

New village committee members approved in Mount Horeb

By CATHY SCOTT
Mount Horeb Mail

The special Village Board Reorganization meeting was called to order on Monday, April 20, by President Ryan Czyzewski.

At the meeting, Czyzewski revealed his official list of village committee appointments, including removing nine-year veteran Destinee Udelhoven, an outspoken critic of the controversial Langhús on Main development, from the influential planning commission, and removing multiple members of the Mount Horeb Historical Society's Driftless Historium from the Historic Preservation Commission.

The first order of business was swearing in newly elected Trustee, Michelle Kelley as well as incumbent Ben Jones by Alyssa Gaffney, the Village Clerk. The board and four audience members each gave a round of applause.

Before considering Village Board committee appointments, the board will discuss the proposed new village ordinance regarding the use of public property. **continued on page 2**



Veterans gather
Chili Supper at VFW Post
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Sheriff: 'It was clear from the beginning that this was not going to be a peaceful protest'

Activists once again try to raid breeding and research facility in Blue Mounds



Security footage provided by Ridgman Farms shows an activist's vehicle breaking through the property's gate.

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

The Town of Blue Mounds descended into chaos Saturday as animal rights activists from across the country once again sought to break into and raid a scientific research and dog breeding facility located there. This was at least the third time protestors had broken into the facility as part of an on-

going dispute about Ridgman Farms' practices, which they say are animal cruelty.

Protestors, whose numbers appeared to at least equal the rural town's population of roughly 900, blocked roadways and smashed the property's front gate with an SUV. Activists stood along the winding roads that weave through the area's small farms, holding

signs showing beagles with slogans such as "I am not a science experiment." Vehicles, including those driven by first responders, struggled to get through local roads. Neighbors attempted to protect their properties by using cars and trucks to block their driveways or safety tape to prevent people from entering their land.

"It was clear from the beginning that this was not going to be a peaceful protest," said Dane County Sheriff Calvin Barrett.

Some activists were seen with crowbars, sledgehammers and electric saws.

Emergency sirens pierced the air across the region for much of the day as law enforcement vehicles, including armored tactical

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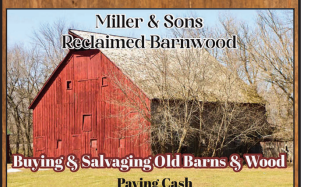
Where the Wild things are



U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin visits local farm to talk about war's impact on fertilizer, fuel and more

United States Senator Tammy Baldwin visited Wild Type Ranch at 377 County Highway H in rural Mount Horeb Friday to talk with local farmers about the Iran war's impact on fuel and fertilizer prices. Photo by Matt Geiger.

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Attorney for animal rights group submits letters to Town of Blue Mounds alleging conflict of interest

The Marty Project sent letter to town pointing out chairman’s link to Ridglan Farms

By Kevin Murphy
Mount Horeb Mail

The Blue Mounds Town Board scheduled an April 6 special meeting to address a “Public Emergency” but abruptly canceled it after an attorney representing animal rights groups stated that the interim Town Chair has a “disqualifying conflict of interest.” While the town’s public notice regarding the meeting did not explicitly mention the Ridglan Farms dog breeding and research facility that is currently the target of several animal rights groups, a threat of litigation received by the town suggested it was.

The April 5 letter from attorney Matthew Mahoney, representing “The Marty Project,” to the Town Board stated that the meeting was “tainted” by interim town board chairman Rick Van Domelen, who also is Ridglan Farms’ facilities manager and veterinarian.

Mahoney demanded that the town not take any action that would benefit or protect Ridglan Farms as it would be a violation of state statutes prohibiting a public official from using their office for financial gain. Mahoney’s letter adds that the town would violate state statutes if Van Domelen directed the Town Board to use town resources to shield Ridglan Farms from what it claimed is lawful public advocacy. Over the past two months, an estimated 45 people have been arrested for trespassing, burglary and other crimes as they try

to get Ridglan Farms shut down and attempt to “rescue” the dogs living at the research facility.

Mahoney’s letter also alleged that:

Town Constable Jerry Blizzard is also conflicted in actions involving Ridglan Farms as he is in a relationship a family member of the facility’s owner.

On March 15, dozens of animal rights activists trespassed on Ridglan Farms’ property and stole 23 dogs. The Marty Project alleged that Blizzard tried to stop them and drove his truck at high speed toward the activists, swerving at the last moment. He spun “donuts” with the truck striking, nearly striking several persons, they alleged.

Mahoney wrote: “The Town Board is thus convened by an individual who works for Ridglan Farms and who will presumably be directing a Constable who is related by marriage to Ridglan’s ownership and who is under active criminal investigation for violent acts committed in the furtherance of Ridglan’s interests.”

A spokesman for Ridglan Farms has denied the allegations against Blizzard stating that no tires were slashed and no vehicles were rammed.

A spokesperson for the Sheriff’s Office said it has referred reckless driving and criminal damage to property to the District Attorney’s Office.

The Dane County Sheriff’s Office arrested 20 of

the intruders on trespassing and burglary charges in March and another 25 for breaking through the facility’s gate and other actions on April 18.

A call to the Blue Mounds Town Hall for Van Domelen’s comment on why the April 6 special meeting was not returned.

Mahoney’s letter made several other demands of the town including not deploying Blizzard as Constable in any action involving protests at Ridglan Farms. Also, the Town Board must begin an independent investigation of Blizzard’s conduct at Ridglan Farms on March 15, the letter claimed.

Mahoney also demanded a written response to his demands by April 13.

A call to Mahoney about the town’s responses to his demands wasn’t returned by deadline.

The Marty Project, Mahoney’s client, says it is a coalition of animal rights groups that include Save the Ridglan Dogs.

For years, animal rights activists have been trying to get Ridglan Farms to stop breeding and experimenting on dogs. Ridglan Farms is believed to be one of the nation’s largest dog breeding facilities for animal research and has been accredited by an international organization that sets standards for the care of research animals.

Last year, Ridglan Farms agreed to surrender its state breeding license by July 1, 2026 after a Dane County judge found credible testi-

mony that non-veterinarians performed eye surgery on dogs without anesthesia, a practice that critics say doesn’t meet state standards for veterinary care.

Ridglan Farms is seeking return of the dogs taken during the March 15 break-in, which activist and organizer Wayne Hsiung reportedly said were being cared for by experienced animal rescuers.

While the conflict between the parties stretches back years, one of the primary allegations against Ridglan has been that workers who were not licensed veterinarians there performed cherry eye surgery on dogs. According to the USDA’s guidelines, employees who perform various medical procedures on dogs do not need to be licensed vets but to need to have “appropriate guidance and training.”

“Ensure that they have appropriate guidance and provide training to personnel who are performing any kind of immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, euthanasia, or other veterinary medical procedures,” reads the USDA’s Licensee and Registrant Responsibilities: Providing Adequate Veterinary Care, which was last updated in January of 2026. “It is up to the attending veterinarian to make determinations regarding which, if any, veterinary medical procedures may be conducted by facility personnel. If the attending veterinarian determines that

it is appropriate, they should also be providing detailed guidance on any procedures they approve. This guidance is typically documented in the written program of veterinary care. Note: It is not a requirement for facilities to be able to use or have access to anesthesia or tranquilizers. In fact, most facilities do not have the use of these medications without having a veterinarian present.”

Opponents of Ridglan said in a written statement that a letter urging Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne to take action to seize beagles from Ridglan Farms was signed by 117 Wisconsin humane societies and animal rescues and sent to his office. Last week they announced plans for “a peaceful vigil and nonviolent action is planned for Sunday, April 19 at 8 a.m. at Ridglan Farms, located at 10489 W Blue Mounds Rd. in Blue Mounds.”

That protest ended up starting on Saturday, April 18, leading to an estimated 25 arrests.

“More than 2,000 animal lovers will be on-site, and will be standing outside the facility holding white flowers, urging the authorities to release the dogs to reputable rescues who are willing to take them in,” said Emily Anderson, founder, of the Coalition for No More Homeless Pets in Wisconsin.

On April 16, Dane County executive Melissa Agard

called for “calm and de-escalation as tensions rise around planned protest activity at Ridglan Farms in Blue Mounds.”

“Dane County has a long and proud tradition of civic engagement and peaceful protest. People have a First Amendment right to speak out, organize, and advocate for causes they believe in,” said Agard. “I understand and share the deep concern many in our community feel for the welfare of animals. But it is essential that all demonstrations remain non-violent and lawful. Escalation helps no one and puts people, animals, and our broader community at risk.”

“There is a responsibility on all sides to prioritize safety, respect the law, and avoid actions that could lead to further conflict,” Agard continued. “I trust the Dane County Sheriff’s Office and our local law enforcement partners to manage this situation professionally and keep everyone safe. Their role is to protect the rights of all involved while ensuring public safety, and I appreciate their continued commitment to that mission.”

“This is an emotional issue for many people, and understandably so. But the path forward must be rooted in respect, safety, and the rule of law,” Agard concluded. “Dane County is at its best when we come together to solve problems, not escalate them.”

VILLAGE

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tee assignments, effective May 1, 2026, Czyzewski said he wanted to share some information. He opined a few years ago he started an application process for residents interested in serving on a village committee or commission. This process allows diversifying, different perspectives, different backgrounds, reducing group think, attracting unknown talent that we, the village, did not know we had, reinforcing that this is not a lifetime appointment, and “basically removing the old boys network perception I had when I came on the board many years ago.” Continuing, “How does one crack into Village government? This (the application process) is how.” He stated his goal has always been to have less people wearing multiple hats as that gets

wider participation, engagement and understanding of government.

Czyzewski said as usual he did not receive a large number of applications (35) for 40 positions, despite casting a wider net this year, using social media, newspaper articles, and with those applications, he sent 150 emails to potentially interested applicants. Not all applicants accepted a position, and one was not a village resident, which is a requirement.

Before wrapping up, Czyzewski said he believed all these nominees will be good for the Village currently and in the long term. He reminded the board during its consideration of his appointments, to be sure to discuss and if there is any pull for discussion, please do so and he will answer any questions. If not confirmed, it will be deferred until next month and he will get nominees from the can-

didate pool.

Public Comments

Destinee Udelhoven, said “At the risk of feeling very self-centered about this topic, I want people to know I did reapply to be on the Plan Commission (PC) and was expecting to be reappointed, so I want people to know that I did not choose to step down. This decision was made for me [by Czyzewski]. I will say this is the first time the committee system has not seemed to be rote and taken for granted. I do appreciate that we are having more dialogue, back and forth. For those serving on the PC, thank you for putting up with me. If you want shorter meetings, less questions asked, if those are the goals, then you will be glad to get rid of me, I enjoyed my time. It was very stressful; my life will be easier. Thank you for letting me serve my community on the Plan Commission.

Udelhoven then expressed her concern about the new HPC having three new members, two of which are in the construction field, per Google, and the third Jill Schuettpetz, who also serves on the Tourism Commission as an owner/operator of a lodging facility. She said historic preservation is a niche field, not many are aware of the nuances or do not have an interest in it. Village staff does not have a lot of time to devote to it. Chair Marc Schellpfeffer and the other commissioners worked really hard to get this off the ground. Time will tell how that goes. We have a lot to save in Mount Horeb.

