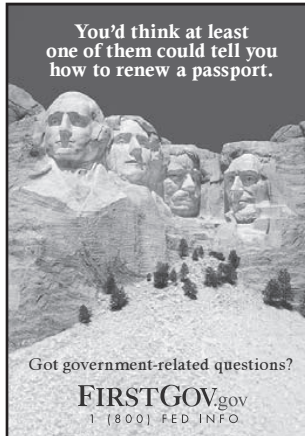
Suspicious Person - 1
Suspicious Vehicle – 4
Threats Complaint – 1

Officers received the report of threats a juvenile was receiving over social media. After contact with the reporting party, it was found that the threats had taken place in Verona. The case was referred to the Verona Police Department.

Towed Vehicle - 1
Traffic Arrests – 10
Traffic Incident – 8
Traffic Warning – 99
Violation of Court Order – 2

A resident called to report a violation of a temporary restraining order via text messages she received. After contacting Iowa County, it was found that the restraining order had not been served at the time of this report, so a violation had not occurred. This case is still active.

A resident of the village called to report a violation of a restraining order she filed against another individual. Further investigation showed that the order had not yet been served, as the subject was out of town. The resident was advised of this.



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RULING

continued from page 1

in the form of a ruling by Judge James D. Peterson in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. In his opinion and order issued March 28, Peterson declared that defendants Steven Schmelzer and Melissa VanLanduyt, the DNR parks director and DNR Recreation Partnerships section chief, respectively, “violated the Friends group’s rights under the First Amendment and the Wisconsin Constitution by threatening to terminate the Friends group’s agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for filing a lawsuit challenging the department’s proposed construction of a snowmobile trail.”

This case rose out of a lawsuit that the plaintiff (the Friends of Blue Mound State Park) filed in state court in 2021 to stop the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from constructing a snowmobile trail in Blue Mound State Park. The Friends say Schmelzer and VanLanduyt violated the group’s rights in multiple ways after that initial lawsuit was filed.

For starters, the Friends group alleged that Schmelzer and VanLanduyt retaliated against the group by threatening to terminate their contract with the department unless the group dropped the lawsuit, in violation of the First Amendment, the Due Process Clause, and the Wisconsin Constitution.

Second, the Friends group alleged that the department has a “rule against speaking out,” which violated both the First Amendment and state law.

Third, the Friends group asserted a claim under Wisconsin’s open records law, alleging that the department failed to produce records related to defendants’ threat to terminate the Friends group’s contract with the department.

The court already sided with the Friends on many of their claims, and Peter-

son’s order continued their string of victories. In the latest order, the court granted summary judgment to the Friends group on its claims against Schmelzer and VanLanduyt.

Blue Mound State Park (and its project boundary and acquisition area) includes roughly 2,000 acres atop the highest point in southern Wisconsin, the eponymous “mound.” It straddles the Dane and Iowa County line and offers stunning views as well as opportunities to see and learn about unique geological features and partake in a variety of recreational activities. The park features 20 miles of scenic trails, access to the Military Ridge Bike Trail (which is used for snowmobiling in the winter months), a splash pad and pool, camping, skiing and more.

The recently updated master plan for the park, which is at the root of the feud in question, includes updated forest and grassland management that planners say will benefit the park’s wildlife while providing a natural setting for recreational activity. Five management areas were established for the park, each with natural resources management to meet the “unique ecological and public use needs of the area.”

The master plan also continues the park’s prior recreation offerings “while making changes to enhance and reconfigure locations for user experiences.” These changes included: a redesigned mountain bike trail system anticipated to provide additional riding opportunities; expansion of the Family Campground, Bike/Hike Campground and creation of a small group camp area; and a snowmobile trail that would connect the Military Ridge State Trail to the county trail system north of the park, largely utilizing portions of a former snowmobile trail. That last one is where things got messy.

The plan includes a net increase of 1,100 acres in the park’s project boundary and project’s acquisition

authority.

The state’s Natural Resource Board voted in 2021 on the updated master plan for Blue Mound State Park. The proposal was the culmination of years of work and took into consideration more than 1,000 public comments. The new plan was designed to replace one that had been in place since the Reagan administration. A small portion of that all-encompassing plan was the snowmobile trail to be built (some would say rebuilt, because the two sides disagree about the prior extent of snowmobile use in the area) in a portion of the park.

Throughout the planning process, which involved open houses, online forums, media outreach and more than a year to submit public comments in a variety of ways, the public expressed strong opinions on how the park’s trails, resources and features should be managed by the state and enjoyed by the public.

In 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources released a summary of the public input received regarding the plan until then. The majority of comments throughout the process were received through the government’s online public input form. Also, approximately 400 individual sticky note comments were received from one of the public meetings they held in the Village of Mount Horeb.

Not surprisingly given how strongly people on both sides feel about the issue, snowmobiling received the most voluminous feedback. According to the DNR, many comments were related to snowmobile access to Blue Mound State Park in general and not related to a specific route proposal. Comments in support of snowmobile access to Blue Mound State Park “often cited economic benefits to communities, enjoyment of snowmobiling as a recreational activity and support for snowmobile access to public lands in general.” Comments against snowmobiling in the park “frequently expressed concerns about exposure to snowmobile sounds and fumes, safety concerns and their view that BMSP is a park

that should be dedicated to nonmotorized activities. Others discussed environmental concerns, including invasive species spread and habitat loss.”