Board Discussion

Czyzewski said the village cannot have three HPC members from the same employer, with two reporting to their boss, as it can cause legal and transparency issues. We knew from

the start it was not sustainable. He said he would have made adjustments last year but there were no applicants. This year there were applicants and referrals as well as people who were interested, which resolved that issue for the Village. Referring to the removed of Udelhoven, Czyzewski said it is important to move people around, he had personal conversations with her about the change and her replacement comes with PC experience with other communities as well as historic preservation experience. He feels this will benefit the community.

Trustee Nate Gauger asked if there is a mechanism to not approve a recommendation.

Trustee Ben Jones referred to the Ordinance which states the Village President nominates citizens for committee/commission appointments subject to a majority vote by the Village

Board.

Trustee Sarah Best asked if there was a written process for Czyzewski (or whomever is the President) to follow for nominations, saying “For example, if there is turnover, is there consistent turnover on multiple committees or just on one, and, why? There might be a legitimate explanation, just like you gave for the HPC. I think equity as far as selection goes, we say is important and we do not want legacy members which I think we still have on committees but selections to certain committees should not be hand-picked. Yes, you are proposing, and I completely understand.”

Jones said if he were preparing the nominations, he would have reappointed Udelhoven.

Trustee Tim White said he would without a doubt reap-

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PERSPECTIVE

A Bird in the Driftless Bush

Redemption in Maple Syrup

By William Robichaud
Special to the Mail

Recently I finished boiling the last batch of 2026 maple sap down to syrup. The season this year started early, with my first taps going into trees on February 15th - the earliest date in my ten years or so working a Driftless sugar bush. Prime weather for the start of maple sap flow in late winter/early spring is a succession of days that have edged above the freezing mark, but with nights still below freezing. Some sap flowed on unseasonably warm days in mid-February, and then withdrew under a renewed blast of cold, and burst forth again, briefly, with another warm spell.

The fitful weather made for a long sap season, but not a particularly vigorous and abundant one. More like an ailing patient passing in and out of consciousness - occasional bursts of life, but never enough to get out of bed and onto a dance floor. The maples didn't quite know what to do with the whipsaw weather, and sometimes neither did I

- one day I cross-country skied on fresh snow, and the next day I went for a run, comfortably, in shorts only.

Still, some jars of syrup are now on the shelf, and as always I enjoyed being immersed in a tradition that is very old in North America. Native Americans tapped maples long before European contact, and immigrant Europeans learned it from them. Although maples, trees of the genus *Acer*, are nearly circumpolar in the northern hemisphere, only in the New World is there a tradition of tapping the trees. Maple syrup is an endemic North American food, and today is still produced pretty much only here. This learning of the European immigrants did not travel back across the Atlantic.

Native Americans and early settlers originally boiled sap all the way down to crystallized maple sugar. Hence the endeavor is still called 'maple sugaring', and sap is collected from trees in a 'sugar bush' and boiled down in a 'sugar shack'. Boiling sap all the way to sugar provided an energy-

rich food that was easy to store and transport; maximum carbs and calories for minimum weight. French voyageurs commonly carried some chunks of maple sugar as an emergency survival food.

When the Declaration of Independence and US Constitution were still fresh off the presses, abolitionists in the new nation sought to promote American maple sugar as a substitute for cane sugar produced by slave labor in the West Indies. Better that a good New England farmer earn income from his free labor in his sugar bush, than depend on sugar produced under whip and chain. Thomas Jefferson joined in the maple promotion effort (despite owning slaves himself), and foresaw America as a major producer and exporter of maple sugar, as a foil to slavery. Alas, economics won out, as it often does; maple sugar simply couldn't compete with cane sugar produced on slave plantations. And so tapping maple trees transformed from less of a major commercial enterprise to

more of a leisure activity for home consumption - and increasingly in sugar shacks sap was boiled down just to the syrup stage, stopping short of sugar. Maple syrup is not only delicious, it can be produced more quickly, with less fuel, than maple sugar, and yields more end product.

The economic winner, cane sugar, has, throughout history, not been particularly kind to humans or the environment. Its lineage is tainted with slavery, and in Hawaii the establishment of large sugar plantations in the 19th century precipitated a dramatic loss of the island's biodiversity, and the loss of sovereignty of the native Hawaiian people. In every sugar bowl, among the bright crystals, is some ancestral trauma.

In the US today about half the sugar we consume is from cane and about half from sugar beets. Sugar beets aren't particularly easy on the world either, imbibing significant amounts of land, soil, herbicides and pesticides. In contrast, I know of few crops, if any,

produced with such gentle hands on the earth as the sweet twins, maple syrup and honey. So here's an idea to boost karma: The next time you need a sweetener for your coffee or tea, go with the tree or the bee. Either will also be better for your physical health, as both have nutrients lacking in crystal sugar. And for baking, using maple syrup instead of sugar adds a flavor boost and gives a moister result. To bake with it, simply substitute 3/4 cup maple syrup for every cup of sugar in the recipe, and reduce the amount of other liquids by about three tablespoons for each 3/4 cup or cup of syrup used.

If karma isn't your thing, you can make a bit of heaven right here on earth, with a 'wet nut sundae', a traditional treat in the New England home ground of my parents: A scoop or two of vanilla ice cream, walnuts scattered on top (ambrosial black walnuts if at all possible), finished with a pour of maple syrup over the top. Oh, yes...

Finally, to add still a bit

more good to the world, when you next reach for a bottle of maple syrup at the store, consider selecting one labeled "Product of Canada." Our friends and good neighbors in Canada are suffering from vindictive tariffs recently imposed by a bullying neighbor, and could use a hand, and some small sweet gestures of support. And what's not to like about a country that has a maple leaf on its flag?

Rumi, the great Persian poet, wrote, "There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground." One of those, is maple syrup.

Bill ("Bird") Robichaud is a writer and an award-winning wildlife conservationist who lives on a farm north of Barneveld, on ancestral Ho-Chunk territory. He doesn't spend much time in grocery stores, and as he lives from the land you can follow along on Substack at "A Bird in the Driftless Bush".

Recreation Notes

It is almost time for the Recreation Departments Annual Shop Event at DICK'S Sporting Goods! DICK'S Sporting Goods will be hosting a 20% off shop event for all Mount Horeb Recreation athletes, families, and community supporters at the West Madison store on 5/1-5/4/2026. The discount is for in-store purchases only. Some exclusions apply. If you can't find an item in the store, ask a sales associate if it can be ordered, and still receive 20% off. See our Facebook Page or website

for the coupon link. This is available for ALL Mount Horeb community members.

Pool passes for the Mount Horeb Family Aquatic Center are now available! Call or visit our website to purchase your family or individual pass. *Purchase family pass before May 14th and get \$10 off!*

Turn your favorite furry face into a one-of-a-kind art piece with our Paint Your Pet class! No experience? No problem! Our instruc-

tor makes it easy by hand-sketching your pet's portrait onto your canvas before you arrive and will provide step-by-step instruction in class to ensure a fun and beginner-friendly experience! For examples and more information, please see our website. This class takes place on Thursday, May 7 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM in the Recreation Department Multipurpose Room. Paint your pet is intend for ages 18 and up. The class fee is \$90 for residents and \$100 for non-residents.

Find your Zen this summer with Body Wise Yoga! This 6-week yoga-based functional fitness program is designed for ages 55 and up. Each class blends gentle motion, balance practice, functional strength, and mindful breathing to help you feel stronger, more stable, and mobile! Chair support and modifications are always available. Classes are Mondays, 12:30 to 1:30 pm, May 4 - June 15 (no class 5/25), in the Mount Horeb Rec Dept Multipurpose room. The class fee is

\$60 for residents and \$70 for non-residents. Sign up by April 27!

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

Online (go to <https://secure.rec1.com/WI/mounthoreb-wi/catalog>).

In-person at 105 N. Grove Street.

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

Email completed regis-

tration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment to mhrec@mounthorebwi.info.

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

4/27: Body Wise Yoga (ages 55+)

4/30: Paint Your Pet (ages 18+)

5/1: Machine Pitch Baseball (ages 8-10)

5/7: T-Ball and Coach Pitch (ages 4-7)

BOARD

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out to all the LUC existing members and none were interested in serving as chair. Originally, four residents submitted their names to serve on the LUC. VanDommel did not offer his process or reasoning for selecting Smith among the four submittals.

Upon request from the Wisconsin Towns Association, the board passed a Transportation Funding Solution Resolution. Although it was sometimes referred to as an ordinance, what was approved is a resolution urging the Governor and State Legislature to enact a comprehensive, sustainable transportation funding solution. A resolution is less formal and

more of a policy or position statement, while an ordinance establishes local regulations.

Public Works

Patrolman Ross Powers reported starting the "busy season." Work continues on culverts and trucks. He's also working on cleaning up roadsides after utilizing a rented "arm mower." By getting brush along road

banks cut back, future work will not be as drastic and should be more easily maintained. Road intersection sweeping and mowing are next up. Depies and Powers reported making progress with Madison Truck and Universal to get the truck remounting completed after initial improper installation. Plans are to discuss the equipment schedule at the

next board meeting, when all supervisors are able to be present.

Bills of \$42,701.61 were approved as the March 31, 2026. Winter noted that the first \$20,000 of five road loan payments was completed.

Future Agenda Items include the portable storage and driveway ordinances, equipment chart and engag-

ing a legal firm to review ordinances.

Upcoming Events

Spring Clean Up-Saturday, May 2, 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 (noon), Town Garage.

Open Book-Tuesday, May 12, Town Hall 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Board of Review-Wednesday, June 10, Town Hall 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- April 28, 1886

Miss Lena Boo left Mount Horeb last Tuesday.

The Mount Horeb butter wagon started out Wednesday.

Thomas Uldrickson, of Springdale, has sprung up as a drawing master, he has left a sample of his work at this office. it is free for every body's inspection and criticism.

The Oregon Literary Society failed to respond to the challenge issued by the society at Mt. Horeb. It is not to be wondered at that they remain quiet after discovering the number of intellectual giants who compose the challengers.

130 Years Ago- April 23, 1896

Henry Lewis is home from college, and is enjoying a needed rest after a long siege at hard study.

If, as a rule, the Mount Horeb girls are skeptical as to the existence of ghosts, they may stay out late and take the consequences.

Our attention has been called to the unlawful and wicked practice of our young boys in killing birds. Now boys you should not do this.

Lewis Edwin experienced another accident recently in the shape of a runaway while driving to the Capitol city. All occupants of the buggy were thrown

out except Mrs. Edwin. The buggy was stopped by running into a tree. The four-year-old boy was quite badly hurt.

Sugar now 17 lbs. for \$1 at Dahle Bros.

Mrs. Saunderson will speak to the students of the Academy at 3:30 Friday afternoon, on Physical Culture.

120 Years Ago- April 26, 1906

Canned corn only 5 cents a can at Dahle Bros. They guarantee every can.

H.H. Anderson of Perry was the lucky one to get the \$2.00 hats awarded by carrier Bakken for being the first to operate a split log drag on his route.

New comers arrived here last week, a nephew and niece of J.T. Mithus and coming the distance from Christiania here in 19 days. It used to take some of our forefathers that many weeks in Oldenburg times.

Frank Allen of Blue Mounds had a lively runaway last Saturday. His team became frightened while he was delivering fish from the wagon. The frightened steeds made great headway out of the village, but was stopped a mile west of town.

Dr. Thompson and bride arrived Monday, and to avoid the rice and old shoe demonstrations that might be in store for them, they alighted from the train at Klevenville, where the doctor's team was in waiting. We also surmise the young doctor was anxious to have

his future "happiness" see his lively team, in which he places considerable pride and delights in giving opportunity to make records of fast time when the doctor is answering professional calls in the country.

T. Spaanem had a bee to excavate for the basement under his new house Wednesday of last week and a big day's work was done.

110 Years Ago- April 28, 1916

The popcorn wagon continues doing a land office business.

The band meets regularly for practice and each member seems determined to stay by the organization and give Mt. Horeb a good band.

The building boom has surely struck Mt. Horeb. There is talk of a new cement block building going up soon.

The new ornamental lamps for east of 4th street has arrived and will soon be in working order.

The new street sweeper has arrived and will be given a thorough test, the cost of this machine is \$400, and manufacturers are satisfied that it will give the best of satisfaction.

May 12 an Ice Cream Social will be held on the lawn at the Mt. Horeb Graded School to raise money for Records and Baseball purposes. Ice cream and cake 10 cents. Hours will be from 7:30 until all are served.

100 Years Ago- April 30, 1926

Alvin Goth, Riley, has sawed 25,000 feet of oak lumber this

winter.

Mt. Horeb will have another chiropractor. J.E. Anderson, Palmer graduate, will open up office next Monday in the Hanley Auto Co. building. With three regular physicians, one osteopath and two chiropractors, we ought to keep in good health in Mount Horeb.

John Keleney, Riley, sold three hogs a week ago and brought more than \$100.

With the closing of the district declamatory and oratorical contest at the Verona town hall Friday night, April 23, Mt. Horeb High School's prestige was increased when our representatives, Matthew Eggum won first in oratory and received the silver loving cup. Matthew was plainly superior to his rivals and spoke with a conviction and sincerity visibly lacking among his opponents. Katheryn Kelliher, Mt. Horeb, won second in the declamatory group. They will enter the Whitewater contest this Friday.

90 Years Ago- April 30, 1936

At a meeting held Tuesday night in the Mt. Horeb Creamery Hall, the Dane-Iowa Counties Electric Cooperative was formed. The cooperative plans to build 150 miles of line and has 457 members, 100 being in the Mt. Horeb territory. Headquarters will be established at Mt. Horeb.

Fred May sustained a broken collarbone Sunday when his car tipped over. The accident occurred near the Alvah Lust farm on the Mt. Vernon road and was caused by a front tire blowout.

At a special meeting of the

Village Board held Monday evening, Oliver Lee was appointed marshal and street commissioner replacing Martin Sponem who held these offices the past 16 years.

Our local golf course, under the management of Archie Paulson, will have its opening day Sunday, May 3, with an excellent crowd expected. Green fees will be practically the same as perviously: 25 cents a round or 50 cents per day, except on Sundays, when the fees will be 50 cents for the first round and 25 cents the remainder of the day.

The Rude & Robinson Mill is again operating after a shutdown of a week for mill repairs.

Mrs. A. O. Broton has returned home from Madison and is recovering successfully from an inward goiter operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Evans left here by auto this morning for Louisville, Kentucky, where they will see the Derby.

Miss Anne Dahle had the misfortune last Saturday to stumble in a wire at Little Norway and break her arm in the fall.

To the first 144 ladies presenting this coupon at our store, we will give a "Gift Package" consisting of a box of Luxor Complexion Powder in the new Rose Rachel shade, and a tube of Luxor Special Formula Cream. This week-end package is absolutely FREE! No purchase necessary, Bert's Drug Store.

80 Years Ago- May 2, 1946

Memorial services for Cpl. Allen M. Berge, U.S. Marine

Cops., son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Berge, Blue Mounds, will be held Sunday, May 5, at West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church. He had been missing since Nov. 20, 1943, on Tarawa Toll, Gilbert Islands.

John Minix, 70, owner of the 480-acre recreational park at the top of the Mound, was killed Friday, April 26, when he fell beneath the wheels of a loaded gavel truck driven by Frank Pael of Hillsboro, at the park.

Twin daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Marian Boswell at Sacramento, Calif., April 16. Mrs. Boswell is the former Gunhild Forshaug, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Forshaug Vermont.

60 Years Ago- April 28, 1966

There's a Whole Lot of Building Going On! Ground has broken for the new Klusendorf's Chevrolet on the east end of town. Mt. Horeb Farmers' Co-op expects to be ready soon for the grand opening of its new service station and farm store at 102 Lincoln St. Anderson Grocery store will be moving to a new location on the eastern fringe of the community sometime this year. Even the *Mt. Horeb Mail* has gotten into the expansion act. An addition of 38 feet to its downstairs section has been added which will be used for commercial printing facilities.

At a 2 p.m. ceremony Saturday, April 23, Rita Komplin became the bride of Norman D. Hefty in the Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church.

VILLAGE

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point Udelhoven.

Jason Fendrick, who recently lost his bid for re-election, and Trustees Schellpfeffer said they both feel Udelhoven did a great job and she will still have a voice to the PC as the code allows for HPC to review projects for recommendation to the PC. Both also feel new faces are good, bring fresh perspectives, and change can be good.

"It smells like retribution to me, Ryan and I respect your position and choices but just note my objection," said Gauger.

Czyzewski responded, "with that I will say I am dis-

appointed in the experience and am sorry for the way I conducted myself and that that is even thought of as an option as it is not. I understand if that is the perception of it, but it is just not. If I wanted people that I did not agree with, we would not see several names on the list. I would have reached out to many other people to try and engage with them. I think several of the nominees that declined would have fit in that boat as well. I really did try to get diversity and outside of the group think.

Udelhoven Replacement

Stephanie Gauthier-Philips moved from Viroqua to Mount Horeb in 2022 and joined the Tourism Commission in 2025. Prior to opening Sugar River Yarns

on Main Street, she served on the Viroqua Plan Commission for five years. Her education includes a degree in Urban and Regional Studies with a graduate degree in Land Use planning. Most of her career was spent in downtown redevelopment with her latest working for the USDOT, doing transit system oversite with expertise in the ADA.

New residents joining Mount Horeb's various committees are James Brager, Curtis Johnson, John Kats, Susan LeGrand Levine, Ted McMillan, Kari Pavlovich, and Stephen Sopcak.

The Vote of Appointment Nominations

Schellpfeffer motioned to approve the nomination and Jones seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Farewell to Fendrick

Outgoing Trustee Jason Fendrick was the recipient of a Proclamation read by Czyzewski. When finished, Fendrick was given a standing ovation. He thanked the board, the entire Village staff, and his family for their support during his time both serving as a Trustee as well as a committee member. He reminded everyone that he continues to want to see the Mount Horeb Recreation Complex come to fruition so expects at some point in time he will be returning to a meeting or two to voice his opinion of it during his three minutes of allotted time.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Editor's note: Cathy Scott, a village resident, reporter, former village board member and the writer

of the preceeding article, spoke during the meeting as a citizen. She compared the list of appointments for 2026 to that from 2025 to determine how many resident appointments made for 2026 were new to serving, since the agenda note in the packet stated all applicants received an offer. Of the 35 applicants, there are only six new appointees, resulting in 29 not accepting or acceptable, whichever the case may be. However, nine existing residents already serving are now being nominated to serve on an additional committee/commission.

Secondly, "I would be doing myself, personally, a disservice if I did not mention that I am really concerned that Destinee (Udelhoven) was removed from the Plan Commission. Again, referring to your agenda item report, a line states, "Diverse citizen engagement in our committees is vital." Continuing Scott said, "anyone who is here would agree with me the past few years that Destinee brought a diverse

engagement. She was prepared for every meeting, she never missed a meeting in nine years, she is outspoken – I can relate to that – but it seems like anyone who has been outspoken has been removed. All the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) people were removed. Destinee agreed to stay on which you are very fortunate for. I realize two of the other members of HPC are employees of the Driftless Historium...but this is a new commission, and we had to get it off the ground. Jackie Sale is not an employee of the Driftless Historium, she is a charter member of the Landmarks Foundation, why would she be removed from the HPC? It makes no sense. I just cannot help but think that it seems that anybody who maybe has caused a ruckus in the last year is just gone now and that gives me an uneasy feeling. You mentioned earlier the "old boys' network" – I won't call it the old boys' network, I'll just say now you better agree or you are gone."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

County exec. proclaims April Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard has proclaimed April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Dane County, joining the Dane County Board of Supervisors in recognizing this important month and encouraging residents to support survivors and take action to prevent sexual violence in our community.

Sexual violence continues to affect individuals and families across the country. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, based on national survey data, approximately 81 percent of women and 43 percent of men report experiencing some form of sexual harassment or assault in their lifetime. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also shows that nearly half of women and more than one in six men experience sexual violence during their lifetime.

“Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time to stand with survivors and reaffirm our shared responsibility to create a safer, more respectful community,” said County Executive Agard. “At a moment when public trust has been shaken by sexual misconduct allegations involving leaders from both political parties, it is critical that we lead with integrity. Speaking out, supporting survivors, and demanding accountability must remain non-negotiable, no matter who is involved.”

Sexual violence includes a wide range of behaviors, from harassment to assault, and impacts people of all backgrounds. In many cases, the person responsible is someone the survivor knows. In Dane County, local service providers support hundreds of residents each year, many of them young people, as they navigate the aftermath of these experiences.

Throughout April, residents are encouraged to participate in Sexual Assault Awareness Month by wearing teal, sharing resources, and engaging in conversations that help break down stigma and promote understanding.

“Everyone deserves to feel safe in their daily lives,” Agard said. “Preventing sexual violence requires all of us to be engaged - listening, learning, and taking

meaningful steps to support one another and address the root causes of harm.”

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual violence, confidential help is available. Contact RCC Sexual Violence Resource Center’s 24-Hour Helpline at (608) 251-7273 or visit www.thercc.org for support and resources.

Updated look at the DC Budget

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard has announced an updated budget outlook for Fiscal Year 2027, with the projected operating deficit reduced from \$31.8 million to approximately \$15 million—cut roughly in half just over one year after she took office.

The revised estimate follows the closing of Fiscal Year 2025 financials, which identified additional surplus resources available to support the 2027 operating budget. The updated projection reflects improved fiscal conditions across county operations and departments.

“This is a step in the right direction and it shows that the actions we’ve taken are working,” said County Executive Melissa Agard. “We made hard decisions during the last budget cycle, and we are already delivering results to the people of Dane County. I am committed to ensuring that Dane County lives within our means and is honest about the challenges that are before us. Working together, we can protect vital services and programs that people depend on and avoid more difficult choices down the road.

The County’s structural deficit remains significant, and the County Executive emphasized that the updated projection does not change the overall approach to addressing it. The Agard administration will continue implementing cost-saving measures and working with departments and the County Board to develop a responsible 2027 budget.