Throughout the planning process, large numbers of supporters expressed their reasons for wanting the trail to be re-established. They pointed out that it is a state park and should be inclusive and accessible to diverse users from around the state, adding that it would provide a link between popular existing snowmobile trails in the area. They also contended that the trail was already used, many years ago. Supporters said the snowmobile trail would provide a good link between the area’s other pathways, and they said it would simply be the official re-opening of a snowmobile trail formerly in use within the park’s borders. Opponents of the trail said it would harm wildlife and destroy the tranquil splendor of the park.

The DNR unveiled several different route alternatives for the snowmobile trail before narrowing it down to the final proposal, which was approved by the board three summers ago.

When the state agency approved the plan complete with a new snowmobile, the Friends of Blue Mound State Park sued them in an attempt to stop the trail.

In their lawsuit and petition, the Friends said that snowmobile use in the area is declining. They called the Pleasure Valley portion of the park, where the trail is proposed, a “sensitive ecological landscape.”

Then, they alleged that in response to their lawsuit, the Department of Natural Resources threatened to end its relationship with the group, which stretches back to 1990.

In a letter sent to Governor Tony Evers and Attorney General Josh Kaul three years ago, an attorney for the Friends of Blue Mound State Park accused the DNR of “intimidation and retaliatory behavior against the Friends of Blue Mound State Park.” In that letter, attorney Brian Potts claimed that the approval of the snowmobile trail was “unlawful and illogical for

numerous reasons.” After the Natural Resource Board approved the park’s new master plan, the Friends of Blue Mound State Park had immediately filed a petition for a contested case hearing with the WDNR. After that, the Friends allege that two high-ranking DNR employees - Schmelzer and VanLanduyt - told them to drop the matter or the state agency would break ties with them.

“Soon after the Friends Group filed its case, a Wisconsin Department of Justice (“DOJ”) attorney contacted our firm to discuss next steps,” said Potts. “This discussion was focused on various scheduling issues related to the case. Specifically, we asked the DOJ attorney whether the WDNR would agree to stay construction of the snowmobile trail while our lawsuit proceeds. If the WDNR would not agree to do so, we stated that the Friends Group would likely seek an injunction from the court and ask the court to stay construction until the lawsuit is resolved.”

“Then ... on August 5, 2021, two high-ranking WDNR officials—Steven Schmelzer, the WDNR Parks Director, and Missy Vanlanduyt, the Recreational Partnerships Section Chief— abruptly asked representatives of the Friends Group to meet without either party’s counsel present,” wrote Potts. “The Friends Group was willing to do so, in part, because the WDNR officials assured the Friends Group that the lawsuit would not be discussed at the meeting. This assurance turned out to be false.”

According to Potts, Schmelzer and VanLanduyt met with the Friends Group at 2:30 p.m. at the park. The Friends alleged that Schmelzer informed the Friends Group representatives that if the Friends Group did not drop its pending lawsuit by August 17, 2021, which was the next filing deadline in the case - then the DNR would terminate its agreement with the Friends Group, which would end their decades-long association with the Park.

“There are a lot of words to

describe the DNR’s conduct at this meeting: intimidation and retaliation are a couple that come to mind,” wrote Potts. “The bottom line is that this kind of behavior is not just illegal; it should have no place in our state government. No government official, whether at the DNR or otherwise, should be threatening retaliation against a group of citizens for engaging in constitutionally protected conduct. The Friends Group has a constitutional right to express its opinion concerning DNR’s management of the Park and to go to court to protect the Park.”

The Friends alleged that the DNR’s behavior was “unlawful and unscrupulous behavior.”

The incident came just weeks after Schmelzer was announced as the department’s new Parks Director. He started his new role July 19. Schmelzer’s 29 years with the DNR began in 1992, when he served as a Park Ranger at Devil’s Lake State Park. In 1999, he was promoted to Devil’s Lake State Park Assistant Park Superintendent and then served as the park’s superintendent from 2008-2020. In 2020, he was selected as a District Park Supervisor to lead the Southwest District covering eight counties and 18 different properties.

Schmelzer previously oversaw the management of Wisconsin’s largest and busiest state park with over 2.5 million visitors each year. He managed a 10,000-acre work unit of land, improving water quality and restoring prairie, among other projects. Schmelzer also worked with the Ho-Chunk Nation, the United States Army and USDA Dairy Forage Research Center to transform the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant to the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area. He holds a degree in Natural Resources – Recreation Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and served 14 years in the U.S. Air Force and the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

Work on the snowmobile trail has not yet begun.

Mount Horeb Mail Letters to the Editor policy

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.

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SENATE

continued from page 1

politicians and judges wrangle with questions of gerrymandering and where these almost entirely arbitrary, not-even-remotely geometrically uniform lines should be drawn, the state does, in fact, have new maps, at least for its state senate districts. That means many voters will soon wake up one morning with entirely new people representing them at the state capitol. And many politicians have a bunch of new constituents they have never previously had to woo, all while losing many people they courted last time their seats were up.

WI Act 94, a new law signed by Governor Tony Evers, a Democrat, changed legislative districts for the 2024 election and 2025-26 legislative sessions and beyond. What it means locally is that Republican Howard Marklein will now represent most local voters, rather than Democrat Dianne Hesselbein.