“Fiscal responsibility is not about doing less. It is about making sure the services people depend on today remain available tomorrow,” Agard said. “We will continue to take a thoughtful, disciplined approach so we can move forward in a way that is sustainable for our community.”

The County will continue to monitor fiscal conditions and provide updates as the 2027 budget process moves

forward.

Donald Dash is May 2

The Friends of Donald Park are hosting the 14th annual trail run, Donald Dash, at Donald Park on Saturday, May 2nd. The run begins at 9:00 a.m. with the start and finish at the Pop’s Knoll picnic shelter area. Runner check-in 7:30 – 8:45 a.m. This is a 5 km and 15 km trail run for all ages and levels of experience through the hills and on the wide-grassy hiking trails of Donald Park. Added this year is a 1-mile kid’s race which begins at 8:15 a.m. Come and join other runners/walkers and enjoy the beauty and peacefulness of the park. All proceeds benefit Donald Park for trail maintenance and repair.

Online registration and more information @ DonaldParkTrailRuns.com. Energy drinks, water and energy bars provided at aid stations. Delicious homemade treats, coffee, milk, water, juice, NessAlla Kombucha, Hop Garden Beer, Brix Cider and live music will be provided after the race. Overall winners and age group awards will take place after the race on Pop’s Knoll. Lots of cool prizes from sponsors Brix Cider, Driftless Chocolates, Gentle Breeze Honey, Gonstead Clinic, K & A Greenhouse, Miller & Sons, Mount Horeb Pharmacy, MarkIt, Movin Shoes, NessAlla, Sugar River Pizza, Sunn Café, Sweeney Design and Hop Garden.

Email contact@donaldpark.org for additional information. Donald Park is located at 1945 Hwy 92 between Mt. Horeb and Mt. Vernon.

The Power of Birds

On Tuesday, June 2, Craig Thompson, conservationist, recently retired from the DNR’s Natural Heritage Conservation Program will be presenting on, Putting the Kibosh on Extinction - The Power of Birds

Extinction and climate change are civilization’s greatest challenges. Both pose existential threats to humanity. As powerful conservation catalysts, birds have the ability to address both crises. This fun program will highlight birds as change-makers and share ideas for using birds to transform yards into climate resilient biodiversity oases.

The club meets monthly,

every first Tuesday, 6:45PM, at Wisconsin Surplus, Mt Horeb, 2600 Rte 78 South, in the Violet Room. The building is located on the west side of the village of Mt Horeb (at the 2nd exit heading west off 18/151). Refreshments at 6:45, presentation starts at 7:00, and the club business meeting begins at 8:00.

Members of the general public are welcome to attend the program free of charge. The program will be followed by a business meeting of the Mound Vue Garden Club. If you are interested in gardening and local community service and outreach, contact Gloria Davies at jrdgrdquilt@mhtc.net about club membership.

Traffic citations doubled

Twice as many drivers were ticketed for running a red light or stop sign during a two-week crackdown earlier this month compared to a similar campaign last year, despite a similar number of overall traffic stops. This involved all law enforcement agencies in Dane County, according to the Dane County Traffic Safety Commission (TSC).

Through a collaborative effort organized by the TSC’s law enforcement subgroup March 12-21, the Wisconsin State Patrol, Dane County Sheriff’s Office and eighteen Dane County police departments made a special effort to look for drivers running red lights or stop signs, while also raising awareness about the dangers of this risky behavior.

Lt. Matt Plendl, Waunakee Police Department and co-chair of the TSC’s law enforcement subgroup, said, “Red light or stop sign running is a serious concern. A simple error in driver judgment can result in a life-changing injury or even a tragic fatality, not only for that driver but for other drivers, pedestrians or bicyclists. These crashes are completely preventable.”

While the focus was on red light/stop sign running, the increased enforcement also identified other risky behaviors or law violations. During this two-week effort, participating agencies reported:

1,848 traffic stops
1,535 traffic citations, including 258 for red light or stop sign violations
1,294 verbal or written warnings for risky driving, including red light/stop sign running, speeding and other

behaviors

99 arrests for criminal/warrant violations (three times last year’s total)

“Intersection crashes can be especially serious because they often involve speeding and result in a T-bone type of crash with direct vehicle side impact,” Lt. Plendl said. “That’s why Dane County law enforcement agencies jointly focused on this issue: to save lives, reduce injuries and keep our communities safer.”

Participating Agencies:
Wisconsin State Patrol
Dane County Sheriff’s Office

Belleville Police Dept.
Blue Mounds Police Dept.
Cottage Grove Police Dept.
Cross Plains Police Dept.
DeForest Police Dept.
Fitchburg Police Dept.
Madison Police Dept.
Maple Bluff Police Dept.
Marshall Police Dept.
Middleton Police Dept.
Monona Police Dept.
Mount Horeb Police Dept.
Oregon Police Dept
Shorewood Hills Police Dept.
Stoughton Police Dept.
Sun Prairie Police Dept.
Verona Police Dept.
Waunakee Police Dept.

Art Tour takes place May 15-17

The Mount Horeb Area Arts Association (MHAAA) is pleased to announce the 19th Annual Spring Art Tour, taking place May 15–17, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Art lovers, collectors, and the creatively curious are invited to explore this free, self-guided tour of artist studios and exhibition spaces throughout the communities of Mount Horeb, Mount Vernon, Black Earth, Arena, Argyle, Blanchardville, Blue Mounds, Mazomanie, Belleville, Prairie du Sac, and New Glarus.

This celebrated annual event offers a rare opportunity to meet 31 talented regional artists in their creative spaces. Artists will showcase work across a wide range of mediums including painting, printmaking, photography, jewelry, metal art, pottery, fiber, wood, and more. Visitors can enjoy live demonstrations, hands-on activities, and the opportunity to purchase original artwork directly from the artists, supporting local creativity and craftsmanship. Art Tour Bingo Add a little adventure to your tour! Pick up a bingo card at your first stop, collect a stamp at each

location, and turn in your completed card for a chance to win artist-donated prizes. Plan Your Tour Visit www.springarttour.com to view or download the tour map and learn more about participating artists. During the tour weekend, printed brochures with maps will be available at every stop, as well as at the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce.

Explore the Driftless Region

The Spring Art Tour winds through Wisconsin’s scenic Driftless Area, known for its rolling hills, valleys, and protected natural spaces such as Blue Mound State Park, Stewart Lake County Park, Donald County Park, and Festge County Park. The region offers an ideal setting for a spring road trip or weekend getaway, complete with unique dining, welcoming communities, and charming local shops.

State of Emergency declared

Gov. Tony Evers last week signed Executive Order #289, declaring a state of emergency as communities across the state continue to experience and recover from severe storms, power outages, record rainfall, and flooding, all of which are expected to continue throughout the week.

Gov. Evers signed the order today after traveling to Union Center in Juneau County to meet with local neighbors, emergency and first responders, and local partners to see firsthand some of the damage caused by severe weather storms that have affected communities across the state. Gov. Evers is set to continue touring storm damage tomorrow in communities impacted by this week’s extreme weather events.

Storms began moving through the state on April 13, bringing devastating winds, tornadoes, hail, and heavy rainfall, resulting in flooding, structural damage, evacuations, and power outages throughout the state of Wisconsin. The National Weather Service has, as of now, confirmed three tornadoes that occurred across Central and Southeastern Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Emergency Management is a division of the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs.

COMMUNITY



Cub Scout Pack 62 holds Raingutter Regatta

Cub Scout Pack 62 held its Raingutter Regatta, hosted by the Fire Department, on Sunday April 12. Scouts made their own regatta and competed against one another with the support of their families. The Pack was completely shut down by the COVID pandemic but is making great strides to once again become a vibrant part of the Mount Horeb community.

Groundbreaking Marks ‘New Chapter’ for Mount Horeb Area School District

The Mount Horeb Area School District celebrated a historic milestone last week, officially breaking ground on an elementary school project that will serve the District’s youngest learners for generations to come.

The ceremony began in the Primary Center gym, where the High School Jazz Band welcomed guests, and the Spirit Squad, gymnasts, and Viking mascot created an energetic atmosphere for students, staff, families, and community members in attendance. Superintendent Dr. Steve Salerno and Board of Education President Adam Mertz opened the program, expressing appreciation for the strong community support that made this project possible.

Students played a central role throughout the celebration. Under the direction of music teacher Victoria Vajda, first and second-grade students performed, while 3K students participated in a symbolic “brick knockdown.” (Current 3K students will be the first class to enter the new building.) Student representatives from 3K through second grade also took part in a ceremonial dirt dig and led



Photo (left to right): Amy Kellesvig, Chelsie Hedges, Kora Hedges, Jessica Jackson, Jason Schleicher, Blake Jackson, Theresa Patzner, Bailey Schleicher, Andrew Amacher, Heather Danke, Lucan Amacher, Melissa Winters, Nira Winters, Ayla Bickford, Brant Bickford, Quinn Faust, Franklin Faust, Alexandra Faust, and Scott Pelton.

affirmations, highlighting the importance of this project for future generations. Principal Rachael Johnson recognized the many individuals and teams—including staff, project partners, and community supporters—who helped bring the District to this important moment.

The ceremony concluded with an official proclama-

tion to begin construction and a spirited performance of the Mount Horeb Fight Song, followed by an outdoor gathering for ceremonial groundbreaking photos with students, staff, Board of Education members, community leaders, and project partners.

This milestone represents more than the start of construction—it reflects the

strength, generosity, and shared vision of the Mount Horeb community. The Mount Horeb Area School District extends its sincere gratitude to its families, staff, Board of Education, community members, and partners, “whose ongoing support has made this project possible and will continue to shape a bright future for its students.”

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Seventh graders explore career pathways

Mount Horeb Area School District's 7th Grade Career Day, held on Monday, April 13, provided students with a valuable opportunity to explore a variety of career pathways and learn directly from professionals in the community.

Throughout the day, students each heard from eight of the sixteen presenters representing a range of fields. Each speaker shared insights into their career journeys, including the education and experiences that helped shape their paths. Presenters also highlighted the importance of high school course selection, encouraging students to begin thinking about how their academic choices can align with future interests and goals.

In addition to specific career information, students were introduced to broader life skills such as adaptabil-



Pictured are: (Back row) Trevor Otto, Bradley Clerkin, Chad Bieri, Debbie Heth, Elisa Weier, Kathryn Kelly, and Jennifer Forman; (Middle row) Kari Faber, Catherine Woller, Krystal Lamberty, Mike Buechner, and Nick Ellis; (Front row) Steve Helwig, Brent Yauchler, Heidi Kopras, and Jeff Mester.

ity, lifelong learning, and the value of gaining diverse experiences. These conversations helped reinforce that career paths are often not linear, and that flexibility and curiosity are key components of long-term success.

The event was made possible by the generous participation of community members who volunteered their time to speak with students. The District extends its sincere appreciation to all presenters for sharing their expertise and helping

inspire the next generation. Events like Career Day play an important role in connecting classroom learning to real-world opportunities and strengthening partnerships between schools and the broader community.



Student Cameron Moreau tries on firefighting gear.

Storytellers gather for new series at Primrose Retreat



Organized by poet Sara Joy Márquez and hosted by Katherine Kramer and Primrose Retreat, a new series allowed a diverse collection of storytellers to gather Saturday, April 18 for a potluck and open mic that featured essays, songs, poetry, short stories and more. Future 2026 Series Dates include May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17 and November 21. Primrose Retreat is located at 1261 County Hwy U. Photos by Matt Geiger.

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Veterans hold Chili Supper at VFW Post

Local veterans held a Chili Supper March 12 at VFW Post 9511 in Blue Mounds. They honored long-time members (bottom left) and enjoyed stories and home-made food together (top right). They also thanked the *Mount Horeb Mail* for its coverage of local veterans over the years (top left). Those who served their country have provided many of the newspaper’s most vital stories, offering tales of courage, sacrifice and kindness, and the *Mail* is fortunate to have had the opportunity to feature such stories in its pages. The American Legion and VFW thanked *Mail* editor Matt Geiger for “exceptional dedication, compassion, and unwavering support for our veterans in the Mount Horeb Area.”

Evers’ special session goes nowhere



Gov. Tony Evers called a special session of the Wisconsin State Legislature last week in an attempt to pass a constitutional amendment “banning partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin once and for all.” The special session was set to take place at noon on Tuesday, but Republicans postponed – but did not adjourn – the session, so no action was taken. Pictured above, Evers visited with area election officials the day before the special session. He’s pictured here meeting with village staff and board members in the Village of New Glarus on Monday. Photo by Casey McCoy.

County Board Withdraws Funds for Flock

On Thursday, April 16, the Dane County Board of Supervisors approved 2025 RES-403, amending the 2026 county budget to remove \$80,000 in funding for the Dane County Sheriff’s Office use of the Flock automatic license plate reader (ALPR) system and prohibiting further expenditures on the system.

The resolution cites growing concerns raised by residents, policymakers, and privacy experts about reported and verified abuses of data collected through Flock’s ALPR network, including informal data-sharing with federal agencies that bypasses oversight and accountability measures. The Dane County Sheriff’s

Office had granted access to information gathered by the office’s 24 Flock cameras to more than 140 law enforcement agencies, including some in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, and Tennessee.

“Nothing about this action suggests that our deputies have misused this system,” said Supervisor Chad Kemp (District 32), author of the

resolution. “But the sheriff’s office has not been able to affirmatively confirm that the agencies it shares data with, or Flock itself, are not misusing the information collected by cameras in Dane County. Given what we know about how this technology has been abused elsewhere, the responsible course of action is to end funding for this contract.”

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ATTIC ANGEL

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

As the Village of Mount Horeb continues its search for a new administrator, Owen settles in at new position in Green County

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

Green County Board Chairperson Jerry Guth announced back on February 10 that Nicholas Owen has been confirmed as Green County's first-ever county administrator. The Green County Board of Supervisors approved Owen's appointment at its meeting earlier the same day.

Here in Mount Horeb, Owen was temporarily replaced by interim village administrator Jon Hochkammer. The village board hopes to vote on his permanent replacement soon.

Owen, who previously served as village administrator in the villages of New Glarus and Mount Horeb, was selected from a competitive pool of 39 applicants "based on his leadership experience, management skills, and strong alignment with the priorities identified by county officials and staff," according to a county press release.

The recruitment was led by the county's personnel and labor relations committee and included "a comprehensive review of applications, preliminary interviews, stakeholder input, and a two-day final assessment process held in early February."

Green County was assisted in its recruitment by the consulting firm Public Administration Associates, LLC.

Most recently, Owen oversaw a \$27 million budget and an array of capital projects in Mount Horeb, where he was top staffer from 2015 until his departure for Green County on March 10 of this year. He has a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"This was a thorough and highly competitive recruitment process," Guth stated. "The Board is confident that his experience, professionalism, and collaborative approach will serve Green County well as we move forward."

The county administrator position was established as part of Green County's transition to a county administrator model of government. As administrator, Owen serves as the county's chief administrative officer and is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations, coordinating department activities, and implementing board policies.

Owen recently took the time to reflect on his first few weeks as the top staffer in Green County, talking about local governments strategic plan, working with long-standing and fresh county board members, and the many opportunities and challenges the country is expected to face in the coming years.

"My first few [weeks] here have been very good," said Owen. "I have spent a lot of time getting to know the county's department heads and learning about the services they and their staff provide, talking with the county supervisors, and becoming better acquainted with Green County Code, policies and procedures and county government operations overall."

"Green County is fortunate to have many people involved in its government for the right reasons: to provide quality public service to its residents and businesses," he added.



Owen

Owen's new position is similar in many ways to prior jobs, but he said success in Green County will hinge on meeting the area's unique needs.

"As the first administrator, I believe the biggest opportunity is structuring the position to best suit the County's needs rather than trying to meet past expectations," said Owen. "The county administrator position was created as a direct response to a goal established in the county's recent Strategic Plan for greater coordination of departments, better communication, and improved intergovernmental relations. The Personnel and Labor Relations Committee established initial priorities for the position that aligned with most of my goals entering this role, so being on the same page from the start is a plus."

"The new administrator position also allows the county to be more forward thinking and plan more for the future, especially regarding large capital expenses," he continued. "I think a main challenge when entering a first time position like this is gaining acceptance from the board and staff and understanding how the role relates to their positions. The board members and staff are accustomed to operating a certain way and a new management position can cause anxiety about how it will fit into that relationship. From the start I have been clear about my goals for the administrator position and how I see the role relating to Departments and the Board and thankfully I have not experienced any of those issues."

Owen said the country board, department heads and staff have all been "very supportive" during the transition period.

The Spring Election was a busy one. Along with a slate of local village, town and

school district races, it was an important one for Green County. Incumbent Green County Board supervisors Roger Truttmann and Jennifer Gassman were defeated by challengers Steve Donovan and Sam Ridders, respectively. Incumbent Todd Larson ran unopposed and kept his seat. That means there will be fresh faces, and new perspectives, on the Green County Board, along with various remaining supervisors. Owen said he's prepared with both longtime supervisors and new ones as he implements their policy decisions.

"The constant change of the election cycle in government is something you learn how to work with early in your management career," said Owen. "One important part of the process is having a good orientation to onboard new members. County clerk Arianna Voegeli and UW-Extension educator Victoria Solomon have an established onboarding program for newly elected supervisors that includes presentations on county government, tours of county facilities and meetings with county department heads."

"I also believe it is essential to ensure all board members understand that decisions are made by the Board as a whole, and we move as one collective body toward a shared vision," he continued. "I am still in the process of meeting with existing board members to learn more about them and their committees, and I will extend that invitation to the newly elected members as well. Ongoing communication is a huge key to government success. I send regular updates to the board detailing my current work, major project updates, upcoming meetings and other items of note."

Green County remains primarily rural, with a population of around 37,000 and an economy centered on agriculture, tourism and more. Like every other county, it will face myriad challenges in the coming years. Owen

said growth and success are attainable with some collaboration.

"The best kind of growth has always been from the inside," Owen mused. "Finding ways to continue retaining existing businesses, help them with expansion efforts, and attract supporting businesses to our leading industries is a path to continued success."

"Having Green County Development Corporation (GCDC) as our partner in this process is a huge asset to the County as a whole," he said. "GCDC executive director Olivia Otte has her hand on the pulse of the Economic Development industry. Along with GCDC's many partners, she has developed new programs to address some of the areas that many of our neighboring counties struggle with: affordable housing, gap financing, entrepreneurship, leadership programming, and broadband assistance, to name a few."

"I think the biggest issue in Green County and most counties in Wisconsin will be funding services while keeping taxes as low as practical," he continued. "We must continue providing the quality services our residents expect and deserve despite the revenue restraints placed on us by the state. Additionally, while the state limits localities' ability to increase taxes, it continually reduces the aid provided to counties, municipalities, and school districts, creating a larger burden on taxpayers. Counties are fortunate to have some alternative revenue sources like sales tax and grant funding, however, those funds are for specified uses and come with additional expenses that cannot offset tax dollars used elsewhere."

Owen said additional issues that must be grappled with include "growing our commercial tax base to relieve the tax burden on homeowners, affordable housing, workforce issues [and an] aging workforce, improved transparency and communication and im-

proved intergovernmental relations with our municipalities and school districts."

Owen also made a point to laud Green County's various departments, which he said offer an impressive list of services to people in the community. It might not always be glamorous or grab headlines, but it is vital to the county's quality of life, he observed.

"A lot of this work goes unnoticed and unheralded unless someone needs to use that service," he said. "All departments work really well together, supporting each other to keep the county running smoothly. I can commend the amazing work of any of the departments, but I will list a few examples. The work our people in the Health and Human Services Department do for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities is amazing and often goes unnoticed."

"The county recently purchased and is implementing new agenda management software that allows staff to more efficiently develop and post Committee and Board Meeting Agendas and Packets to the county website," he continued. "Clerk Voegeli is working hard to train staff and roll out the software for more committees making these documents more accessible to the public. [Last] week, the Finance and Accounting Committee recommended approving the budgeting software purchase researched and brought forward by Finance Director Hailey Laws. The new software will create efficiencies in our budgeting process for staff, provide greater transparency and reporting opportunities for the public and help staff create a new Capital Budget for the County. The last one that comes to mind is our IT Director Brandon Wirtjes and his staff. They have been busy working on updating old and antiquated equipment, hardware and software to better protect the County's information and improve operations. IT work is often not very glamorous and is usually only considered when there is an issue, but the hard work they do daily makes what the rest of the departments do possible."



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THE BIG THREE

Mount Horeb assistants Prehn, Fredrickson and Manchester retire from boys basketball program

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Together, they combined to coach Mount Horeb’s boys basketball program for 48 years.

They logged countless hours together, at all hours of the day and night. They traveled to gyms near and far, experienced the ultimate high of a state championship and the occasional crushing defeat.

They helped countless young men become better people. And when head coach Todd Nesheim needed something — anything — they were there.

Everything has an expiration date, though, and Mount Horeb assistant coaches Mark Fredrickson, Jack Prehn and Paul Manchester felt now the right time to step away. So when the Vikings’ 2025-’26 season ended with a loss to McFarland in the WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinals

last month, their ‘Big Three’ took a final bow.

“Jack, Mark and Paul have poured their time, energy, and heart into building this basketball program,” Nesheim said. “They’ve coached countless players, spent late nights in gyms and on buses, early mornings at open gyms, summer days and nights at leagues and tournaments, and have helped shape not just better basketball players — but better young people. This program wouldn’t be what it is today without them.”

Here’s a look at each of the Vikings’ assistant coaches and a recap of their time in the program.

MARK FREDRICKSON

Fredrickson is the co-owner of Midwest Scholastic, along with former Mount Horeb assistant coach JC Fish. The com-

continued on page 14



A special group!

Longtime Mount Horeb boys basketball assistant coaches (above, from left) Jack Prehn, Mark Fredrickson and Paul Manchester all stepped down last month. On top, the foursome of Prehn, Manchester, Mount Horeb head coach Todd Nesheim and Fredrickson have helped take the Vikings to new heights the past two decades. Photos submitted

Reedsburg tops Mount Horeb

Vikings edged by conference power

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Reedsburg has been the gold standard of Badger Small Conference baseball teams in recent years, winning three straight league titles.