The new maps will be in effect for the November election, but Marklein's seat is not up for re-election, so he will officially gain new local territory at the start of 2025. Marklein, a veteran lawmaker, will then be the representative for Mount Horeb, Blue Mounds, Hollandale, Blanchardville and Ridgeway, his district stretching as far north as Gays Mills and as far west as the Mississippi River and the border with the State of Iowa.

Marklein was elected to serve the 17th Senate District (when it had its prior boundaries) in the 2022 election. He is 69 years old and has been a member of the state senate since 2015.

He was first elected to the Wisconsin Legislature in 2010 as a State Representative. After serving two terms in the Wisconsin Assembly, he was elected to the State Senate in 2014. Marklein is currently serving his second term as a State Senator for the 17th Senate District after re-election in 2018.

Marklein was raised on a dairy farm in rural Spring Green. He is married to Peggy, a registered nurse and has two children and three stepchildren, as well as six grandchildren.

He graduated from River Valley High School in Spring Green in 1972 and is an alumnus of UW-Whitewater (1976), where he received a BBA in Accounting. After graduating, he began his accounting career at First Wisconsin National Bank (now US Bank). In 1978, he was recruited by Virchow Krause (now Baker Tilly) and began his public accounting career in the Dodgeville office. Marklein accepted a promotion and transfer to the Whitewater and Fort Atkinson offices of Virchow Krause in 1980. He was promoted to partner in the firm in 1984.

He is a member of St. John's Catholic Church, Spring Green, the Sauk County Farm Bureau and the National Rifle Association. He is a former member of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater National Alumni Association, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Foundation, Fort HealthCare Board of Directors, Fort Atkinson Rotary Club, Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce, Whitewater Chamber of Commerce, Dodgeville Chamber of Commerce and Taliesin Preservation Inc.

"I'm looking forward to



WI Act 94, which was signed by Governor Evers, means Republican Sen. Howard Marklein (above) will take over the Mount Horeb area from Dianne Hesselbein (D).

meeting people in my new district," he said. "I'm looking forward to making those connections."

Marklein listed school funding (he has well over 30 school districts in his territory), healthcare, long-term care and infrastructure among the most pressing issues the state will face in the coming years.

He also told constituents not to judge lawmakers based on party affiliation alone, saying he has often sided with Democrats over the years despite his Republican status.

"I think the mainstream media often portrays us, both parties, as combative, but that's not always the case," he said. "People represent different people in different parts of the state. Even in the same party, people are different. A Democrat in Madison isn't going to see everything a Democrat in Eau Claire does."

He acknowledged that people in both parties want to achieve similar goals.

"I think the issues we face tend to be pretty universal," he said. "All of us believe in the same goals, but the solutions, how we think we can get there, are different."

He said that mentality has allowed him to find common ground with an eclectic electorate.

"Last election, I got 61 percent of the vote," he said. "Now, a lot of those people who voted for me also voted for a Democrat at the top of the ticket. That's always been the case."

"When I ran in 2012, Obama got 61 percent of the vote in my district," he continued. "Romney got 39. I got 52 percent. That's an awful lot of people who voted for me and Obama on the same ballot."

Marklein recently issued a written statement bidding farewell to some of his con-

stituents and introducing himself to others.

The new 17th Senate District includes all of Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette counties, as well as the southwest corner of Dane County, so he said many people have called his office asking if he still represents them.

"I was elected to a four-year term to represent the 17th Senate District in 2022 and I fully intend to continue doing so," said Marklein. "What does this mean? I will continue to serve the people of the current 17th Senate District, including Grant, Green, Iowa, Juneau, Lafayette, Richland, Sauk and Vernon counties until the new legislative session begins in January 2025."

"I am also getting to know the new communities I will be serving in Crawford, Iowa, Green and Dane counties by attending meetings and events, read-

ing community newspapers and reaching out to community leaders to better understand the needs of these new areas," he said. "From now until January, if you reside in the current and new 17th Senate District, I encourage you to continue to communicate with me. My team is ready and willing to serve you, receive your input, answer questions or provide assistance with any state-related matters. After the election in November 2024, a new Senator will represent my communities in Juneau, Richland, Sauk and Vernon counties. As of right now, my colleague, Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) is planning to run for the 14th Senate District, which will include Richland, Sauk and the southern communities of Juneau County. My colleague, Senator Pat Testin (R-Stevens Point) will be running to represent the 24th Senate District that will include most of Juneau County. Prior to the start of the new session, we will work together to make sure that everyone continues to be heard and served in the current and new 17th Senate District. Please keep in touch."

Hesselbein thanked voters in the area for their support and collaboration during her time as their representative.

"While I welcome the opportunities and certainly the fairness of our new maps - I will miss working directly for the friends I've made in the Mount Horeb community," said Hesselbein. "You have a great deal to be proud of in this growing, thriving community! It has been an honor to represent you in the Wisconsin State Senate, and rest assured, I'll always have the way to Mount Horeb on my map."

ELECTION

continued from page 1

with 1,452 votes (33 percent). Myers garnered 1,331 votes (31 percent).

Speaking after all the votes were tallied, Sarbacker expressed her eagerness to begin her service.