The Beavers looked as strong as ever on April 16, coming to Mount Horeb and downing the host Vikings, 4-1.

Mount Horeb got five strong innings from Hayden Anderson and threatened in the seventh, but couldn't get the timely hit when necessary.

"Offensively we scattered a few hits and at times put some pressure on Reedsburg, but couldn't come up with the clutch hit and we had too many strikeouts," said Mount Horeb manager Ryan Finley, whose team struck out 12 times. "So that's something we will be working on in practice this week."

Mount Horeb was doomed by six errors, which led to three unearned runs.

Anderson threw well, allowing just one earned run (four overall) in five innings. Anderson struck out four, walked two, gave up six hits and threw strikes on 55 of

84 pitches (65.5%). Terek Isley and Jaxen Finley then each threw an inning of relief and neither allowed a hit.

"Hayden Anderson gave us five great innings on the mound," Ryan Finley said. "Isley and Finley each gave us a solid inning of relief, as well. Our pitching has been really good so far this season and that's something we expected."

The Vikings couldn't get much done offensively, though, against Reedsburg standout Luke Verch, who gave up just one run in 6 1/3 innings. Verch struck out 10, walked one, allowed seven hits and kept Mount Horeb scoreless the first six innings.

Reliever Kane Kennedy then worked out of a seventh inning jam and struck out the only two batters he faced to pick up the save.

"Verch was really tough for Reedsburg on the mound all game," Ryan Finley said. "And Kennedy did a great job in relief in a difficult spot, so I definitely give their guys a lot of credit."

Mount Horeb's Logan Ford was injured last week and the Vikings missed him in left field.

Reedsburg took advantage

of two Mount Horeb outfield errors in the second inning to score a pair of unearned runs and take a 2-0 lead. The Beavers then made it 4-0 in the fifth when the leadoff batter reached on an error and Kennedy followed with a two-run home run.

"We had some issues filling (Ford's) spot offensively, but more issues defensively," Ryan Finley said. "We will need to figure something out defensively as we wait for Ford to come back to the lineup."

Mount Horeb put runners on base in every inning, but couldn't break through against Verch until the seventh.

There, Easton Mesenberg led off the inning with a single to right. Michael Bogue followed with a bloop single to right and Josh Kuntz lined a single to right that loaded the bases.

Verch came back to record a strikeout, but Jackson Myers had an infield single that scored Mesenberg to make it 4-1 and kept the bases loaded. By that point, Verch had hit the maximum pitch count of 100 and Reedsburg skipper Chris Hahn called on Kennedy.

Kennedy, a senior right hander, then recorded con-



Terek Isely and Mount Horeb's baseball team fell to Reedsburg on April 16. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

secutive strikeouts and the Beavers escaped.

"I'm proud of how we battled and stayed in the fight despite too many mistakes defensively and

too many strikeouts offensively," Ryan Finley said.

• **On deck:** The Vikings hosted Fort Atkinson Tuesday, then are at Fort Atkinson Thursday at 5 p.m.

Mount Horeb hosts Brodhead/Juda Friday at 5 p.m., then hosts DeForest April 27 at 5 p.m.

Softball Vikings split a pair

Mount Horeb tops Madison West, falls to Stoughton

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

From extreme highs to brutal lows.

That was the story for Mount Horeb's girls softball team on April 16.

The Vikings led visiting Stoughton, 8-0, after four innings in an early-season Badger Small Conference showdown. Stoughton rallied back, though, with three runs in the fifth and six in the sixth and edged Mount Horeb, 9-8.

Mount Horeb also defeated Madison West, 13-1, on April 13.

The Vikings are now 7-1 overall and 3-1 in the conference. Stoughton moved into first place in the conference at 4-0.

Here's a recap of the Vikings' week.

• **Mount Horeb 13, Madison West 1 (6)** — Elaina Imbus had three hits and four RBIs and Jozie

Clifton threw a gem as the Vikings rolled past the Regents in a game stopped after six innings due to the mercy rule.

"Madison West was a good test for us playing against a Division 1 team," Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman said. "The girls hit the ball great and played great defense."

Mount Horeb broke open a scoreless game with eight runs in the fourth. The Vikings then exploded for five more runs in the sixth to end things early.

Imbus finished her big day going 3-for-4 with a double, four RBIs and two runs scored. Delaina Nicewander went 2-for-3 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored, while Lauren Mester had a triple and scored a run.

Isla Odgers had a double, an RBI and scored a run, while Anneka Pol-

man had two RBIs. Sonja Schreiber and Clifton both added RBIs, as well.

Clifton picked up the win after allowing just one earned run in six innings. Clifton struck out seven, allowed four hits and threw strikes on 56 of 87 pitches (64.4%).

• **Stoughton 9, Mount Horeb 8** — Mount Horeb built an 8-0 lead after four innings, but couldn't hold it against visiting Stoughton.

"The Stoughton game was kind of a heartbreaker," Holman said. "We hit the ball very well, but had a couple defensive lapses and couldn't get some key outs that we needed."

Elaina Imbus went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and Jozie Clifton was 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Claire Casey was 2-for-2 with an RBI, while Lauren Mester was 2-for-5 and Sonja Schreiber had two RBIs.

Mount Horeb took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third when Emily Wit-

tenwyler singled and later scored on a double play. Mount Horeb then scored seven runs in the fourth and grabbed what appeared to be a comfortable 8-0 lead.

Schreiber's single scored pinch runner Addie Zwolanek and both Kam Ryan and Imbus scored on an error to make it 4-0. Pinch runner Giana Melka scored on a passed ball and Clifton's RBI single plated Isla Odgers to make it 6-0.

Imbus later ripped a two-run single to left that scored both Mester and Delaina Nicewander to make it 8-0.

Unfortunately for Mount Horeb, Stoughton didn't go quietly.

Stoughton scored three runs in the fifth and pulled within 8-3. Stoughton then knocked starter Ella Baber from the game in the sixth when it scored six runs and surged to a 9-8 lead.

Baber allowed seven runs (four earned) in 5 1/3 innings. Clifton then gave up the final two runs in 1



Ella Baber and Mount Horeb's softball team split a pair of games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

2/3 innings and took the loss.

"I told the girls if you're going to lose one like this, lose it early and learn from it," Holman said.

• **On deck:** Mount

Horeb was at River Valley Monday and at Sauk Prairie Tuesday. The Vikings then host Portage Thursday at 5 p.m. and travel to Dodgeville April 27 at 5 p.m.

Golfers fare well at Troy Ryan Invite

Ibinger places 11th in Division 2

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

The field was tough. The courses were challenging.

But Mount Horeb’s golf team fared well Troy Ryan Invite, a two-day event hosted by Randolph/Cambria-Friesland on April 13-14.

Mount Horeb’s two-day total of 673 was good for seventh place out of the 16 Division 2 teams in the field and 19th overall out of the 33 teams competing both days.

La Crosse Aquinas took first in Division 2 with a two-day total of 622, one stroke ahead of McFarland (623). Madison West was the overall champion with a 593, just ahead of Waunakee with a 594.

“The conditions were not easy as the course had taken on a lot of water with heavy rainfall the past two days making hitting some shots a challenge,” Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz said. “Playing back-to-back days



Nolan Niemetscheck and Mount Horeb’s golfers played well at the Troy Ryan Invite last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

was not easy, as well.”

Mount Horeb opened at Wild Rock Golf Club, where it posted a team score of 348. That was good for eighth among the 16 Division 2 schools.

Senior Nick Ibinger led Mount Horeb with a 78 that included birdies at No. 3 and 13, and added nine pars.

“Nick played an excellent round at Wild Rock and used his experience playing the course to his advantage,” Krentz said. “Even when he got into trouble, he was able

to bounce back on the next hole and that was key in posting his best score so far this season.”

Junior Finn La Fleur and freshman Breck Boyle each finished with rounds of 89. La Fleur recorded six pars during his round, while Boyle had five pars on the day.

Freshman Nolan Niemetscheck added a 92, while sophomore Jace Stadele had a 95 to round out the scoring for the Vikings.

“It was the first time the

rest of our team had ever played there before and unfortunately, did not have near the comfort-level playing at there that Nick did,” Krentz said. “Despite not being at peak speed early in the season, the greens at Wild Rock provide a great deal of undulation and that along with the longer course (6,400-plus yards) gave us trouble leading to higher scores.”

The Vikings then fired a season-low 325 the following day at Trapper’s Turn.

Niemetscheck led Mount Horeb with a career-low round of 78. Niemetscheck chipped in for eagle on the par-five, second hole and added birdies at No. 5 and No. 8 on his way to a 35 on the front nine. Niemetscheck then carded a 43 on the back nine to complete his stellar round.

La Fleur also posted a career-low round with a 79 that included a birdie at No. 8 and 10 pars.

“Nolan and Finn played really good rounds,” Krentz said.

Ibinger had a second-day score of 81 that included 10 pars. Ibinger finished with a two-day total of 159 to lead Mount Horeb and tie for 11th individually in Division 2.

“Nick was able to back up his day one performance with another quality round which was great to see,” Krentz said.

Boyle added an 87 on Day 2, while Stadele shot a 92.

“Scores were a lot lower at Trapper’s Turn as it played much shorter at about 5,800 yards and all of the par fives reachable in two,” Krentz said.

Mount Horeb then wrapped up the week at the Reedsburg Invite on

April 17. Unfortunately, the event was canceled midway through the day due impending severe weather.

La Fleur was leading the Vikings with a 6-over par through 12 holes when play was suspended. Niemetscheck was also having a solid round with a 9-over after 13 holes and sophomore Max Boyle was 9-over through 14 holes.

Both Niemetscheck and Max Boyle recorded chip-ins for birdie during their rounds.

“Unfortunately, we were not able to finish our round due to the weather and the event being canceled, making it essentially an exhibition or practice round,” Krentz said. “That being said, it was not a complete loss as both Finn and Nolan continued their good play from earlier in the week while it was nice to see Max Boyle play well in his first event on varsity.

“We were also able to get a little experience on a course we will be coming back to in a few weeks for a Badger Small mini-meet. Hopefully, that experience leads to confidence playing the course which will help when it actually counts down the road.”

Boys lacrosse team wins twice

Wildcats top Janesville, Oregon

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Verona’s boys lacrosse team rolled to a pair of wins last week.

The Wildcats defeated Janesville, 11-3, on April 13. Verona then edged Oregon, 10-8, on April 16.

Here’s a recap of the Wildcats’ week.

• **Verona 11, Janesville 3** — Gabe Weisensel had three goals and three assists to help power the Wildcats past host Janesville.

Simon Williams, a freshman from Mount Horeb, added two goals, while Cooper Blodgett, Ryder Blodgett and Connor Austin all had one goal and an assist.

Mason Williams, a junior from Mount Horeb, had two assists, while Jackson Bubbers and Jack Gauthier both had a goal.

Cullen Olson of Mount Horeb had one goal and forced two turnovers, Riley Stagman had seven faceoffs wins and Caleb Jabas had nine saves and a

.750 save percentage.

• **Verona 10, Oregon 8** — The Vikings rallied from a 3-0 deficit and defeated the visiting Panthers.

Verona battled back to tie the game, 6-6, then the Wildcats scored four consecutive goals to gain some separation.