"[Serving on the board] is something I've been thinking about for a while, a few people put a bug in my ear about it, and then [district superintendent Dr.] Steve Salerno called and asked me to run," she said.

Sarbacker said her primary goal on the board will be "to make sure the district continues to be a place where there is opportunity for all students to learn."

She said she is prepared to work with other board members on issues that will come before the board in the coming term, from a potential referendum centered on the Early Learning Center (ELC) to various long- and

short-term policy and planning questions.

"I've really immersed myself in the issues the district is facing, with the ELC and long-term planning, and I'm ready to step in and get to work," she said.

Lastly, she thanked those who urged her to run, those that supported her, and those who showed up in a spring blizzard to cast their ballots.

"I was endorsed by Fair Wisconsin [which advocates for the LGBTQ+ community] and the Mount Horeb Education Association [the local teachers union], so I would like to thank both of those groups," she said. "Plus everyone who came out to vote despite the challenging weather."

Schlimgen was also endorsed by the teachers' union, and he thanked any array of people, including outgoing school board members Jim Myers and Rod Hise, who did not seek re-election.

"I want to say thank you



Poll workers help people cast their ballots at the library on election day. Photo by Matt Geiger.

to the community of Mount Horeb for believing in me and putting me on the Mount Horeb School Board," Schlimgen said. "It is a position I don't take lightly, and I know the school's decisions have a huge impact on everyone in the community."

"I also want to say thank you to my wife and daughter who believed in me and pushed me to run for the board even though it will impact our families precious time together," he continued. "I also want to thank my mom and dad who taught me to give back to

the community and helped mold me into the person I am today. I also want to thank MHEA for their support. Finally, I want to thank all previous board members for their service to the community, but I especially want to thank outgoing members Jim Myers and Rod Hise as I have come to learn the hard decisions the board has to make and the sacrifice in time it means to their families. Again, a big thank you to the district and hopefully together we can continue to make Mount Horeb a great place to live and raise kids we can all be proud of."

The three-way race for a pair of seats on the Blue Mounds Village Board was not as close, with incumbents Rick Kelly (I) and Jim Frame (I) each earning more than twice as many votes as challenger Matthew Heindl. Kelly won 149 votes (42 percent) and Frame earned 139 (39 percent). Heindl received 66 votes, or 18 percent.

While Patrick Downing was unopposed for his seat (District 30) on the county board - getting 99 percent of the vote - there was a contested race in District 28, where incumbent Michele Doolan won with ease, taking in 2,163 votes (58 percent) over challenger Bill Brosius' 1,537 (41 percent).

In addition to local races, the ballot also included the state's Presidential Preference Primary. In a retreat of the prior election, voters cast their ballots for incumbent President Joe Biden (D) and former President Donald Trump (R) in a mostly symbolic primary as the country trudges toward the fall Presidential Election. In the Village of Mount Horeb, voters in the Democratic Primary favored Biden with 1,026 votes (90 percent). Local voters in the Republican Primary, which included a wider field, favored Trump with 288 votes, or 62 percent.

Sports Editor
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SPORTS

LACROSSE NOW A WIAA SANCTIONED SPORT

Lacrosse takes center stage

by DENNIS SEMRAU
Sports Reporter

Mount Horeb has participated in a co-op program in lacrosse with Verona Area High School for more than two decades.

During that time, Verona has won four state championships and been a trail-blazer for the fast-paced sport that is a combination of hockey and soccer.

But for the first time, the sport will be sanctioned by the WIAA this season. It is the first time an entirely new sport has been introduced for both genders since the addition of boys and girls soccer in 1982-83.

Since that time, hockey and wrestling expanded to girls sponsorship in 2002 and 2022, respectively, and boys volleyball was reinstated in 2000. But those sports were already sanctioned for the other gender.

Verona/Mount Horeb is coming off a season in which the Wildcats finished 3-12 overall, including 2-6 in the Big Badger



Mount Horeb's boys lacrosse players form a co-op with Verona. Photo submitted

Conference.

But coach Alex Kramer, who is in his fourth season as head coach, said the Wildcats are ready to take on all comers this season.

"We are young and hungry," he said. "We have

seven freshmen on varsity. All of them received time on the field in our opener. All of them are dedicated."

That includes freshmen midfielder/attacker Mason Williams and long stick midfielder/defender Cul-

len Olsen of Mount Horeb. "Mason's dad is the youth club president. They both have siblings who have played in the program as well," Kramer said of the Mount Horeb duo. "We have had a co-op

with Mount Horeb since 2001. The freshmen, especially the Mount Horeb freshmen, I'm excited to see what they can do this year."

The Wildcats opened the season losing a 9-8 heart-

breaker to Sun Prairie on April 5.

"They scored the game-winner in the last minute. It was Sun Prairie's fourth game," Kramer said.

While Kramer said the Wildcats would play an independent schedule this season, he received a phone call earlier in the week from Middleton coach Zach Lare that their teams would be part of the Big Eight Conference along with Sun Prairie.

"So, we are a conference and will have all-conference awards for the players," Kramer said. "I don't know about a conference championship. But I know we will be joining the Badger Conference next year."

Kramer said there were pluses and minuses with lacrosse becoming sanctioned as a varsity sport by the WIAA.