Mason Williams of Mount Horeb had three goals and an assist, while Gabe Weisensel had three goals and an assist. Ryder Blodgett had two goals and an assist and Cooper Blodgett had a goal.

Cullen Olson of Mount Horeb had one goal, one forced turnover and six ground balls, while Ayden Jagla had an assist and three ground balls.

Eschton Bethke had six ground balls, Brady Bowdish had a forced turnover and three ground balls, while Riley Stagman won 82% of his faceoffs, forced a turnover and had six ground balls.

Keeper Caleb Jabas added nine saves.

Girls lacrosse team wins a pair

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Verona’s girls lacrosse team, which includes players from Mount Horeb, rolled to a 20-2 win over Janesville on April 11. The Wildcats also defeated Wausau, 17-5, on April 18.

“The girls are firing on all cylinders right now and they want it badly,” Verona coach Brian Feiler said. “They are playing fast, aggressive lacrosse and it’s fun to watch.”

Here’s a recap of Verona’s two wins.

• **Verona 20, Wausau 2** — Sophomore Ellie Schultz of Mount Horeb led the way with five goals and an assist to power the Wildcats. Senior Sam Genin had four goals and an assist and junior Emma Frick had four goals.

Freshman Rae Olson, who’s also from Mount Horeb, had three goals and an assist, while senior Audrey Duffy had two goals. Junior Ava Anderson had a goal and two assists, while junior Zoe Engelke had a goal and an assist.

Sissel Anderson added an assist, while senior Emma Yeager had two saves.

“The defense looked stifling, shutting down some powerhouse players from

Janesville and holding them to just two goals,” Feiler said. “The offense continues to hum and you can see the lacrosse I.Q. continuing to develop across the board. We’ve got some tough competition coming up so we need to stay focused on our game and keep improving in every area.”

• **Verona 17, Wausau 5** — Senior captain Sam Genin had 10 goals and two assists to lead the Wildcats

to a convincing win. Junior captain Zoe Engelke and Liliana Arango-Escalante both had two goals.

Junior Emma Frick had a goal and two assists. Rae Olson, a freshman from Mount Horeb, and senior Audrey Duffy each had a goal.

Magali Forlines, a junior from Mount Horeb, had an assist. And senior captain Emma Yeager had four saves.

“We played a solid game,” Feiler said. “Do I think it’s the best we can play? No. I think we can keep growing and keep getting better. I’m excited to see this team continue to fix the little things and go out and play our game.”

• **On deck:** Verona was at Oregon Monday, then hosts Bay Port Friday at 7 p.m. The Wildcats then host Waunakee April 28 at 7 p.m.

CHURCH NOTES

Good News Lutheran Church - WELS

9975 Pepper Dr, Mt Horeb
Pastor Jonathan Bauer
Thursday Worship: 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
Sunday School and Bible Study: 10:15 am
608-437-4646
GoodNewsLC.org

Immanuel Lutheran - ELCA

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

Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

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
Pastor Jim Ranney
Worship: Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month, 10 am
twosteeple.org

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

Perry Lutheran Church ELCA

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Sunday Worship 9:00 am
www.perrylutheranchurchelca.org

Springdale Lutheran Church

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

St. Michael The Archangel Parish

~St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348

Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Thurs-Friday, 8:00 am;
Sat. 5:00 pm

~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am

Vermont Lutheran Church-ELCA

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

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ

1693 Washington St. Verona
608-832-6677

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Bible Study 9am-10am
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TRIO

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pany handles caps and gowns, class rings, year-books, awards and championship rings for students and teams across the state.

Fredrickson, who played at Viroqua, joined the program in 2007 as the freshman coach under former head coach Tim Thompson. When Nesheim became the head coach the following year, Fredrickson became a varsity assistant and the head JV coach.

“I guess I just wanted to share my passion and love for the game with our kids in the program,” Fredrickson said. “I hoped we could reach a point where people around the state really knew about Mount Horeb basketball. With the number of players that have gone on to play in college, I think we’ve got there.”

That’s for sure.

By year two of Nesheim’s tenure, Mount Horeb won a WIAA Division 2 regional title with a thrilling 51-49 victory over Monroe — which had been to three straight state tournaments. Those Vikings also had narrow wins that postseason against both Brodhead and Dodgeville.

“I really think that was when we realized we were on the right track,” Fredrickson said.

They were.

The 2014 Vikings began the season 25-0 and won the Badger Small Conference before falling to Greendale in the sectional finals. Along the way, Drew Fredrickson — Mark’s son and one of the finest players in school history — drilled a 3-pointer at the buzzer to defeat Oregon, 42-41, in a regional semifinal.

“That’s probably the loudest I have ever heard our gym,” Mark Fredrickson said.

Things got even more exciting during the 2015 campaign.

Mount Horeb gave the community the ride of a lifetime that season when it won 17 of its final 18 games and captured the first and only state championship in school history.

While the state title was certainly unforgettable, so were the individuals. Not only did Mark Fredrickson get to coach his son Drew, but others like Max Meylor, Terek Nesheim, Quinn Lesar, Trey Recknor and Riley Coon that had played together since they were tots.

“Winning a state championship with my son Drew and all his friends on the team was a dream come true,” Mark Fredrickson said. “It was something we talked about as parents from the time those boys first

started playing together.

“Fans lining up at 3 in the morning to buy tickets to playoff games was so special. The size of our crowd at the Kohl Center — not sure I have seen one larger since. Our final practice that year before the state title game knowing it was only us and one other team (Rice Lake) practicing, that was a really cool feeling.”

Nesheim points to both Mark and Drew Fredrickson as major reasons the Vikings’ program has skyrocketed in the last two decades.

“I always tell people that coach ‘Freddy’ and Drew deserve a ton of credit for helping us get this program to the elite level,” Nesheim said. “Their dedication to high level, offseason workouts — logging, scripting, tennis balls, Micah Lancaster camps, etc. — was something this program didn’t know. They also were the first to get really heavy into AAU and the introduction to that scene.”

Mark Fredrickson was also the coach Nesheim quickly turned to when it came to X’s and O’s.

“If we were struggling to make something work, he always had a fix,” Nesheim said of Mark Fredrickson.

Fredrickson promised to stay through the 2026 season — one in which Manchester’s son, Josh, and Nesheim’s son, Kam, were both seniors. But Fredrickson knew it was time for a change — even though he realizes that won’t be easy.

“Having the opportunity to get to know so many great kids ... that is easily the best part of the job,” Mark Fredrickson said. “Our community is incredible. The support they have shown us over the years has been awesome. They have made our gym a place no one likes to play.

“There were plenty of days you came to practice, maybe not having the best day at work and by the time practice was over you were feeling great. The locker room is a very special place where we shared the highs of great wins and the emotion after tough losses. I really enjoyed getting to know so many coaches from other communities. We are friends with many of them to this day.

“Our coaching staff is super close. We are all best friends. Our kids grew up together in that gym. I am so thankful for those friendships.”

Nesheim knows losing Fredrickson will be a tough pill to swallow.

“I remember asking (Mark) to help me out and join my staff and our talk about taking this thing to the next level,” Nesheim said. “Well, we did it. Not only that, our bond has become



that of best friends. Many of my favorite life memories include Mark.”

Fredrickson echoed those sentiments.

“I am so proud to have been a small part of helping to build our program to where it is today,” Fredrickson said. “I love Mount Horeb and I love Mount Horeb basketball. I will certainly miss it. I’ll be in the crowd cheering.”

JACK PREHN

Prehn has been coaching high school basketball since 1982. He spent time at Lodi, DeForest and Verona, and the last 18 years at Mount Horeb.

Nesheim describes Prehn as “my right hand man” and knew he always had a partner when it came to the behind-the-scenes tasks that few fans ever see.

“Jack has spent countless hours watching video, doing stats, and lying awake at night thinking about what’s best for our kids,” Nesheim said. “Jack has afforded me the luxury of never doing things by myself.

“Whether it would be sitting at open gyms, driving to scout somewhere, or attending every summer league event, he was there for our kids and for me. The hours he has put into this program is beyond any calculation. The kids understand this too. When coach Prehn has something to say, they are all ears — soaking in his wisdom.”

Prehn knew early on Mount Horeb was going to be a special place in his coaching journey.

“Todd created a family atmosphere,” Prehn said. “Our families get together socially so putting in the time was more of a family affair.

“We also have very supportive wives. They under-



On top, Jack Prehn (left) spent 18 years coaching at Mount Horeb, while Mark Fredrickson (right) coached for 20 seasons. Above, Fredrickson and his son, Drew, are all smiles after the Vikings won the 2015 WIAA Division 2 state championship. Photos submitted

stand what it takes. My wife has been supporting my basketball coaching career since 1982, and the other wives are just as committed.”

While many coaches love the thrill of packed gyms, rowdy fans and boisterous bands on game nights, Prehn liked nothing more than the daily grind of practice.

“Practice was my favorite part of the job,” Prehn said. “The interaction with the boys was something I looked forward to every single day. Coaching with friends comes in as a close second.

“It was fun for our staff to watch the athletes strive to compete at a high level. Coach Nesheim built a program that is recognized throughout Wisconsin. It has been a privilege to be his assistant varsity coach all these years.”

Today, many forget that the Vikings were just 4-17 in 2008-’09 — Nesheim’s first season. Mount Horeb also didn’t win a conference game that year.

“Humbling,” Prehn called it. “There was a lot of work ahead of us.”

Mount Horeb turned things around quickly, though, going 14-12 the following season and winning a regional title.

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TRIO

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Rome was certainly being built. And Prehn was a big reason why.

“Our reputation had pivoted,” Prehn said. “You could see younger kids buying into what we were doing.”

The dividends kept coming, and so did the high-lights.

Prehn points to Drew Fredrickson’s length of the court drive and 3-pointer at the buzzer to beat Oregon in the 2014 regional semifinals as a moment he’ll never forget. Prehn said the Vikings’ win over West DePere in the 2015 state semifinals was almost surreal.

Then of course, came a state title just 24 hours later.

“Winning the state championship is what every coach strives to do,” Prehn said.

Prehn retired in 2021 and began working for EP Graphics, a graphic printing company owned by his son. He wasn’t ready to retire from Mount Horeb basketball back then, though, for many reasons.

“A staff like ours is ‘all in,’ ” Prehn said. “There’s passion. There’s pride. And we’re committed to it all — scouting games in person, attending summer leagues and tournaments, being present at open gyms. You’ve got to put the work in and we did — together.”

Prehn is glad he stuck around, too, as the high-lights kept coming.

Mount Horeb won consecutive Badger Small Conference championships the last two years. And for the first time in school history, the Vikings won three straight regional titles from 2024-’26.

Along way, star guard Josh Manchester had a

storyed career in which he finished with 2,532 career points, which ranks 10th on the state’s all-time scoring list.

“All of these standout moments have increased a community momentum that still has a stronghold in the hearts of Mount Horeb Viking fans,” Prehn said.

For nearly two decades, Prehn sat in the same spot — the seventh chair from the front, between the players. But recently, he knew somebody else would be in that chair soon.

“When you know, you know,” Prehn said. “I’m going to have to find a new seat to sit in.