"They have limited the number of games we can play. We went from 20 games and one scrimmage to 18 games and one scrim-

continued on page 20

Mount Horeb golfers hope to shine again

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Nolan Krentz is a modest fellow and will rarely toot the horn of the boys golf program he's built at Mount Horeb High School.

But Krentz and the Vikings received a terrific compliment recently when Sauk Prairie coach Shane Frey called Mount Horeb a "perennial power."

Krentz has certainly turned the Vikings into an annual contender. And despite some important graduation losses, Mount Horeb will aim for another big spring.

"As is the case every year, we expect to get better each and every day we are

on the course," Krentz said. "We do not return the most experienced team, but it is one that I expect to show significant improvement throughout the season and be competitive in the Badger Small (Conference)."

The Vikings graduated mainstays Ethan Wittmann, Carter Lange and Sonny Lombardo — a trio that all competed at the varsity level from 2021-2023.

"However, we have a group returning that is ready to compete and learn each day in practice and in meets," Krentz said.

Senior Jack Vesperman, a second-team all-conference performer last year, will lead



Mount Horeb senior Jack Vesperman was a second-team all-conference performer last season. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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Softball Vikings start 1-2

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls softball team dropped two of its first three games this season.

The Vikings fell to Fennimore, 6-4, on March 26. Mount Horeb defeated River Valley, 14-0, on March 28.

Brodhead then edged the Vikings, 6-5, on April 6.

“With not getting much outside work in and despite being 1-2 on the season we have outthit our opponents in all three games and could easily be 3-0,” Moun t Horeb manager Jeramie Holman said. “We just need to clean up a few things and we will be fine. We have faced some quality pitching in two of the three games, which is going to make us better in the long run.”

Here’s a recap to the start of Mount Horeb’s season.

• **Fennimore 6, Mount Horeb 4** — Maddie Swiggum had two hits and two RBI for the visiting Vikings in a losing effort on March 26. Swiggum, along with teammates Gina Rhiner and Ruby Dahlk all had doubles for Mount Horeb.

Fennimore jumped to a 4-0 lead off Mount Horeb starter and eventual losing pitcher Jayse Holman after three innings. The Vikings answered with two runs in the fourth, but Fennimore responded with two in the fifth to reclaim a 6-2 advantage.

Mount Horeb rallied with a pair of runs in the sixth inning, but it wasn’t enough.

“We faced a very good pitcher right out of the shoot,” Jeramie Holman said. “After everybody saw her one time, we started to get on her a little bit better.”

• **Mount Horeb 14, River Valley 0 (5)** — Jayse Holman earned the win on the mound and also drove in three runs to power the

visiting Vikings to a win on March 28. The game was stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule.

Maddie Swiggum also had two hits, an RBI and scored two runs, while JoJo Murray scored three runs. Delaina Nicewander had two hits, an RBI and scored a run, while Ruby Dahlk, Holman and Ellie Larson all scored two runs, as well.

Holman threw three in-nings, struck out four and didn’t allow a hit. Jozie Clifton then worked the final two innings and didn’t allow a run.

“The girls did what they normally do — they tend to always bounce back after a loss and come back, ready to win,” Jeramie Holman said. “The team look good from the plate. They didn’t chase bad pitches and we got a lot of walks because of that.”

• **Brodhead 6, Mount Horeb 5** — The host Cardinals — who are the defending WIAA Division 3 state champs — raced to a 6-1 lead after four innings and held off a late Mount Horeb rally.

Mount Horeb held a 12-5 edge in hits, but struggled bringing runners home.

Gina Rhiner, Maddie Swiggum, Hallie Klein, Jayse Holman and Ellie Larson all had two hits for the Vikings. Delaina Nicewander also had her first-ever varsity home run.

Holman took the loss after working four innings and allowing six runs, five hits, walking six and striking out three.

Mount Horeb trailed, 6-2, heading to the top of the seventh when it struck for three runs. The Vikings had the potential tying run at third base with two outs, but Klein flew out to right field.

“Our girls looked extremely good against one of the top pitchers in the area,” Jeramie Holman said.



Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman (top), Ellie Larson (right) and the rest of the Vikings are off to a 1-2 start. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



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Mount Horeb sophomore Nick Ibinger could be poised for a big season. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

GOLFERS

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the way.

Vesperman had the Vikings’ second-best nine-hole average (41.9) last year. He broke 80 four times last season, including a career-low 76 at the Green County Open held at Monroe Country Club.

Now, Vesperman appears set for a big senior year.

“We are counting on Jack to have a big season for us and hopefully be in the running for first-team all-conference in the Badger Small this year,” Krentz said.

Sophomores Nick Ibinger and Jude Young will also play vital roles in how the Vikings’ season goes.

Ibinger played in every varsity event last season, finishing with a nine-hole scoring average of 46.5.

“He played much better as the season went along and was consistently shooting in the 80’s by the end of the year,” Krentz said of Ibinger. “Nick played quite a bit of competitive golf in junior events this summer, so hopefully that experience will benefit him this upcoming season.”

Young also had a 46.5 average playing in a mix of varsity and JV events.

“Jude played in a handful of varsity events while manning the number one spot on our JV team for most of the season,” Krentz said of

Young. “He played a lot of golf this past summer, too, and has looked much improved so far in practice.”