This time I’ll be in the bleachers.”

Nesheim, and many others, know how tough it will be to have Prehn in the stands — and not on the bench.

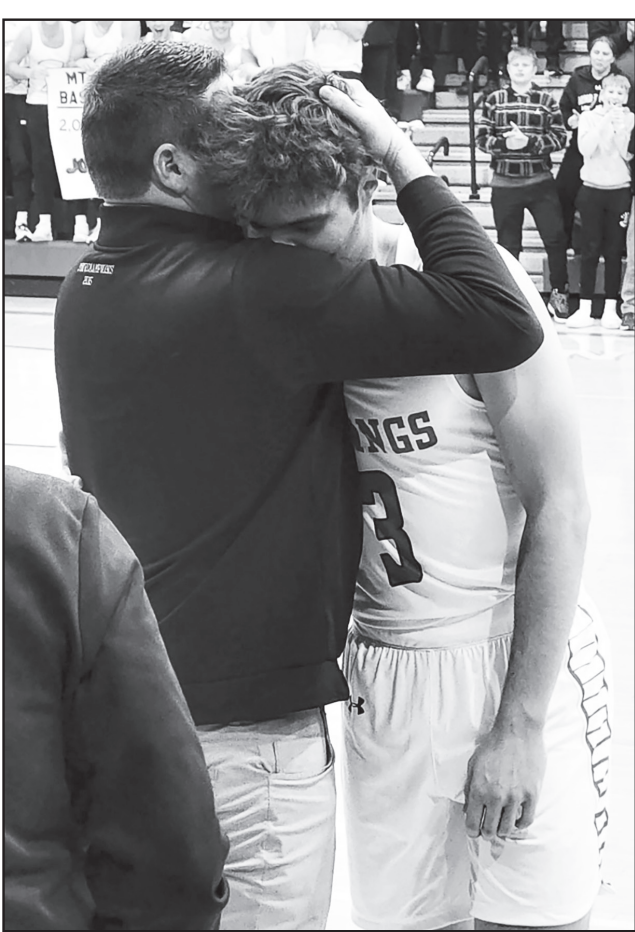
“Jack has coached in

many different schools and sports and he himself talks about the growth he made as a person due to his coaching methods and things he learned through sports,” Nesheim said of Prehn. “I would say his last stop here in Mount Horeb was perfection.

“We have become brothers. I couldn’t have done it without him and couldn’t have asked for a better assistant.”

Prehn felt the same about Nesheim and those he worked alongside inside the Vikings’ program.

“I can’t thank coach Todd Nesheim enough for the opportunity to be a part of his first class program,” Prehn said. “Guiding quality athletes while standing shoulder to shoulder with quality coaches is a life experience that is hard to top.



Paul Manchester (left) gives his son, Josh, a hug after Josh reached 2,000 career points last season. Photo submitted

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**VILLAGE OF BLUE MOUNDS
DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
ORDINANCE NO. A-256**

The Village Board of the Village of Blue Mounds, Dane County, Wisconsin, has adopted Ordinance §282-15.1 entitled “**Fats, Oils and Greases.**”

Notice is hereby given that the Village Board has adopted §282-15.1 of the Municipal Code relating to the regulation of fats, oils, and greases (FOG) discharged into the sanitary sewer system.

Summary of Ordinance:

The ordinance prohibits the discharge of wastewater containing excessive fats, oils, or grease into the public sanitary sewer system. Certain commercial and industrial users, including food preparation establishments, are required to install, operate, and maintain grease interceptors (traps) as directed by the Village and pursuant to Wisconsin Plumbing Code. Such devices shall be properly serviced at regular intervals, not less than every ninety (90) days, and users must maintain records of maintenance for inspection. Discharges from such devices shall not exceed 100 parts per million (ppm) of fats, oils, or grease. The Village is authorized to conduct inspections and require compliance with all provisions of the ordinance.

Penalty:

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of this section shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each offense, and each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Effective Date:

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

Full Text Available:

The full text of §282-15.1 is on file and available for public inspection at the Village Office.

Publish: 4/23/26 **WNAXLP**

Posted: 04/13/2026

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STORAGE UNIT AUCTIONS
Notice is hereby given that on May 1st 2026 at 10am a public sale will be held to satisfy a landlord's lien on the following storage units; William Thorson, Elizabeth Booth, and Paula Rodriguez at www.storageauctions.com under Mount Horeb Self Storage. Units have household items. All sales as is. 608-636-9449

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GARAGE DOORS ARE OPEN all over town. Sale season has started, so come on down! 214 S 1st St, Mt Horeb, April 22-25, 8am to 5pm. PS Bring along the sunshine!

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Recycling Center

Additional Opening Hours in 2026: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, beginning Tuesday, May 5 and ending Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Publish: 4/23/26, 4/30/26 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF VERMONT NOTICE

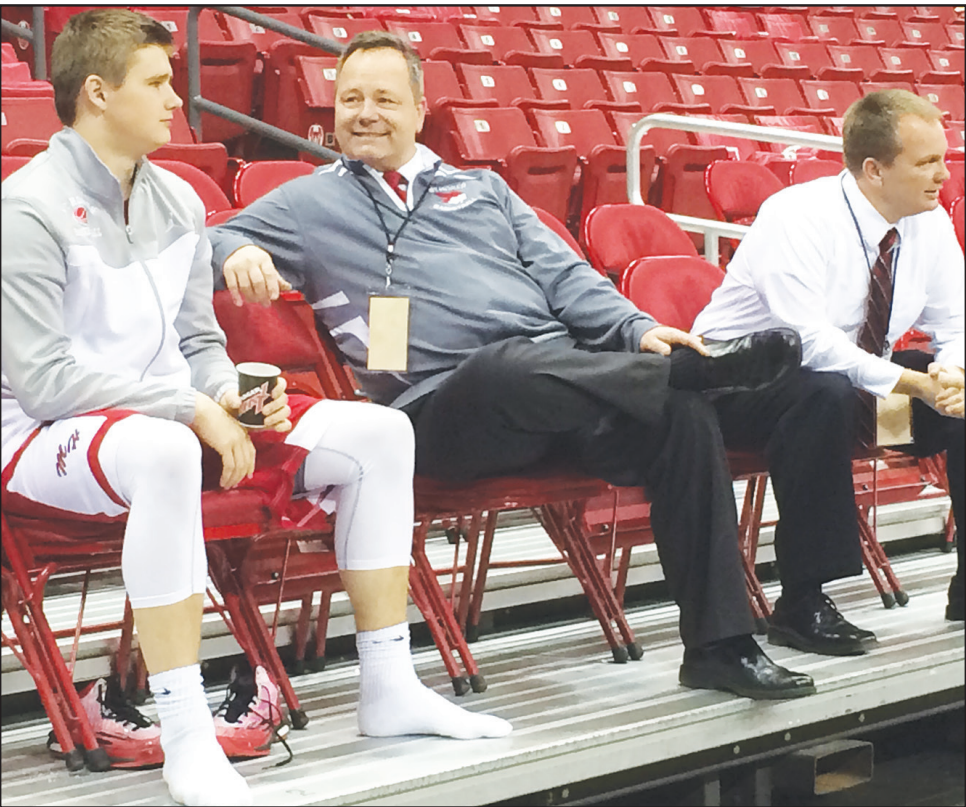
Plan Commission Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
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See townofvermontwi.gov for meeting agenda.
Please note: You can sign up for emailed meeting agendas at www.townofvermontwi.gov

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Above (from left), Drew Fredrickson, Jack Prehn and head coach Todd Nesheim sit inside the UW Kohl Center before Mount Horeb’s appearance at the 2015 state tournament.
At right, Paul Manchester, Josh Manchester and Mark Fredrickson celebrate after the Vikings won a share of the 2026 Badger Small Conference championship. Photos submitted

TRIO

continued from page 15
“I’ll always remember my time with Todd, Mark (Fredrickson), Paul (Manchester) and other coaches. These years were punctuated by success and brotherhood. I can’t think of a way to say goodbye, so I guess we’ll just have to remain friends.”

PAUL MANCHESTER

Manchester is the Chief Retail Officer for Lake Ridge Bank in Mount Horeb. One of Lake Ridge’s principles is to give back to the community in any way possible.
As an assistant coach the last 10 years, Manchester has done that, and then some.
“Coach Manny was the coach you could always count on,” Nesheim said. “He showed up every day after spending hours in meetings or dealing with banking issues — ready to do the work—teaching fundamentals and helping our players understand how to play the game the right way.

His reliability and consistency help set the tone for our entire program.”
Manchester’s father, Tom, was a long time coach at La Crosse Logan, so he grew up in a gym. That’s continued the last decade-plus as Manchester was integral in the development of the 2026 senior class that included his son, Josh, and Nesheim’s son, Kam.
“This was great way for me to give back to the Mount Horeb community,” Paul Manchester said. “When I was looking for ways to get involved early in my career, I found the Mount Horeb basketball program. Josh and Kam were friends and that led to me and Todd coaching this group.”
On many nights, Todd Nesheim and Paul Manchester would conduct a high school practice, then race off to coach whatever youth team their sons were on. Things got much easier when Josh Manchester and Kam Nesheim arrived together at Mount Horeb High School in the fall of 2022.
“We coached this current senior group all the

way through (Badger Developmental League) and we always talked about doing it the right way,” Todd Nesheim said of his relationship with Paul Manchester. “It was about the high school years, not the middle school years.”
And boy, those high school years were special.
In the last three seasons, the current senior class was integral in helping Mount Horeb go 67-15 overall. The Vikings also won consecutive Badger Small Conference championships in 2025 and 2026, and captured three straight regional titles for the first time in school history.
Paul Manchester also had a front row seat as Josh Manchester became one of the greatest scorers in state history.
“Coaching Josh and this senior group has been so much fun,” Paul Manchester said. “There are too many great memories to count, but seeing the success that this group has had will be something I will never forget.
“I can’t lean on one specific moment, but I will say that there has been a great



tradition of our teams connecting with the next generations of hoopers coming up. I know this next generation coming through will continue to be very successful, and I can’t wait to watch from the stands.”
In addition to Mount Horeb’s success on the court, countless Vikings have gone on to become enormous successes in life. Terrific husbands, superb fathers, upstanding citizens.
And Paul Manchester is proud to have played a small role in that.
“The thing I enjoyed the most about the job was the relationships I got to build over my 10 years,” Paul Manchester said. “I have gotten to know so many

families and see their kids grow up to be great young men.
“When I look back at the kids we had in the program, it is amazing to see how successful they are now. That’s a credit to the parents in this community and the kids coming through our school district. Mount Horeb has so many fantastic coaches and teachers that have impacted the futures of their students.”
.....
Nesheim is currently constructing his staff for next season. And while it’s largely in place, it still has to be approved by the school board.

While Nesheim is excited about the next wave of assistants, he knows the chemistry, harmony and camaraderie he enjoyed with Fredrickson, Prehn and Manchester will be virtually impossible to duplicate.
“I feel we have built one of the best programs in not only the area, but the state,” Nesheim said. “And it’s because of the work these coaches have put in.
“We are a tight knit family. We do a lot together. We respect each other. They have defended me and my program. I will miss our time together on the court and thank them from the bottom of my heart.”

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