Seniors Andy Kellesvig, Will Imbus, and Riley Schellpfeffer, along with juniors Cole Cunningham and Adrian Thoe will be in the mix for the final two spots in the lineup.

“This group has only played in one varsity event combined between the five of them, Krentz said. “So gaining experience and confidence quickly will be key as will need two of them to emerge as contributors on our varsity this year.”

Mount Horeb enjoyed a terrific 2023 in which it shot a season-low 309 late in the year at the Green County Open held at Monroe Country Club, finished third in the now-defunct Badger West Conference and missed out on qualifying for sectionals by two strokes.

“Missing out on sectionals by two strokes last season certainly is a motivator for us heading into the season as it showed we can compete with the bigger teams in the Madison area,” said Krentz, whose team will face many of the same schools in the postseason this year. “We are one of the smallest schools in Division 1, so our margin for error is not as large as others, but we continue to embrace the challenge going against teams two or even three times our size.”

Krentz believes Madison Edgewood and Stoughton are the favorites in the revamped Badger Small Conference this season, while

Sauk Prairie and Baraboo could challenge. Perennial powers Middleton, Waukegan, Madison Memorial and Verona also await once regionals arrive.

Krentz has helped the Vikings become a yearly threat, though. And despite some obstacles, Mount Horeb should be in contention to achieve all of its goals again this spring.

“Our sectional is one of, if not the toughest in the state year in and year out,” Krentz said. “As will be the case in conference play, we hope to be competitive in our regional and playing our best golf of the season when it matters the most.”

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TOWN OF PERRY
TOWN BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
Perry Town Hall, 10084 CTH A
Teleconference - 425-585-6272 access - 394-722-206
7:00 PM

1. Call to order. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roads, Equipment, Facilities – Award 2024 road construction contracts.

3. Recess to Reconvene - Closed and Open Session. Dane Co. Circuit Court case 15CV0065 DSG; convene a closed session under WI § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel concerning strategy and WI §19.85(1)(b) and (c) personnel, and reconvene open session following the Annual Meeting.

4. Adjournment.

Action might be taken on any agenda item shown above. Public comment might be invited on any agenda item presented.

Mary L. Price, Town Clerk
www.perry-wi.gov

Posted: April 11, 2024 – Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleville Sign Post, Town website.

Publish: 4/11/24 WNAFLP

PUBLIC HEARING
VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
APRIL 24, 2024

The Plan Commission of the Village of Mount Horeb will hold a public hearing on the above date at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a Conditional Use Permit application from Symdon Motors to allow an accessory building in excess of 15 feet in height at 2011 Springdale Street, parcel 0607-074-9621-1.

Be it further notified that the Plan Commission will hear all persons concerning all matters and/or objections written or oral pertaining thereto at that time.

Publish: 4/4/24, 4/11/24 WNAFLP

PUBLIC HEARING
VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
APRIL 24, 2024

The Plan Commission of the Village of Mount Horeb will hold a public hearing on the above date at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI. The purpose of the hearing is to consider proposed revisions to Chapter 17 Zoning Code and Chart 1 height limitations. No accessory building in any district shall exceed the height limits set forth in Chart 1 of this chapter, as measured from the floor to the midpoint between the eaves and the peak, unless a conditional use permit is granted. The accessory building will not be allowed to exceed the elevation of the principal structure on the lot.

Be it further notified that the Plan Commission will hear all persons concerning all matters and/or objections written or oral pertaining thereto at that time.

Publish: 4/4/24, 4/11/24 WNAFLP

TOWN OF PERRY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ELECTORS
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Tuesday, April 16, 2024
Approx. 7:45 PM, following ordinance amendment public hearing

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 the Annual Meeting of the Electors for the Town of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, will be held for the transaction of business as required or permitted by law, WI § 60.11, beginning at approximately 7:45 PM, at the Perry Town Hall, 10084 CTH A.

Agenda

1. Call to order.

2. Minutes of the Prior Annual Meeting – April 18, 2023.

3. Review Financial Report for the year ending Dec. 31, 2023.

4. Annual Reports – Committees, special projects, updates, etc.

5. Comprehensive Plan amendment process and survey.

6. Friends of the Parks of Perry report.

7. Hauge Historic District Park updates.

8. Town Hall Restoration project.

9. Broadband service update.

10. Emergency Operations Plan.

11. Any other business lawfully presented per WI § 60.11.

12. Adjourn.

By: Mary L. Price, Clerk

Posted: Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleville signpost, Town website.

Publish: 4/11/24 WNAFLP

MOUNT HOREB AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PUPIL NONDISCRIMINATION
SELF-EVALUATION
WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PI 9.06
LEGAL NOTICE

(Opportunity for residents to review final report)

The Mount Horeb Area School District has completed a self-evaluation of its status of pupil nondiscrimination in the following areas:

• School board policies and administrative procedures.

• Enrollment trends in classes and programs.

• Methods, practices, curriculum, and materials used in instruction, counseling, and pupil assessment and testing.

• Trends and patterns of disciplinary actions, including suspensions, expulsions, and handling of pupil harassment.

• Participation trends and patterns and school district support of athletic, extracurricular, and recreational activities.

• Trends and patterns in awarding scholarships and other forms of recognition and achievement provided or administered by the district.

• School district efforts to achieve equality of educational opportunity and nondiscrimination.

• School district technology, including electronic communications by school district staff.

Copies of the final report are available for review at the District Office and on the School District homepage (see “Commitment to DEI” section).

Mount Horeb Area School District
1304 East Lincoln Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
608.437.7006

The Mount Horeb Area School District does not discriminate against pupils in its educational programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, color, homelessness status, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status (including gender expression, gender identity, and gender nonconformity), physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, or any other status protected by state or federal law.

Publish: 4/11/24 WNAFLP



Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Hey now, he’s an All-Star

Mount Horeb’s Nick Vorwald was recently named to the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association’s All-Star Game.

Vorwald will play in the Division 2 All-Star Game, which will be held June 27 at 2 p.m. at JustAGame Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells.

Vorwald — and all of the players competing in the game — are raising money for the MACC Fund.

To donate, visit the following site: <https://wisbca.org/allstar-game/donation-banner/index.php>.

Then select ‘Boys Player’ under Pick Option and find Vorwald’s name under ‘Select Name.’ You can then donate a specific dollar amount to help sponsor Vorwald.

TOWN OF PRIMROSE

The Town of Primrose will hold the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, beginning at 7:30pm at the Town Hall, 8468 County Road A, Verona, Wisconsin. The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the town website, www.townofprimrose.com, on the notice boards, and a summary of the agenda will be on the voice recording at 608-832-6660.

Publish: 3/28/24, 4/11/24
WNAXLP

TOWN OF PRIMROSE

The Town of Primrose Planning Commission meeting for April will take place at 8468 County Road A, Verona WI, on Monday, April 15th, 2024, beginning at 7:30pm. The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, and on the Town website. A summary of the agenda will be available on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

Publish: 4/11/24 **WNAXLP**

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB PUBLIC HEARING APRIL 24, 2024

The Plan Commission of the Village of Mount Horeb will hold a public hearing on the above date at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI. The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application from Rick North for a zoning change from R-3 Multi-Family to PD-General Plan Development for three proposed townhouse buildings located in Mount Horeb, WI at:

0606-123-7633-9 109 Valley Dr.
0606-123-7622-2 113 Valley Dr.
0606-123-7611-5 302 Adams St.

The Village Board, by its Plan Commission, will hear all persons concerning all matters and/or objections written or oral at that time.

Publish: 4/4/24, 4/11/24 **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 April 3, 2024.

Ordinance 2024-06 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 12.09(3)(c) AND 12.09(3)(g) AND 12.09(3)(i) SIDEWALK CAFE PERMITS.

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: 4/11/24 **WNAXLP**



Photo submitted

Champs!

The Mount Horeb fifth grade boys basketball team participated in the Wisconsin State Invitational Championship Tournament in Kimberly last month. The Vikings won the large division by defeating Kimberly in the championship game, 42-31.

The elite tournament, which is organized by The Great Northwest Basketball League, brought together 36 of the top community-based fifth grade boys basketball teams from across Wisconsin to play six or seven games over the two-day weekend. State champions were crowned in three divisions: Large Division, Medium Division, and Small Division based on the enrollment of the high school into which each team feeds.

Mount Horeb’s Sam Erickson was named to the All-Tournament Team. The Vikings roster includes Logan Aeschlimann, Sam Erickson, Hayden Gundlach, Braxton Lesar, Alex Niemetscheck, Evan Peterson, Robert Randle, Hayes Steiner, Mason Shields and Willie Wyse. Mount Horeb is coached by Dana Peterson, Matt Aeschlimann, and Tom Lesar.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF PERRY TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024 PERRY TOWN HALL - 10084 CTH A TELECONFERENCE - 425-585-6272 ACCESS - 394-722-206 # 7:30PM

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, beginning at 7:30 PM at the Perry Town Hall, the Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on proposed Dark Sky Ordinance amendments.

Section 6: Light fixtures permitted by this ordinance.

6.4 All light fixtures permitted by this ordinance shall be fixtures approved by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) as of the date of first publication of this ordinance or thereafter. See IDA Approved Dark Sky Fixtures Section of this ordinance for examples of IDA approved fixtures. [Section 15.0]

Section 9: Light fixtures encouraged but not required under this ordinance.

9.00 Light fixtures with certain features that are encouraged but not required.

9.4 Dark Sky Cutoff fixtures are encouraged where light fixtures are mounted on structures or poles higher than the first level above ground level to protect the view of the night sky, and to minimize ground reflection unless there is light scatter beyond the property line onto neighboring properties in which case cutoff fixtures are required.

Section 10: Exemptions.

10.4 The Town Board may, at its discretion, decide not to allow an Exemption from this ordinance when to builders and electrical contractors fail to check the Town's ordinances before proceeding with work. Any expense or effort that might be required to bring the light fixture into compliance with this ordinance resulting from a builder's or electrical contractor's failure to check the Town's ordinances is the responsibility of the builder/electrical contractor not the property owner.

10.5 The Town of Perry Board will allow temporary Exemptions from this ordinance when a property containing a Non-Dark Sky fixture changes ownership.

10.5.1 Anyone selling real estate they own in the Town is responsible for disclosing non-compliance with this ordinance to their prospective buyers.

10.5.2. Any expense or effort that might be required to bring the light fixture into compliance with this ordinance resulting from failure to check local ordinances is the responsibility of the realtor/home inspector not the property owner.

10.5.3 This ordinance is silent on whether the buyer or the seller of a property should assume any expense or effort that might be required to bring the light fixture into compliance with this ordinance, such expense or effort to be negotiated between them.

10.5.2 The new owner of a property containing a Non-Dark Sky fixture will have one year from date of taking ownership of the property to bring the non-compliant light fixture into compliance with this ordinance.

Section 11: Liability.

11.00 Liability. Except as specified in Section 10 hereof, a person utilizing or maintaining an outdoor light fixture shall be responsible for all costs and any other liability resulting from failure to comply with this ordinance.

11.1 Responsibility for such costs and any other liability begins the day after passage and publication of this ordinance as required by law.

Section 12: Enforcement and penalties.

12.2 The penalty for violation of any portion of this ordinance shall be:

12.2.1 Required Notice of Violation: The Town Clerk shall send a notice to the property owner requesting compliance with specified violations within 6 months of the date of the notice.

12.2.2. Penalty for Failure to Comply If after 6 months from the sending of the notice specified in section 12.2.1 the compliance requested in said notice has not been achieved nor has an Exemption from this ordinance been granted by the Town Board, a forfeiture of \$100 shall be imposed on the party responsible for achieving the compliance plus the cost of prosecution and collection of the applicable forfeiture. The \$100.00 forfeiture shall be doubled for each subsequent offense.

Section 13: Disclaimer.

13.00 By approving or disapproving a given lighting fixture, the Town of Perry does not warranty or make assurances of any kind whatsoever that the subject of the approval or disapproval is safe, suitable for its intended purpose, merchantable, or in compliance with any applicable codes or regulations.

Section 14: Effective Date.

14.00 This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the day after passage and publication as required by law.

Section 15: Dark Sky Fixtures Approved By International Dark Sky Association

15.00 The fixtures shown BELOW in this ordinance are examples of fixtures approved and not approved by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) as of the first date of publication of this ordinance. New fixtures may be approved and disapproved by the IDA at any time thereafter. Property owners, builders, electrical contractors, realtors, and home inspectors should consult with the International Dark Sky Association for the most current examples of approved and non-approved fixtures. Any fixture approved by the IDA at the time it was properly installed, but later becomes disapproved by the IDA shall remain grandfathered, approved, and permitted by this ordinance until it is no longer functional at which time it shall be removed.

Mary L. Price, Clerk

Publish: 4/11/24 **WNAXLP**



Ready to roll
The Verona-Mount Horeb girls co-op team is excited to be a WIAA sanctioned sport this season. Photo submitted

LACROSSE

continued from page 15

mage. Our season starts a week later and ends a week earlier,” he said. “It is always beneficial to play diverse competition. So, we do our best to get a lot of out of area competition. We were in the Big Badger last year which included all of the Madison area schools.”

Kramer said he is eager to see what the Wildcats can accomplish this season.

“This is the first group I’ve really taken from square one to where we are now,” he said. “Just having everybody on the same cultural page has been a huge

difference in the practices and being more focused and committed.

“It’s been a combined 180 (degrees) to all three years prior. This group always does well in the classroom and works hard on the field. I’m excited to see how the season goes.”

Kramer said the Wildcats return several experienced upperclassmen who are poised for big seasons.

“Adam Zak, a senior, a dual midfielder, barely came off the field last night. He’s going to be good,” Kramer said. “Jacob Frick, a senior attackman, had a big game last night.

“Our goalie, Caleb Jabas, a sophomore, has

made a lot of big strides. He is very talented. I’m excited to see what he can do this season and for the next three seasons. I’m lucky to have him. Owen Lang, our faceoff guy, a junior, has been doing a really good job for us at the top.”

Kramer said senior attacker Gil Weisensel is expected to be one of the team’s best players and playmakers this season. Tyler Hrabina and Calvin Patton will also make an impact on defense.

Both Zak and Lang earned All-Big Badger Conference honorable mention recognition last year.

Kramer said the change-

over to the WIAA has been made relatively smooth due to the strong support of the Verona Area School District staff.

“There has been so much support,” he said. “The staff at Verona has been awesome in terms of taking a lot off the coaches’ plates, including busing and getting all that scheduled. Now, being able to have access to grade checks and being able to streamline that process to make sure the kids are keeping up with what they need to in the classroom. That’s been awesome.

“Just being looked at as part of the school is a great thing. It’s brought us some

new players that we didn’t expect to have. That level of legitimacy is definitely helpful. I would say there have been more pros than cons.”

Girls lacrosse

Mount Horeb also doesn’t field a girls lacrosse team, but the Vikings have one player who will compete with the Verona/Mount Horeb co-op program in Angelie Smith.

Verona finished 17-1 a year ago and won its third straight Madison Area Conference championship with an 8-0 mark. But the Wildcats join Middleton as two of four of the state’s independent teams this

year without a conference affiliation.

Verona, which earned a No. 1 state ranking by LaxNumbers last season, lost to the University School of Milwaukee 12-11 in overtime in the state semifinals.

Senior Hannah Jabas, a Northern Michigan commit, is the top returning scorer with 51 goals and 48 assists last season.

Junior Kyrah Kittleson and sophomore Sam Genin are also expected to play key roles this season. Kittleson scored 10 goals and had two assists, while Genin added nine goals and seven assists.

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